

Translation analysis of passive voice sentences in the book *outline of us government* and its Indonesian version

By:

Yunita Siti Indarwati

C.0302066

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

As an international language, English is taught in almost every school around the world including our country. In Indonesia, English is included in the curriculum from elementary schools to universities. It means every student graduated from high school or university knows English. However, not all of them understand this language well. Even only few of them can communicate in English. It is because the English language is not used in daily life but only for educational purposes or in schools. This fact prevents the student from understanding an English textbook while most of the scientific books are originally written in English. This is why translation is needed to help them solving this problem.

Bell in his book *Translation and Translating: Theory and Practice* defines translation as the expression in another language (or target language) of what has been expressed in another source language preserving semantic and stylistic equivalences (1997:5). Thus translation involves two languages and these two languages obviously have the different patterns and forms. Translation actually is

the process of transferring message (ideas or thoughts) from one language to another which enables people who do not master foreign language to understand the content of the text in their own language. Catford (1965:21) states that the central problem of translation practice is that of finding TL (target languages) equivalents. This means the translator must find the closest equivalent of the word, phrase, or sentence to avoid the distortion of the message.

One example of the scientific book translated into Indonesian is *Outline of U.S Government* which is written and published by the United States Department of State. It is translated into Indonesian by Sumantri Ar, Dianthus Saputra, Dyah Hestu, and Eddy Saputra with the title *Garis Besar Pemerintahan Amerika Serikat*. This book contains the history and the outline of American Government and it has been used widely as one of the text book especially by the students majoring in American Studies. In relation to the translation of text book, where all of the contents are significant information, translator is challenged to convey all of the information into the target text completely. And to do such a process translation competences are required.

In the book *Outline of US Government*, the researcher recognized interesting phenomenon about passive voice sentences translation. The example from the text below might explain this.

- ST : The *accused official is then tried* in the Senate, with the chief justice of the Supreme Court presiding at the trial.
- TT : Kemudian *tuduhan tersebut secara resmi diuji* di tingkat Senat, dengan ketua Mahkamah Agung sebagai pemimpin persidangan.

The example shows that translator's comprehension toward the text is in question when she/he translated the sentence into target language. The fact that translator is unable to transfer the information from source text into the target text automatically influences the accuracy of the translation product. It can be seen from the translation of the phrase *the accused official* which is unequivalent to the phrase *tuduhan tersebut* in Indonesian. Besides misinterpreting the message intended by the original text, translator also selected inappropriate diction for the translation of *is tried* into *diuji* which is in this case also unequivalent since the sentence is talking about trial in the court.

The example of passive voice sentence translation above also confirms that the strategy used by translator in translating word or phrase and other element of the sentence contributes as well to the accuracy of message transfer. Translation strategy is the method employed by translator in solving the problem of unequivalent between two languages. The example tells that translator employed literal translation, which focuses only on the equivalence of language structure but not in the content or the information within the text.

Based on the phenomena above, the researcher is interested in conducting the research to analyze the kind of strategy employed by translator in translating passive voice sentences and also the quality of the translation in terms of accuracy with the title "*Translation Analysis of Passive Voice Sentences in the Book Outline of US Government and its Indonesian Version*".

B. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Considering the research background, this research is conducted to answer the following questions:

1. What strategies are applied in the translation of passive voice sentences?
2. How is the quality of the passive voice sentences translation in terms of accuracy?

C. RESEARCH LIMITATION

To avoid the expansion of the problem in this research, the researcher decided to analyze the English passive voice only. The focuses of this research are the kinds of strategies used by the translator and the quality of the translation in terms of accuracy of the passive voice sentences translation from the book *Outline of U.S Government*.

D. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This research is carried out with the following objectives:

1. To find out the strategies used by the translator in translating the English passive voice sentences.
2. To determine the quality of the translation product in terms of accuracy.

E. RESEARCH BENEFIT

This research is expected to be beneficial for students as one of the references to improve their knowledge in translation especially dealing with the strategies especially in translating the passive voice sentences.

For translators, this research can be regarded as a contribution so that they will put more consideration on the strategies and accuracy in the process of translation particularly in the case of passive voice sentences.

And hopefully this research can encourage other researchers to conduct similar studies.

F. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is a qualitative research that employs a descriptive method. The researcher only analyzed data and described all facts concerning the topic of the study namely the translation strategy and the translation quality in terms of accuracy. This research is a single embedded case study meaning that the result of this research can not be generalized to other translation products dealing with similar issue.

G. THESIS ORGANIZATION

Chapter I. INTRODUCTION contains research background, problem statements, research limitation, research objectives, research benefit, research methodology and thesis organization.

Chapter II. LITERATURE REVIEW includes definition of translation, process of translation, equivalence in translation, translation strategies, and the definition of English and Indonesian passive voice.

Chapter III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY contains type of research, data and data source, sample and sampling technique, research procedure, technique of collecting data and technique of analyzing data, and research instrument.

Chapter IV. DATA ANALYSIS covers data analysis and discussion.

Chapter V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.