

Translation and Markedness

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history

Received: September 04, 2018

Accepted: October 12, 2018

Published: October 31, 2018

Volume: 6 Issue: 4

Conflicts of interest: None

Funding: None

Keyword:

Translation,
Markedness,
Theme-rheme,
Passive,
It-cleft,
Existential,
Pseudo-cleft

ABSTRACT

Translation is a task which involves different aspects of linguistics. Producing equivalent degree of markedness is one of linguistic competences which should be owned by the translators. This ability has a contribution in maintaining the thematic structure and the propositional meaning through the translation process. The present study is a descriptive analytical corpus-based aimed to analyze (1) the translation of English marked structures, those are passive, it-cleft, existential and pseudo-cleft into Indonesian, and (2) the ways presenting the thematic structures in the target language. The development of English marked sentences involves thematization process, therefore analyzing the ways in translating these marked sentences and transferring the thematic structures to their Indonesian counterparts are interesting to be conducted. The corpus found in an English book entitled *The Intelligent Investor* and its Indonesian translation. The corpus is a parallel data consists of 191 marked English sentences and their Indonesian translations. Comparative analysis conducted to the data showed that 78.5% of the marked English sentences were translated into marked sentences in Indonesian. Translating the marked English sentences into Indonesian marked sentences supported the process of preserving the information.

INTRODUCTION

Every language has certain rules which determine the way in which sentence elements should be ordered within a sentence. In English, the structure can follow either canonical or non-canonical word order to present the information. Changes in word order can result in non-canonical structure. The canonical word-order as (SVO) is known as an unmarked structure and the non-canonical word order is defined as a marked structure.

Markedness refers to the way words are changed or added to give a special meaning. There is a correlation between marked sentence structure and marked thematic sentence as marked theme is considered as a cover term consisting of different classification as Grzegorek (1984) introduces, there are four main types of thematization in English: (1) passivisation, (2) clefts and pseudo-clefts, (3) topicalization, left dislocation, focus movement and (4) presentation sentences with proposed expression. In line with Grzegorek's classification, Quirk et al (1985) also mentioned some grammatical aspects in developing marked theme, such as fronting, inversion, postponement. These grammatical aspects developed some sentences, such as it-cleft, pseudo-cleft, existential as well as passive structure. Both Grzegorek (1984) and Quirk

et al (1985) are elaborated in determining marked sentence structures to be discussed in this study.

The present study is a linguistic investigation that deals with the notion of word-order variation in translation of English marked sentences into Indonesian found in *The Intelligent Investor book*. Since English and Indonesian have different structures, it is interesting to analyze the translation of passive, existential, it-cleft and pseudo-cleft sentences from English into Indonesian.

PRELIMINARIES AND BACKGROUND

Thematic Structures, Translation and Equivalence

Discourse analysis has a great contribution in conducting translation studies. Among various theoretical models, Halliday (2014) provided systemic functional linguistics (SFL) that provided a strong interrelation between the linguistic choices, the aim of the form of communication and the sociocultural framework" (Munday 2012a,137). Understanding thematic construction helps us to shape coherent texts. Such understanding plays a significant role in reproducing translation equivalence. Since translators often face challenges in keeping the thematic structure and finding the

thematic equivalence in translating the marked sentences into the target language.

Thematic equivalence suggests that the translator should pay attention to many items including recreating the original thematic structure, expression of meaning, and the author's intention. As a result, theme can have a major function in transforming meaning from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL). According to Nida and Taber (1969), a TT must deliver an actual and urgent meaning because the readers of the TT must experience the same response as the ST receivers do.

Word-order

The systemic classification of word-order is concerned with the study of various formats based on which languages put their sentences in order and in relation to each other considering the arrangement and agreement between the components involved. Sentence structure refers to many ways that different parts of speech are put together to create semantic meaning. English is having marked word orders like OSV as the result of topicalization, because it emphasizes the object and is often accompanied by a change of intonation.

In Indonesian, the sentence structure is generally very regular, in the normal circumstances the verb always puts after the subject (NP) and the sentence is in form of active sentence. The general word order pattern is subject + verb + object (SVO). Marked sentence form also can be found in Indonesian through the inversion structure, which put the existential verb *ada* in the beginning of the sentence to present the existence of certain entity.

METHODOLOGY

This study is qualitative, descriptive-analytical, parallel corpus based. It investigates how marked English structures translated into Indonesian and compares the thematic structures between English and Indonesian. This study focused on how the sentences' marker translated into Indonesian. The data of this study was taken from *The Intelligent Investor* book and its Indonesian translation. The sentences used in this study were selected from the book. Those sentences were in form of passive, existential, it-cleft and pseudo-cleft sentences. The English text and its Indonesian translation were analyzed according to their grammatical structures and the thematization structures. Following the analytic process, each individual type of sentences and thematic structures including passive, existential, it-cleft and pseudo-cleft were put in separate tables along with their translation and frequencies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the investigation conducted through the source text and the target text. It was found there were four types of marked sentences in *The Intelligent Investor* book. As can be seen on the Table 1. Those are passive, existential, it-cleft and pseudo-cleft sentences. The most frequent marked sentence type was existential sentence. This sentence has 84 occurrences or 43.9%. This sentence occurred the most to

Table 1. Types of marked sentences

Types of marked sentences	Frequencies	Percentage
Passive	55	28.7
It-cleft	37	19.3
Existential	84	43.9
Pseudo-cleft	15	7.8
Total	191	100

Table 2. Translation variations of English passive sentences

Indonesian sentence forms	Occurrence	Percentage
Passive voice	46	83.6
Active voice	4	7.3
Other	5	9.0
Total	55	100

Table 3. Translation variations of existential sentences

Indonesian sentence forms	Occurrence	Percentage
<i>Ada</i> -existential sentence	50	59.9
<i>Terdapat</i> -existential sentence	19	22.6
Inversion	6	7.1
Declarative sentence	9	10.7
Total	84	100

present or introduce a certain entity regarding economic fact, phenomenon and stocks. These sentences were translated in different variations in the target language.

Passive Sentences

English passive sentence has passive verbs that used to say what happens to the subject, while who or what causes the action is often unknown. The passive sentences found in the data were classified based on the tenses and the modal used in the sentences. English passive construction was the result of transforming the active counterpart in order to emphasize certain information. The marker of the English passive sentences is the verb that used in the sentence that is *be + past participle*. The Indonesian structure also has the passive construction that marked by prefix *di-* or *ter-* which attached to the verb (root). Based on the investigation, the translation of passive sentences into Indonesian was dominated by translating the sentence into the Indonesian passive form as presented in Table 2.

As Indonesian structure has its own passive construction, the translator chose to translate the English passive constructions into Indonesian passive construction. The Indonesian passive word-order is similar with the English passive word-order. The theme of the sentence occurred in the initial Noun phrase, and the elements that followed this noun phrase has the new information, as the rheme of the sentence. Only the passive verb has different form from the English structure, as can be seen in the following example:

(4-1a) A second illustration is provided by the famous “Dow Theory” of stock market movements, (page 33)

(4-1b) Ilustrasi kedua diberikan oleh “Teori Dow” yang terkenal tentang pergerakan pasar modal. (page 46)

The SL sentence (4-1a) has auxiliary verb *is* as the passive auxiliary, and the verb *provided* is analysed as a passive participle. This sentence Both SL and TL sentences consist of NP + VP + NP word order. The marker of English passive sentence, the VP *is provided* was translated into the Indonesian passive verb that is *diberikan*. Since Indonesian has passive construction, the translator prefer to translate the passive sentences mostly in form of Indonesian passive sentences.

Existential Sentence

Existential sentence was the most frequent sentence type found in the source language, as seen in Table 3, there are 84 existential sentences found in the source text. This sentence is one of marked sentence which function to present the existence of a certain entity. The marker of this sentence, the dummy subject *there* becomes the theme of the sentence and the rest information found in the sentence is the new information, rheme. The English existential sentences were mostly translated into inversion forms in Indonesian. Those sentences are classified into three different sentences, those are (1) *ada*-existential sentence, this sentence is formed by inserting existential verb *ada* in the initial position of the sentence to present the existential idea. (2) *terdapat*-existential sentence, this sentence is also in form of inversion structure which inserted existential verb *terdapat* in the initial position of the sentence, both verbs *terdapat* and *ada* present the existential idea and can be substituted. (3) Inversion structure, this structure has certain verb in the beginning of the sentence, the verb used depends on the context of the sentence and most of them are presenting the existential ideas.

Since Indonesian has no correspond idea with the dummy subject, the concept of existential idea can be presented by placing the existential verb *ada* or *terdapat* in the initial position of the sentence to present the existence of a certain entity, as follow:

(4-2a) There are two catches to his simple idea. (page 158)

(4-2b) Ada dua jebakan dalam ide sederhana ini. (page 212)

The English existential sentence (4-2a) presents the existence of *two catches* in the sentence. This sentence marked by the dummy subject *there*. Indonesian has no concept of dummy subject, but there are verbs that can be used to present the existence, for sentence (4-2b) the existential verb used is *ada*. Sentence (4-2b) is in form of inversion, which transformed the verb into the initial position of the sentence to emphasize the information on the existence itself and as the starting point of the message or the theme of the sentence while the sentence elements that left were the rheme of the sentence. This theme and rheme distribution has a good correspond with the source language sentence. Since the sentence is the marked sentence the theme found in the sentence is a marked theme. Both SL and TL sentences have marked themes and in form of marked sentences.

Table 4. Indonesian translation variations of it-cleft sentences

Indonesian sentence forms	Occurrence	Percentage
Declarative sentence	20	54
Inversion	17	46
Total	37	100

Table 5. Indonesian translation variations of pseudo-cleft sentences

Indonesian sentence forms	Occurrence	Percentage
Cleft sentence with Interrogative pro-form <i>Apa</i>	5	33.3
Cleft sentence with <i>Yang</i> -nominalization	7	46.7
Declarative sentence	3	20
Total	15	100

It-cleft Sentence

Cleft sentences result from changing the normal sentence pattern to emphasize a particular information. The emphasis in the resulting cleft sentence is on the phrase after *it+be*. This type of sentence also found in the source text and translated into Indonesian in two different form, as found in the Table 4.

As what is found in the existential sentence, it-cleft also involves the occurrence of dummy subject in the beginning of the sentence, that is pronoun *it*. Indonesian has no specific counterpart for this kind of dummy subject. There were two types of sentences used in translating this form into Indonesian, those are declarative sentence and inversion. The dummy subject is not translated into Indonesian, the subject that used in the TL sentence is translation of the notional subject that occurred immediately after the copula, as in the following example:

(4-3a) It is a basic characteristic of a primary or leading company that a single detached share is ordinarily worth as much as share in a controlling block. page 178

(4-3b) Karakteristik dasar pada perusahaan primer atau terkemuka adalah satu saham terpisah sama pentingnya dengan satu saham yang berada dalam satu blok pengendali. Page 238

As seen in the sentence (4-3a) above the sentence is marked by the dummy subject *it and copula is*. This sentence is used to emphasize the focus on the noun phrase that occurred right after the copula that is *a basic characteristic of a primary or leading company*. As Indonesian has no specific form to translate the dummy subject, the sentence used the translation of the noun phrase as the subject in the target language. The source language sentence (4-3a) has marked theme that is the dummy subject + copula *is* and the notional subject, the relative clause that followed the sentence is the rheme. When translating this sentence into the declarative form in the target language, there is a shift in the thematic structure that is marked theme into unmarked theme.

Pseudo-cleft Sentence

Pseudo-cleft sentence is a kind of sentence which the subordinated clause is a relative clause headed by an interrogative pro-form. Pseudo-cleft structure involved transformation that moves constituents to the end of the sentence prefacing them by identification constructions. This type of sentence is also found in the data source and translated into Indonesian in three different ways as found in the Table 5.

Pseudo-cleft construction is a non-canonical construction with the relative clause found in the beginning of the sentence. The relative clause has interrogative pro-form *what* in the initial position of the sentence. As seen in the following example:

(4-4 a) What happened in this months was literally incredible (page 436)

This sentence has *what happened in this months* as the relative clause and *literally incredible* is the highlighted element. The constituent *literally incredible* has been moved into the final position of the sentence and represent rhematic information. While the elements that preceded this constituent is considered having familiar or old information and functions as theme of the sentence. Indonesian has a correspond form for interrogative pro-form *what* that is *apa*.

(4-4b) *Apa yang terjadi pada bulan-bulan berikutnya sungguh luar biasa* (page 580)

The Indonesian counterpart of the word *what* is *apa*. One strategy that used by the translator is used the cleft form in the target language by translating the interrogative pro-form *what* into Indonesian. The question word *apa* is followed by the *yang* to create a relative clause. As the source language sentence is preceded by the relative clause. There is a shift in form of structure in translating the pseudo cleft (4-4a) into the target language (4-4b) due to different structures found in both languages. However there is no shift in thematic elements of the sentence when it is translated into Indonesian by using this form. The Indonesian counterpart of *literally incredible, sungguh luar biasa* also represents the rhematic information and the elements that preceded this phrase *apa yang terjadi pada bulan-bulan berikutnya* also represents theme of the sentence.

CONCLUSION

There are four non-canonical structures discussed in this study, those are passive, it-cleft, pseudo-cleft, and existential sentences. The sentences are developed through transformation which move elements toward the ends of the sentence. These marked sentences also have marked theme because the development of the sentences have thematization purposed. The translation of marked sentences from English into Indonesian were varied based on the sentence types. First, translation of English passive sentences into Indonesian was dominated by their passive counterparts in Indonesian since Indonesian also has passive construction. There are 46 English passive sentences which were translated into passive in the target language. Since the word-order is the same NP + VP + NP the marked theme is preserved in the target language.

Second, the translation of English it-cleft into Indonesian. There are two ways in translating it-cleft found in the data, those are in form of declarative sentence and inversion. Indonesian has no correspond ideas with dummy subject *it*. the declarative sentence developed by translating the notional subject as the subject in the target language, while the inversion sentence in the target language either transformed the verb in the sentence to the initial elements or transform the notional subject noun phrase into a verb in the target language and put it in the initial position of the sentence so it can develop an inversion structure. When it-cleft with marked theme translated into inversion form the theme found in the target language sentence is also marked, however, when it-cleft is translated into the declarative sentence the theme is changed from marked theme into unmarked theme.

Third, translation of existential sentences into Indonesian mostly in form of inversion sentences. Those sentences are classified into three different sentences, those are (1) *ada*-existential sentence, this sentence is formed by inserting existential verb *ada* in the initial position of the sentence to present the existential idea. (2) *terdapat*-existential sentence, this sentence is also in form of inversion structure which inserted existential verb *terdapat* in the initial position of the sentence, both verbs *terdapat* and *ada* present the existential idea and can be substituted. (3) Inversion structure, this structure has certain verb in the beginning of the sentence, the verb used depends on the context of the sentences and most of them are presenting the existential ideas. When the existential with marked theme translated into inversion form the sentence can preserve the marked theme in the target language.

Fourth, the pseudo-cleft sentences are translated into clefted sentences in the target language these sentences were developed through nominalization process. The first one used interrogative pro-form *apa*, the correspond form of interrogative question, *what*. And the second one use relative pronoun *yang* in the initial position of the sentence. As the marked sentences mostly translated into the marked forms, the marked theme is preserved in the target language.

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