

**TRANSLATION SHIFTS IN THE TEXTS OF DIORAMA DISPLAY  
AT THE NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
IN INDONESIAN NATIONAL MONUMENT (*MONAS*)**

Deuis Sugaryamah & Gifa Rokhimah Anggreyani

English Department, Faculty of Humanities  
State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung

[soeg2003@yahoo.com](mailto:soeg2003@yahoo.com)

[gifa.rokhimah@gmail.com](mailto:gifa.rokhimah@gmail.com)

**Abstract**

This paper presents the result of a study related to the translation shifts procedure in the translation of Indonesian into English texts of the diorama display at the History Museum in National Monument Jakarta. The 51 (fifty one) pair of texts available in the displays are used as the main data. The data were collected by using documentation, and by taking pictures of the entire texts in the label of the dioramas. Using the Catford's theory of translations shift, the four types of *category shifts* revealed in the texts are structure shifts, class shifts, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts. Meanwhile, the data presenting *level shift* was found unavailable in the texts.

Keywords: *translation shifts, diorama display, Monas*

**A. INTRODUCTION**

Translating is considered as a process of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style (Nida and Taber, 1982:12). Yet, the meaning should not be changed or altered from the source language into the target language.

The importance of translation is obviously needed in our daily life, especially in some places, fields and aspects of life, such as at the government offices, public areas, businesses, education, tourism, and so forth. People need some

references to be translated in order to make the information written/spoken in the source language becomes understandable in the target language; such as book, subtitle of movies, brochures, or notice boards in tourist places.

There are plenty of tourist places in Indonesia, in which the visitors are both local and international tourists. One of them is *Tugu Monas* in Jakarta. *Tugu Monas* or the National Monument (Indonesian: *Monumen nasional*, abbreviated as *MONAS*), is one of the landmarks and icons of Indonesia. It symbolizes the fight of Indonesian people, and was built to commemorate the struggle for Indonesian Independence.



Inside the monument, in the basement, there is a special hall used as the Indonesian National History Museum. Here, people can find a total of 51 dioramas around the walls and in the centre of the hall. The dioramas display the scenes of Indonesian history, starting from the earliest days of Prehistoric Indonesia, the period of European colonization and uprisings against Dutch companies and rules, the 20th century showing the Japanese occupation, the proclamation of Indonesian independence in 1945, the struggle for independence of Indonesian revolution, and the events during the New Order era of Soeharto's regime. Each story has its own display and information boards in which the texts are written in two languages (Indonesian and English). The provided English texts are the translated version of the Indonesian texts.

It is important for the Museum to provide the visitors with the information about the history, culture, directory, rules and everything inside in an understandable and communicative language. For this purposes, providing visitors with bilingual (Indonesian and English) texts as the media of information should necessarily be done in the proper way.

Translation is not only changing or transferring words but also more importantly, it has to take into consideration the meaning or message behind the words. Yet, the differences between one language and another language may cause

problem in translation, such as the occurrence of 'shifts'.

A shift is a translation procedure that involves replacing the source of language elements into the elements of the target language without changing the meaning. Translation shift helps the translators to get the natural translation. According to Catford (1965:73) shifts occurs "when the translator departures from formal correspondence in translating text to find the equivalent meaning from SL to TL." From the statement above, a translation process makes the readers know about the message in the sources text. The translator's role becomes clearly a transcultural mediator between communities.

The purpose of translation is to deliver the clear message to the readers or the listeners in other language. However, sometimes a translator finds difficulties in getting the proper dictions in the target language. Using the strategy of word for word translation sometimes resulted in unrelated understanding with the terms used in other cultures. Thus, the translation shifts are then commonly happened in the translation of the text, by replacing the source language elements into the target language without changing the meaning.

There are two major types of shifts occur in translation: *level shift* and *category shift*.

*Level shifts* are the shifts from grammar to lexis. It means that a grammatical unit in one language, such as the tenses of time reference, the passive meaning in a sentence, etc., has a lexical unit in another



language as its translation equivalent. For example, “John has stopped crying” and its translation “*John sudah berhenti menangis*”. The form “has...ed” in the grammatical form of “have+Verb3” as a unit in English grammar showing perfective is translated into Bahasa Indonesia by the lexis “*sudah*”.

*Category shifts* are departures from formal correspondence in translation. Formal correspondence is any grammatical category in the target language which can be said to occupy the same position in the system of target language as the given source of language category in the source language system. According to Catford (1965: 76), category shifts is divided into four: structure shift, unit shift, class shift, and intra-system shift.

a. *Structure shift*

*Structure shift* involves a change in grammatical structure between the source language and target language. In grammar, structure shift can occur at all ranks. For example, “*Antony loves Rossaline*” in English becomes “*Is-love at Antony on Rossaline*” in Gaelic. Structure shifts can also be found at other ranks, such as in phrase/group rank. For example: “*the red shoes*” in English becomes “*sepatu yang merah*” in Bahasa Indonesia. Notice that there is a shift from MH (Modifier+Head) to HQ (Head+Qualifier). It can be seen that the modifier “*red*” preceding the noun “*shoes*” is translated into qualifier “*merah*” (red) combined with “*yang*” (which). Structure shift also happens when an active sentence in the source language changes into a passive one in the

target language or vice versa. This shift is called *voice shift*.

b. *Class shift*

Class shift occurs when the translation equivalent of SL item is the member of a different class (part of speech) from the original item. For example: “*medical students*” is translated into “*mahasiswa kedokteran*”. In this example, the adjective “*medical*” operating at M (Modifier) in the noun phrase structure of source language, is translated into a noun “*kedokteran*”, operating at Q (Qualifier) in the target language. From that example, the adjective changes into another class, that is a noun.

c. *Unit shift*

Unit shift means changes of rank, that is, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL is translated into a unit at a different rank. The language rank may change among the morpheme, word, phrase/group, clause, to sentence, and sometimes even further up including paragraph and text. According to Machali (1998:16), the unit shift shows a change of rank, i.e a lower is translated into a higher rank or vice versa. For example, the source expression “*adept*” becomes “*sangat terampil*”. In this example, a word (*adept*) is translated into a phrase (*sangat terampil*). It means that a lower rank changes into a higher rank.

d. *Intra-System shift*

Intra-system shift means a departure from formal correspondence in which one system in the SL has a different (non-corresponding) system



in the TL. Intra system shift is used to indicate that the shift occurs internally within the system of the languages concerned. For example the certain “plural” noun in English become “singular” noun in Bahasa Indonesia, such as: “*a pair of trouser*” is translated into “*sebuah celana*”. In this example, although in Bahasa Indonesia there is a corresponding plural form for “*trousers*” (that is through repetition of the word “*celana-celana*”, the Indonesian language system requires the use of the singular form for to the concept of “*a pair of trousers*” since Indonesian people conceive them as one piece of cloth.

The study focuses on finding out the translation shifts used in the diorama texts at national monument display. A descriptive qualitative method is used in this study. According to Creswell (2005: 21) a qualitative approach is one in which the inquirer often makes knowledge claims based primarily on constructivist perspective. The data in this research are the texts in four sides of diorama texts in the History Museum of National Monument Museum (MONAS) Jakarta. According to Arikunto (2006: 158) “*dokumentasi, dari asal katanya dokumen, yang artinya barang-barang tertulis*”. In this study, the documentation is used as the technique of collecting data. The documents are both the Indonesian and its English version of diorama texts at national monument (MONAS) display.

## B. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### Translation shifts in the Diorama Texts at National Monument Display

Shifts are commonly happened in the process of translation to get its natural product of translation. Based on Catford’s theory (1965:76), there are two kinds of shift: category shift and level shift. From the analysis of data, it is found that the translation shifts occurred in the translation of diorama texts from Indonesian into English at national monument display are almost all classified into the category shifts, and none is considered fall into the level shift. The followings are the findings.

#### Category Shifts

There are four types of category shifts found in this study. The first type of category is *structure shift*. It becomes the highest frequency of occurrence of category shifts in the diorama texts at national monument display. Structure shifts occurs when the structure of the target language is different from the structure of the source language. One common type is the changing of active sentences into passive sentences in translation. Therefore, the structure shifts also can sometimes be called as voice shift. Structure shifts occurring in the data indicate that there are different expression of grammatical systems between the source language and the target language.

The second type is *class shift*. Class shift occurs when the translation equivalent of a SL item is a member of a different class from the original item. Class shift has the lowest frequency in diorama texts at national monument display. It shows that the translator tries his best to maintain the class of expression in the source language. It can also mean that there are only limited cases



where the certain class expression in Indonesian has to be changed into different class in English, because both languages commonly have the similar parts of speech in the language systems. It happens because of most of Indonesian words have the same classes in English. Therefore, it is not necessary for the translator to change the word classes. The third type of category shifts found in this research is unit shift. Unit shift occurs when the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL is a member different rank in the TL. There are two ranks in unit shifts, they are upward shift and downward shift. Upward shift occurs when words become phrases, words become clauses, phrases become clauses. Then, downward shift occurs when clauses become phrases, clauses become words, and phrases become words. The occurrence of unit shifts is also high. The data proved that there is no correlation between the source language and the target language. There are a lot of Indonesian expression that would not be exactly translated into English in the same rank.

The fourth type of category shift found in this study is intra-system shift. Intra-system shift occurs internally within the system of a language. An illustration, when the SL plural becomes a TL singular, because of the use of determiners indicating plurality in the noun-phrase patterns. The frequency of this shift is the lowest over all occurrence of category shifts. The data proved that there are few differences of internal system between Indonesian and English. The difference of internal system is in he

plural and singular form. The following is the discussion of each type of category shift.

a. *Structure shift*

Structure shifts that are found in the translation of diorama texts from Indonesian into English at national monument display have occurred in sentence, clause, and group or phrase ranks. There are 10 (ten) out of 51 texts contented the structure shifts. The following are examples of the structure shift in a phrase and sentence.

Indonesian : Perang Diponegoro, 1825 -1830  
English : The Diponegoro War, 1852 – 1830

Indonesian : Kebangkitan Nasional  
English : National Revival

Indonesian : pada bagian atas terdapat arca Buddha  
Akshobhya dan di bagian bawah arca Siva Mahadewa.  
English : Buddha Akshobhya statue at its upper part and a Siva Mahadeva statue at its lower part.

The pattern in Indonesian language for a phrase is D-M, *Diterangkan-Menerangkan* or noun comes before adjective. In contrast, in English has different order which is M-D, *Menerangkan-Diterangkan* or adjective comes before noun. The above data show that there are the different structures between SL and TL. It causes a structure shift. It could be seen from the first example involving a change in the grammar from SL to TL as follow. The noun head in the first SL text is at the beginning of the phrase order *Perang*. However, in the TL, the



noun head of the phrase is located at the end of the phrase order *War*.

In the second example, a structure shift occurred, because there is a change in the form of noun. In the source language, *Kebangkitan* comes before the headword *Nasional*, but in the target language *National* which comes after the word *Revival* as translated into the form of *Kebangkitan*. If the grammatical system of the source language is applied in transferring the expression ‘*Kebangkitan Nasional*’ and translated literally, it will be changed into ‘*Revival National*’. That expression is not acceptable in the target language. Therefore, the translator uses shifts in transferring the expression becomes “*National Revival*”. This expression is more natural and appropriate in English language.

The third example, the shift could be seen from the changing in the phrases *arca Budha Akshobhya* and *arca Siva Mahadewa* which then translated into *Buddha Aksobhaya statue* and *Siva Mahadeva statue*. There is changing position in source language and target language. The structure of SL noun phrase is modifier (*Budha Akshobhya*) and headword (*arca*), whereas in the structure of TL, noun phrase becomes headword (*statue*) and modifier (*Budha Akshobhya*).

The whole examples in the structure shift are caused by different structures in both of the languages. This changing produces natural translation because readers can read and understand the texts clearly.

b. Class Shift

Class shift occurs when the translation equivalent of a source language item is a member of a different class from the original item. This study found the changing of the word class is divided into two types, *noun to adjective* and *noun to verb*.

The example of shifts from noun to adjective or vice versa.

Indonesian : *Pemerintah Pendudukan Jepang membentuk tentara Pembela Tanah Air untuk membela Tanah Jawa yang mendapat sambutan dari para pemuda.*  
 English : *Japanese occupational army issued the Ordinance on the forming of the volunteer troops to defend Java.*

Indonesian : *hubungan persahabatan dengan negara-negara tetangga berlangsung dengan baik.*  
 English : *friendly relations with neighbouring states were maintained in good order.*

The expression *Pendudukan* is a noun. Indonesian rule arranges that affixes “*Pen-an*” is to indicate a noun. Every word added by this affix will be a noun. After translated, it is changed to be *occupational* as adjective. It means that there is a class shift from noun to adjective. This shift seems optional, because there is actually an expression in English to translate the word *Pendudukan*, i.e. *occupation*. However, considering the context of the sentence, the translator changed the expression into an adjective word “*occupational*”.



The second data, the class shift is occurred in translation “*baik*” becomes “*good*”. “*Baik*” is an adjective in Indonesian and “*good*” is noun. It means that there is a class shift from adjective to noun.

2) Shift from noun to verb or vice versa

Indonesian : kemudian diperjuangkan oleh para

*perintis kemerdekaan sejak*

*tahun 1908*

English : Then fought for by the independence

*pioneers since 1968*

The above data presents the class shift from verb to noun. There is simulfixs “*diper-kan*” that indicates a verb in Indonesian. It could be seen in *diperjuangkan* becomes *fought* that indicates an abstract noun in English.

c. Unit Shift

Unit shift occurs when the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL is a member of a different rank in the TL. The equivalence will occur in sentence, clause, phrase, word and morpheme. Unit shift found in this research includes changes from a lower into a higher rank and from higher into a lower rank. The following are the examples of unit shift in diorama texts at national monument display.

1) Word to phrase

The unit shift is the changing of word in SL that is translated into phrase in TL or vice versa. There are 5 (five) unit shifts namely the shift from word to phrase or vice versa that was found in diorama texts at national monument display.

For example:

Indonesian : *sebagai mana tertuang*

English : *Noted*

Indonesian : *Sahabat-sahabat karibnya*

English : *Friends*

Indonesian : *Perang*

English : *pacific war*

The whole example are a unit shift that occurs from a lower rank becomes a higher rank and vice versa. The First and second data show that there are a change from phrase to words. The first data “*sebagai mana tertuang*” is a phrase. A phrase can be meant as a group of words. It is translated in TL text becomes “*noted*” which is a word. In this case, a higher level clause is transferred into a lower level word. It is similar with the second data “*Sahabat-sahabat karibnya*” becomes “*friends*”. This shift does not influence the meaning.

The third data shows that there is a change from word to phrase. “*Perang*” is a word. It is translated in TL text become “*pacific war*” which is a phrase. There is no different meaning in the source language, but it can be translated and acceptable in the target language.

2) Clause to Sentence

This shift is the changing from clause to sentence.

For example:

Indonesian : Pada zaman megalithikum sudah

*hidup dalam masyarakat*

*teratur,*

*peninggalan budaya tersebar di*

*seluruh*

*Indonesia*

English : *The Indonesian forefathers, Paleo-Mongoloid, in the Neolithic age had*



*already a sort of ordered society.*

The example above is unit shift that occurs from a lower rank becomes a higher rank. The sentences shows that there is a change from clause in source language into sentence in the target language. It could be seen in *Pada zaman megalithikum sudah hidup dalam masyarakat teratur*, is translated becomes *The Indonesian forefathers, Paleo-Mongoloid, in the Neolithic age had already a sort of ordered society*. The TL text is a sentence because it is ended by punctuation, one of sentence characters.

d. Intra-system shifts

Intra-system shift occurs internally within the system of a language, for example the system of singular-plural form in both languages. The example below occurs when the ST plural changed into TL singular. This change occurs because of the differences of grammatical system between the SL and TL.

For example:

Indonesian : Buah pikiran Kartini untuk  
 membebaskan kaumnya  
 English : she expressed her thoughts  
 and  
 opinion

In the example above, the words *pikiran* are in singular form, but it is realized in the target language becomes *thoughts* in plural form. This shift happens because of the differences of grammatical system between both languages. Translating the expression into singular form using the repeated word as “*thoughts*” just does not sound natural in English. In English, to show a plural, nouns can be added by

suffix –s or –es. The word *thoughts* is also plural because in the end of word is added by suffix –s (Djuharie, 2008: 51).

Overall, the structure shift became the easiest one to apply in finding the data of translation process. First, structure shifts try to find out the head and modifiers of a phrase. Second, the head and modifier of phrase are changed their positions in TL.

C. CONCLUSION

Translation shifts happened in the process of translation, though it does not always occur in every text, for every target language might have different character compared with its source language, In this study, it is found that translation shifts occurred in the translation of diorama texts. All the four types of category shifts are available in most of the texts. They are structure shifts, class shifts, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts. The structure shifts have the highest frequency occurred in diorama texts at the national monument displays. while, class shifts and unit shifts moderately happen, and intra-system shift becomes the lowest frequency of shifts. Meanwhile, for the level shift - that is the shifts from grammar to lexis - a grammatical unit in one language, such as the tenses of time reference, the passive meaning in a sentence, etc., has a lexical unit in another language as its translation equivalent, the relevant data is unavailable.



## Bibliography

- Alzuhdy, Yosa Abduh. 2014. *Analisis Translation Shift Dalam Penerjemahan Bilingual Bahasa Inggris-Bahasa Indonesia*. vol 22: 185-193. Accessed on 1 May 2016.
- Arikunto, Suharsimi. 2013. *Prosedur Penelitian (Suatu Pendekatan Praktik)*. Jakarta: PT Rineka Cipta.
- Baker, Mona. 1992. *In other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*, London and New York: Routledge.
- Catford, J. C. 1965. *A Linguistic Theory of Translation*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Creswell, John W. 2008. *Educational Research Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research*. CA: Sage Publications, Ltd.
- Djuharie, O. Setiawan. 2008. *Functional English Grammar*. Bandung: Yrama Widya.
- Djuhari e, O. Setiawan. 2004. *Teknik dan Panduan Menerjemahkan*. Bandung: Yrama Widya.
- Echols, John, and Sahadily, Hasan.1992. *Kamus Inggris-Indonesia*. Jakarta: PT Gramedia.
- Hornby, A. S. 2005. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Jauhari, Heri. 2010. *Pedoman Penulisan Karya Ilmiah*. Bandung: Pustaka Setia.
- Nazir, Moh. 2014. *Metode Penelitian*. Bogor: Ghalia Indonesia.
- Newmark, Peter. 1998. *A Textbook of Translation*. London: Prentice Hall International.
- Newmark, Peter. 1984. *Approaches to Translation*. Oxford: Pergamon Press.



Halaman sengaja untuk dikosongkan