



English Department Students' Ability in Conducting Pre-Editing of Personification in Literary Text for Google Translate at University of Mataram

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Abstract: This research aims to find out how personification in the source text is pre-edited by students before using Google Translate to translate the text. This is qualitative research. The research was held in a translation class in academic year 2022/2023 at University of Mataram and the class consists of 22 students. There are three methods to collect the data such as observation, giving a task or assignment, and CMC. Furthermore, the data is analyzed in three stages such as data reduction, data display and explanation, and conclusion. The researcher found out that students can conduct pre-editing of personification in the source text by adding words into the source text and changing some words. Furthermore, it was found that some students conducted pre-editing with a total score of 41 and some students who did not conduct pre-editing of figurative language with a total score of 70. In terms of naturalness, the changes students make improve the quality of the translation from a total score of 16 to 19. It can be concluded that students can conduct pre-editing of personification in the source text by adding words into the source text and changing some words. However, the meaning is still the same as before the text is edited. Furthermore, most students in the class do not conduct pre-editing because they thought figurative words are common. Therefore, they do not conduct pre-editing of those words because they already know the meaning of those words.

Keywords: Personification, Pre-Editing, Google Translate

INTRODUCTION

When a person is facing a problem in communicating with a person or people from different countries, for instance, the person does not know the audience's native language, it is recommended that the person or speaker should translate his/her speech from his/her native language into the audience's native language. According to Newmark (1988), the word *to translate* or *translation* means an attempt to replace a written message and/or a statement in one language with the same message and/or statement in another language.

In this modern era, people can use machine translations to translate a speaker's speech. One of those machine translations is Google Translate. According to Hutchins and Sommers (1992), Machine Translation (MT) is "the automated translation of text from one natural language to another by computer". Google Translate can translate texts or a speech from a source language into a target language. However, Google Translate could not translate uncommon words such as figurative language or personification. Personification can be defined as a "figure of speech in which human characteristics are attributed to an abstract quality, animal, or inanimate object" (Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d.).

Therefore, to help Google Translate in translating figurative words, pre-editing must be done. Pre-editing can be defined as “the process of modifying the source text to reduce the complexity and increase the consistency of the text to optimize it for machine translation” (Cao, Wang, & Hu, 2020, p. 3). This means that the person or translator should edit the text first by before using Google Translate to translate the text. Furthermore, Winther (2011) added that this activity may involve “simplifying the language, removing ambiguities, and ensuring consistent terminology”.

RESEARCH METHODS

The researcher uses the qualitative approach for this research. According to William and Chesterman (2002), the purpose of qualitative research is to describe the detail of object matter by using some informative manners which can guide the audience to many possible outcomes as a result that can be occurred. The research was held in one class at the University of Mataram in the academic year 2022/2023. There are 22 students in the class. The purpose of this research is to find out how personification in the source text is pre-edited by English Department students and what changes students make before they use Google Translate to translate the text.

The research uses three steps to collect the data. First, the researcher went to the class and observed students’ behavior in the class. Second, the researcher gives an assignment or task to the students to edit a literary text which is Indonesian. The text is a short story and consists of 1467 words. Finally, after the students finished their assignment, the researcher asked them to submit their texts to Google Forms that the researcher had made. Therefore, the data was stored and collected from Google Forms.

The researcher uses three steps in analyzing the data according to Miles and Huberman’s theories (1994). First, the researcher reduced the data by focusing only on sentences that have personification. After founding some sentences that have personification, the researcher compares the sentences from the original text with students’ texts. The result that the researcher found will be displayed in the paper and it will be explained based on the theories that the researcher uses in this research. Finally, the researcher will conclude the result of the analysis of the findings.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

There are two things that the researcher found. First, the researcher found that there are five sentences that have personification. Those sentences can be seen in the table below:

Table 1. The Analysis of The Type of Figurative Language

No	Indonesian (Original Text)	English Translation Made by Google Translate	Type of Figurative Language
1	Hingga suatu malam, sehari setelah bulan benar-benar sabit, rembulan tidak datang mengunjunginya.	Until one night, the day after the moon really crescent, the moon didn't come to visit him.	Personification
2	Ia sedih sekali dan mengira rembulan tak mau menemuinya.	He was very sad and thought the moon would not see him.	Personification
3	Wanita berwajah penyok berpikir bahwa rembulan sedang menangis.	Dented-faced woman thought the moon was crying.	Personification
4	Tetapi, langit tetap hujan, rembulan terus menangis.	However, the sky continues to rain, the moon continues to cry.	Personification

5	Siang telah menjelang, ini berarti rembulan telah pulang ke rumahnya setelah semalam bersembunyi di balik awan sambil menangis .	Afternoon is approaching, this means the moon has returned to its home after last night hiding behind the clouds crying .	Personification
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Based on Table 1, the sentences in bold type show figurative language. The type of figurative language is personification because the writer gives an object human abilities. In this case, the moon has human abilities such as seeing, hiding, crying, etc. The English translation that is shown in the table is made by Google Translate.

Furthermore, it was found that some students conduct pre-editing of those 5 sentences and some do not. Below is the table that shows the analysis:

Table 2. The Analysis of Students' Activity

Sentence	Students Who Conducted Pre-Editing of the Sentences	Students Who Did not Conduct Pre-Editing of the Sentences
1	11	11
2	9	13
3	0	22
4	7	15
5	14	8
Total	41	70

Table 2 shows the number of students who pre-edited and did not pre-edit the sentences. For the first sentence, 11 students pre-edit the sentence, and 11 students do not pre-edit the sentence. For the second sentence, 9 students pre-edit the sentence, and 13 students do not pre-edit the sentence. For the third sentence, all students do not pre-edit the sentence. For the fourth sentence, 7 students pre-edit the sentence, and 15 students do not pre-edit the sentence. Finally, for the fifth sentence, 14 students pre-edit the sentence, and 8 students do not pre-edit the sentence. The total score of students who do not conduct pre-editing is higher than the total score of students who conduct pre-editing. Therefore, it can be concluded that most students in the class do not conduct pre-editing of those 5 sentences.

Furthermore, the researcher analyses students' texts. It was found that students use two methods to edit the sentences. They edit the sentences by adding the words into the source text and changing some words.

All sentences which are edited by students are almost the same as those in the original text. Although some students added one or two words in those clauses, the meaning is not changed. The translation shows a change of tense, but the content or the message is transferred correctly. For example:

Before Pre-Edited

SL: Tetapi, langit tetap hujan, rembulan terus menangis.

TL: However, the sky *continues* to rain, the moon *continues* to cry.

After Pre-Edited

SL: Tapi, langit tetap hujan, **dan** bulan terus menangis.

TL: But, the sky *remained* rainy, **and** the moon *kept* crying.

From the example, there is a tense change from present to past. The reason why this occur is because students added the word *dan* (*and*) between two sentences. The word *and* is an additive conjunction. The conjunction is "the use of formal markers to relate sentences, clauses, and paragraphs to each other" (Baker, 1992, p. 190). Furthermore, the function of additive conjunctions is "to join words, phrases, or clauses that have equal importance in a

sentence, expressing addition or accumulation of information.” (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002). When the word *and/dan* is added, it combines two sentences into one sentence. The first sentence is *langit tetap hujan* and the second sentence is *rembulan terus menangis*. When those sentences are combined by adding the word *dan/and*, Google Translate knows that ‘the moon’ or *rembulan* could not cry in reality. Therefore, Google Translate writes the translation in the past tense and the first sentence is also translated into the past tense.

Students did not only add one or two words to the source text. They also changed some words in the source text. Below is an example:

Table 3. Before Pre-Edited

SL	Siang telah menjelang, ini berarti rembulan telah pulang ke rumahnya setelah semalam bersembunyi di balik awan sambil menangis.
TL	Afternoon is approaching, this means the moon has returned to its home after last night hiding behind the clouds crying

Table 4. After Pre-Edited

SL	Tengah hari semakin dekat, artinya bulan telah kembali ke rumahnya setelah semalaman bersembunyi di balik awan sambil menangis.
TL	Noon is approaching, this means the moon has returned to his home after a night of hiding behind clouds in tears.

In Table 3, some words are written in bold type. Those words are *siang*, *rembulan*, and *pulang*. Then, in Table 4, students changed those words from *siang* into *tengah hari*, *rembulan* into *bulan*, and *pulang* into *kembali*. However, these new words that students changed have the same meaning. *Siang* or *tengah hari* can be translated as *afternoon* or *noon*, *rembulan* or *bulan* as *the moon*, and *pulang* or *kembali* as *to return*. This means that students replace the words with words that have the same meaning. This also means that even though students changed those words, the meaning is still the same because both previous and new words have the same meaning.

Newmark (1988: 24) says that translation is natural if the common structure or grammar, idioms, and words are used appropriately in an appropriate situation in the text. Furthermore, there are some criteria to assess the translation. The following table is the criteria for assessing the translation (Dewi, et al, 2015 adapted from Larson, 1988: 531-532):

Table 5. Criteria for Analyzing Naturalness

Scale	Level	Criteria
4	Highly Natural	Make sense and read naturally (written in ordinary language, common grammar, proper idioms, and words)
3	Natural	Correct meaning, using appropriate idioms and words, but there are some error structures.
2	Less Natural	Make sense with minimum unnatural words, grammar, phrases, or idioms.
1	Unnatural	Unnatural form, with awkward language, ungrammatical structure, and inappropriate words.

Based on the criteria above, the researcher analyzes those 5 sentences that consist of personification. First, the researcher analyzes those sentences and the translation before being pre-edited by students. Below is the analysis:

Table 6. The Rating Scale of Naturalness (Before Pre-Edited)

No	Original Text (Indonesian)	English Translation (Google Translate)	Scale
1	Hingga suatu malam, sehari setelah bulan benar-benar sabit, rembulan tidak datang mengunjunginya.	Until one night, the day after the moon really crescent, the moon didn't come to visit him.	4
2	Ia sedih sekali dan mengira rembulan tak mau menemuinya.	He was very sad and thought the moon would not see him.	2
3	Wanita berwajah penyok berpikir bahwa rembulan sedang menangis.	Dented-faced woman thought the moon was crying.	4
4	Tetapi, langit tetap hujan, rembulan terus menangis.	However, the sky continues to rain, the moon continues to cry.	3
5	Siang telah menjelang, ini berarti rembulan telah pulang ke rumahnya setelah semalam bersembunyi di balik awan sambil menangis.	Afternoon is approaching, this means the moon has returned to its home after last night hiding behind the clouds crying.	3

Based on Table 6 above, the first sentence and the third sentence are categorized as highly natural. The fourth sentence and fifth sentence are categorized as natural because the sentences should be written in the past tense, not in the present tense because the events in those sentences do not happen in reality. Meanwhile, the second sentence is categorized as less natural because the word *ia* is translated into *He*. This translation is correct but since the title of the text is *Wanita Berwajah Penyok* or *Dented-Face Woman*, then the word *ia* should be translated into *She* because it refers to the woman.

Furthermore, the researcher analyses those sentences and the translation that have been pre-edited by students. Below shows the analysis:

Table 7. The Rating Scale of Naturalness (After Pre-Edited)

No	Sentences After Pre-Edited by Students (Indonesian)	English Translation (Google Translate)	Scale
1	Hingga suatu malam, sehari setelah bulan benar-benar sabit, rembulan tidak datang mengunjunginya.	Until one night, the day after the moon really crescent, the moon did not come to visit the woman.	4
2	Wanita itu sangat sedih dan mengira bulan tidak akan melihatnya.	The woman was very sad and thought the moon would not see her.	4
3	Wanita berwajah penyok berpikir bahwa rembulan sedang menangis.	Dented-faced woman thought the moon was crying.	4
4	Tapi langit tetap hujan, dan bulan terus menangis.	But The sky remained rainy, and the moon kept crying.	4
5	Tengah hari semakin dekat, artinya bulan telah kembali ke rumahnya setelah semalaman bersembunyi di balik awan sambil menangis.	Noon is approaching, this means the moon has returned to his home after a night of hiding behind clouds in tears.	3

Based on Table 7, there are some changes in the sentences and the changes affect the rating scale. For instance, the rating scale of the second sentence is changed from less natural into highly natural because the word *Ia* is changed into *Wanita* since the word *Ia* refers to the woman. The translation is also changed from *He* into *The woman*. Furthermore, the rating scale of the fourth sentence is also changed from natural into highly natural because the translation is written in the past, not in the present tense. Meanwhile, the rating scale of the fifth sentence

is still the same because there is no change in words or grammatical structures in the source language.

Furthermore, the researcher calculates the numbers to find the total score. It is found that before the sentences are pre-edited, the total score is 16. After the sentences have been pre-edited, the total score becomes 19. This means that what students do in those sentences improves the translation quality successfully in terms of naturalness. This also means that students have good knowledge of both source and target language. Therefore, they can find the problem in the sentences and know suitable words to be added in the sentences.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and the explanation, it can be concluded that English Department Students of University of Mataram can conduct pre-editing of the personification in the source text. They conduct the activity by adding words into the source text and changing some words. In terms of naturalness, what students do in the source text improves the quality of the translation successfully from a total score of 16 to 19. However, what students conduct does not affect the meaning. The meaning is still the same as before the text is edited. Furthermore, most students in the class do not conduct pre-editing of personification because the words or figurative words are common words. Students already know the meaning and even though those words have been translated by Google Translate, students can understand the translation. Therefore, students think that they do not have to edit anything in the source text because they already understand.

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