Research Article

The Interpretation of English Texts and Interference Problems of Bilingual Speakers

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Abstract: Interpretation of English texts among the bilingual speakers often raises many problems. This paper is aimed at analyzing the students' problems as bilingual speakers in the interpretation of English texts. A qualitative research designed was carried out at University of Muslim Nusantara Al Washliyah Medan of Indonesia. The data collected showed that the native language interfering factor dominated the problems in interpretation of English texts. Data showed that the students made errors in phonemes (21 %), morphemes (19 %), Syntaxt (28 %), Semantic and culture (32 %). The interference found was related to cognitive and limited socio-cultural knowledge of English and Anglo –Saxon society in which English speakers using English with cultural aspects. It suggests the instructors in university provide more materials to make students minimize their problems in grasping the cultural aspects of English texts.

Introduction

A bilingual speaker as a part of socio-linguistics topic challenges the researchers to find the real problems in language use. Language use involves many things and one of them is the native language inference aspect when a speaker uses the second and foreign languages. It is visible in the interpretation of English texts. The interpretation often gives misunderstanding due to the interference in speech.

The use of second and foreign languages of a bilingual speaker certainly is out of consciousness or can be said as accidentally. Therefore, if the use of other language in international is intentional by the speaker in certain purposes, but he does not realize the interference aspect of native one makes the interpretation not appropriate. Interference arises from several factors such as phonemes, syntax, psychological, and cultural expressions. The emergence of interference, accordance to Weinreich (1970: 64-65), is due to the following factors:

1. Bilingualism of speaker
2. Low loyalty of language
3. Minimum glossary
4. Rarely to use glossary
5. Synonym needs

Based on the first factor above, Hartman and Stork (1972:155) stated that the interference arises from a speaker behavior in using mother tongue in using the second and foreign languages. In Psycholinguistics, the interference can be interpreted as deviation of language norm caused by mastering two kinds of language or more from a bilingual speaker (Weinreich, 1970:1). The interference is the element of other languages used by bilingual linguist individually in speech. The bilingualism can be said as the beginner of interference

and various other factors such as the change position of word code used is variation. The interference or psychologically problem is the disruption arises caused by memory traces that should be save randomly so makes the forgetfulness. The interference is reflected in the way of a bilingual speaker using his native elements in speaking English. Additionally, the interference is as deviation of language norm from the unfinished English knowledge. Therefore, in Psychology of language, the interference is also appeared in individual self, especially for the bilingual or multilingual speakers. In this case, the usage of two languages or more cause the appearance of language contact that is the first language mastered by the speaker in second language and foreign languages.

Theoretical Reviews on the Interference Aspects

Interference in language learning is commonly found. The usage of second language or in the process of learning second and foreign languages accidentally a speaker still uses the first language when speaking of the second or third language. As a consequence, the disruption arises or the deviation in usage of second or third language. The disruption and deviation are arising when using second or third language, the speaker still remembers the first language. The appearance of bilingual or multilingual is occurred because first language is learned first so it is easier to remember by speaker than the second or foreign languages learned then.

Cultural Translation

Culture is as all of human creation includes science, religion, art, law, the value of custom, behavior and the ability of people as society member. Thus, culture encompasses all aspects of human life, including the values, beliefs, aesthetic

standards, linguistic expression, thought patterns, norms behave, and communication style. Newmark (1988: 94) defines culture as a way of life and its manifestations are typical of every community that uses a unique language as a medium expression. This definition indicates that each group of people who have its language definitely has its own culture. Similarly with Newmark's idea, several linguistic experts also emphasize the close relationship between language and culture. Brown (1987: 123) argues that a language is a part of language; the two are intricately interwoven such that one cannot separate the two without losing the significance of either language or culture. Additionally, the cultural difference between literal language and translation language can cause the difference of language structure.

The Classification of Cultural Aspects in Translation

Realizing the essence of cross-cultural understanding in translation, various experts in translation has been analyzed the cultural differences among the various languages. The result of research findings were very helpful the development of procedures for translation in order to overcome difficulties caused by culture difference. Cultural concepts of words, defined by Newmark (1988: 95-102); this concept revealed that all of cultural aspect in a text is expressed in cultural words. Words aspect can be interpreted in different ways according to role in the text and purpose of translation. To simplify the understanding, Newmark divides these aspects into categories and sub-categories proficiency level.

Table 1. Five categories of Cultural Aspect According to Newmark

No	Category	Sub Category
1	Ecology	Flora, Fauna, Mountain, Wind, Land
2	The material of cultural	Foods, Clothes, House, City and Transportation
3	The Social of cultural	Holiday
4	The organization and customs	Government, Politic, Religion event and value
5	Behavior	Body movements

Although in substance no different from that offered in the Newmark categories.

Cultural Aspects of Translation Strategies

To overcome the difficulties of translation as a result of differences in cultural, Newmark (1988) suggested the use of seven strategies. First, naturalization is done with two or meanings are intended by author of literal language. Second, couplet or triplet and quadruplet are similar to naturalization done by transferring the original words of literal language to translation language to prevent misunderstandings. Third, neutralization or generalization, which is done by replacing the word of literal language, is significantly more cramped

with words of translation language with deeper meanings. In other words, the neutralization is paraphrased in the level of technique of words. For examples of word "shot" in a sentence "when shot, She was apparently taking a walk" can be interpreted as "killed (*terbunuh*)" in Indonesian language, fourth, the equalization descriptive and functional equivalency, which is used to explain the cultural aspects with how we describe the size, color, and composition (descriptive or the beneficial aspects of the cultural elements (functional).

The fifth strategy that can be used to overcome the difficulties of translation as a result of cultural differences is clarifying the certain cultural aspects through the foot note. The specific technique of cultural aspect is through foot note. The sixth technique is cultural equivalency, which is done by translating a word into the cultural the appropriate term in translation language. For example "traditional fiest" (*selamatan*) in the sentence of the Java community when a woman or wife is pregnant, according to tradition there should be a variety of salvation and other ceremonies can be translated into English as "traditional fiest". The seventh technique is compensated, which is a technique used to overcome the loss of specific meaning, effect bun sound, pragmatic effect, or metaphor in one part of text. For example, the word "damned" in the sentence "He is a damned fool guy" can be interpreted as "very".

To complete the seventh Strategy, the concept of three main strategies that are commonly used in translation, especially the translation of non-literary texts is excellent to use. In some points, these three strategies overlap with the seven strategies proposed by Newmark. However, the three strategies need the addition of information, reduction of information, and the structure adjustment, especially to translate the cultural aspects of linguistic category system.

1. The addition of Information

In translating, information that is not contained in literal language can be added to the text of translation language. According to Newmark (1988: 91), the information is cultural (arising from differences in cultural background between literal language and translation language, technical (related to the topic), or linguistic (which explains the arbitrary nature of the word), and written. Information can be inserted into the text by putting in parentheses, or apart from the text (using a footnote or annotations).

The possibility of the needs to change the implicit meaning is another cause necessary to add the information. The important semantic elements carried implicit identification in the receptor language, in a context of meaning, this sentence implicit rule is to round to the nearest even number can be understood original text reader with easy. However the sentence was translated into Indonesian, adding a number that is information on two categories boundary (a number lying between two categories) and conversion types said rounded (active verb) to round needs to be done to produce the correct grammatical expression and explicit meaning for the reader round out the word Indonesia. Because language text is a

transitive verb, an object is required in connection with it, the sentence above more translated into: according to this rounding rule, a figure which is the limit rounded into nearest number category even if translated back into English, the sentence becomes: according to the rule a number lying between two categories is rounded to the nearest even number.

The need for additional information is also due to the possibility to change the kind of words when transforming passive to active or vice versa, passive to active. The word "cut" in the sentence "I cut my finger" the word "cut" is an active verb, if it translated into Indonesian languae. It should be turned into a passive word cut (was cut) and the addition of the word -said "by knife" is required to disclose that it happens by accident.

2. The Subtraction of Information

According to Baker (1992: 40) the subtraction of information is the omission of a lexical item due to grammatical or semantic patterns of the receptor language (Baker, 1992: 40) .He explained that this strategy may sound a bit drastic, but in certain contexts omission of a word or phrase to translate it as necessary to facilitate the understanding of the significance in translation language.

In many cases, the subtraction needed to avoid redundancy and the stiffness of expressions as an example, the category of plural nouns in English influenced by a factor of morphological (such as child / children, mouse / mice) and phonological factor (eg pen / pens, brush / brushes, box / boxes). In certain conditions a plural noun proceeded by a plurality pointer, like some novels, many children, six dogs, if multiple expressions translated into Indonesian, redundancy will occur, in Indonesian, plural do with repetition of words, such as *buku-buku* (books), *kotak-kotak* (boxes) by adding a bookmark plurality, such as some books or six dogs.

Structural adjustment is an important strategy other in use to achieve the equality of structure. The adaption or sometimes is referred to as transposition or alteration refers to a change in the form of grammatical aspects of translation language to translation language (Newmark, 1988: 85). Similarly, Bell (1991: 6) states that to shift from one language to another is by definition, to alter the forms, change of form that could happen with the change in categories of words, type the word or the structure of words.

Newmark (1988: 85: 87) divided it into four changes form, the first type is a change from singular to plural in English, Position of adjectives, for example, can be before the noun (e.g a good book) or before and and after a noun (eg. a good book is available in the book store). In Indonesian, adjective position is always placed after the noun, always at comes before a noun. Therefore, "a good book" and "a good book is available in the bookstore" should be translated into a good book is available in the bookstores (*sebuah buku bagus tersedia di toko buku itu*). Second, transposition is done because translation language does not literal language. In grammatical structure in English, as an example of the word - common words like however, nevertheless, can be placed at the beginning of sentence. Third, changes made when the literal translation is correct in grammatical but not in accordance with the use of natural language as an example, the sentence, "*the man to Whom she talking on the phone is his younger brother who lives in Bogor*", can be translated literally into Male to whom she was talking in the telephone was his sister who lives in Jakarta, translation is accurate at the side of the contents but not accordance with the prevalent languages, therefore, the translation should be adjusted to be: the man who was talking to him or her is sister phoned in Jakarta, four changes were made by substituting virtual lexical void with a grammatical structure.

In addition to the four types of transposition above, the replacement types of words (i.e the change of a kind word to the other types of words, is the word change into phrases or clauses) are also needed for their various grammatical difference between literal language and translation language. For example, to translate sentences "The girl in red is my sister", into the Indonesian language, the phrase in red should be changed to a clause into adjective. To translate sentences "She is married with three young girls", with the preposition should be renamed conjunctions and verbs have to be added.

As a rule translation of the story and the message in the text translation language close as possible to the original (text literal language). The translation was done to the first two chapters of this Animal farm cultivated wherever possible retain its function as a fable as well as steering politic. To achieve that goal, during translation process, the authors found quite a lot of obstacles that arise as a result of the many aspects of the culture in the novel dam in a very different culture in general Indonesia. Here is the exposure of the cultural aspects cause obstacles in translation in intent, for simplify the discussion, cultural aspects is grouped with use Ping as in the composition category explain before. Besides, described its category in the section explaining, at the same, explanation categories, the same explanation of the strategy use to translate each elements are also described.

Categories of Cultural Aspects of Translation and Economic System Technique

The dramas and novels of English reflect the British culture. As a fable that uses dozens of animals of various kinds as background place, a novel "Animal Farm" contains the cultural aspects of systems engineering and economy of British. It includes the elements of ecology in British contexts such as jobs and tools of British livestock and agriculture, parts of homes and other buildings in British farms. It depicts the gestures and traits of each animal that served for British community. There are figures the details of the various elements of the cultural aspects of engineering and economic systems are also found in the novel.

1. Ecology

One of the cultural elements of ecological categories found in the source text is the relationship between the months of June to grass harvest. Orwel (1945: 18) writes: June came and the hay was almost ready for cutting. The literally translation of

the month of June is not hard to do, but the correlation between the months of June and time to harvest the grass is not so obvious for some Indonesian students. It can be captured by Indonesian readers, it shows the grass grows and can be harvested throughout the year in tropical countries.

2. Livestock, Agriculture, and Artifacts

In addition to the problem of correlation between the months of June to harvest the grass, the quote above is also revealed cultural differences about the work at the farm, which is special grass cultivation for farm food. For most (if not most) of Indonesia it is difficult to understand due to the rural-fodder in villages in Indonesia in general nature provides. Not planted and harvested is programmed. Orwel (1945: 18) writes: "June Came and the hay as cultural symbols", so in this sentence is retained and not easy to understand for Indonesian learners.

Use of Animal Husbandry as the background of the place makes this novel is loaded with activities, equipment, buildings, stables, livestock, products, and many other elements associated with the sub-category of this culture most of these elements is quite uncommon for Indonesia, but some are very strange. Several common elements in the context of Indonesian culture is a barn, hay, small lawn, gardens of fruits, perch, Plough and pond, the components are not unusual in the context of Indonesian culture leading to problems in translation is as follows:

a. Manor which refers to a plot of land that is used underground in a feudal society of British. As a system was used directly by aristocratic landowners and partly in try by tenants who have to pay the yields and energy.

b. Barrel is translated into a neutralization technique of barrel production. In English, this word refers to the container used to store objects such beer. It is found in Indonesia, so the meaning generalized to barrel, the word closest meaning to the Indonesia is so rare. Despite the Barrel's function to be very diverse, such as storing rice or water, it is not used outside factories.

Data Analysis

The data collected were from the 60 students of Faculty of Letters University of Muslism Nusantara Al Washliyah Medan. The data showed that the interference includes;

1. Phonology Interference (19%)

Phonology is one of kinds of interference which is occurred on the psychology side. The form is such as deviation on the pronounce aspect caused by behavior to pronounce the sound of mother tongue to the second language used, one of the example is phoneme (e) in certain words in Indonesian language should pronounced (*e*), for example the English word" certain" it should be pronounced /se'rten/ but often pronounced /sėrtain/.

2. Morpheme Interference (21 %)

The morphological factor in the interference occurs when a

speaker uses the native language formation a part in English. For instance, past for of word "cut", becomes "cutted", instead of "cut". The usage of certain lexical (mother tongue) occurred because less mastering the receiver language. In Indonesian language, for example "If I drink avocado juice, it feels sick in neck", instead of " If I were drinking a glass of avocado juice, I would feel so sore".

3. Syntax Interference (28 %)

Syntax interference appears in the structure of phrase, clause or sentence. For example; word "criminal", a speaker of Indonesia might say; "doing criminal", because in Indonesia criminal is a verb not a noun.

4. Semantic and Cultural Interference (32 %)

Interference in semantic aspect; the words in the receiver language are transformed into the different cultural meaning from English one. For example, the word "tomorrow" in Indonesian language means that the day after today but for a Malay Deli speaker of Sumatra, it will be another day. It makes the interpretation from source language /English will be misinterpreted. Another word, "emotion" means the feeling of soul (happy, sad, glad, compassion) but for an Indonesian speaker, it will interpret as angry.

Conclusion

The interference factor for students in university of Muslim Nusantara Al Washliyah Medan of Indonesia makes them presenting the mis-interpretation English texts. Data showed that the students made errors in phonemes (21 %), morphemes (19 %), Syntaxt (28 %), Semantic and culture (32 %). The interference or psychologically problem is the disruption arises caused by memory traces that should be save randomly so makes the forgetfulness. The interference is reflected in the way of a bilingual speaker using his native elements in speaking English. It suggests the lecturers to introduce the cognitive and memory training from the first year.

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