

**THE TRANSLATION BACK QUALITY FROM ENGLISH
INTO INDONESIAN ON THE OUTCAST NOVEL
*USING BING TRANSLATOR***



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Degree in Department of English Education**

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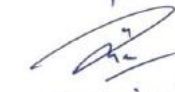

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THE TRANSLATION BACK QUALITY FROM ENGLISH INTO INDONESIAN ON THE OUTCAST NOVEL *USING BING TRANSLATOR*

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Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini (1) mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis error dalam penerjemahan Novel *The Outcast* berdasarkan *Error Analysis* Koponen (2) menjelaskan kualitas hasil terjemahan balik novel *The Outcast* yang berjudul asli Maryam karya Okky Madasari dengan menggunakan *Bing Translator* ke Bahasa Indonesia. Metode deskriptif kualitatif digunakan pada penelitian ini. Data penelitian ini adalah kalimat-kalimat dalam bab satu dan dua dalam novel terjemahan bahasa Inggris berjudul *The Outcast* diterjemahkan balik ke dalam bahasa Indonesia dengan menggunakan *Bing Translator*. Langkah selanjutnya, data diklasifikasi kesalahannya dan dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori *Error Analysis* Koponen (2010). Disamping itu, digunakan juga dengan membandingkan hasil terjemahan dengan kalimat asli dalam novel Maryam. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dari 630 kalimat yang diambil dari bab satu dan dua secara random dengan memperhatikan jenis kesalahannya, ditemukan 56 kesalahan. Dalam hal jenis-jenis kesalahan, *mistaken concept* adalah kesalahan yang paling banyak ditemukan dalam analisis data. Kesalahan ini sebesar 44,64% atau sama dengan 25 kalimat. Kemudian jenis kesalahan kedua dan ke tiga adalah *substituted concept* dan *untranslated concept* sebagai jenis kesalahan kedua paling banyak sebesar 28,57% atau sama dengan 16 kalimat dan sebesar 14,29% atau sama dengan 8 kalimat. Yang terakhir adalah *omitted concept* dan *added concept* sebesar 8,93% dan 3,57% atau sama dengan 5 kalimat dan 2 kalimat. Temuan lain juga menunjukkan bahwa dari 574 kalimat terdapat 364 kalimat (63%) yang dianggap terjemahan akurat dengan skor 1092, 277 kalimat (48%) dianggap terjemahan dapat diterima dengan skor 831, dan 332 kalimat (58%) dianggap sebagai terjemahan yang dapat dibaca dengan skor 996.

Kata kunci : terjemahan, kualitas terjemahan, *Bing Translator*, novel *The Outcast*

Abstract

This study aims at: (1) identifying types of error in *The Outcast* novel translation based on Koponen's error analysis, (2) describing the *Bing Translator*'s quality in back-translation of *The Outcast* novel. The Indonesian version of the novel is Maryam. This study uses qualitative method since the objective of the study is to identify the error types and the quality of a translation produced by *Bing Translator*. The data are in the forms of all sentences obtained using random sampling from English-translated novel entitled *The Outcast* which were translated back to Indonesian using *Bing Translator*. The collected error sentences then analyzed and classified using Koponen's Error Analysis (2010). It was also then compared to the original version of the novel in Indonesian entitled *Maryam*. The findings show that out of 630 sentences taken randomly from chapter one and two, 56 errors were found based on Koponen's Error Analysis criteria. Mistaken concept is the most contributing error found in the data analysis. It contributes 44.64% or equals to 25 sentences to the overall error categories of the present study. Followed by substituted concept and untranslated as the second most contributing error categories with 28.57% or equals to 16 sentences and 14.29% or equals to 8 sentences respectively. The rest was omitted concept and added concept

contributing 8.93% and 3.57% or 5 sentences and 2 sentences. Another finding also shows that out of 574 sentences there are 364 sentences (63%) considered being accurate translation with a score of 1092, 277 sentences (48%) considered being acceptable translation with a score of 831, and 332 sentences (58%) considered being readable translation with a score of 996.

Keywords : translation, translation quality, *Bing Translator*, *The Outcast Novel*

1. INTRODUCTION

In this modern digital era, many people have habits of minimalist living; they tend to choose an easiest and simplest way to ease their lives. One of the examples of their minimalist living related to translation is to translate by using machine translation (hereinafter referred to as MT). MT's purpose is to enable a computer software to translate (transfer and process) natural language in lexical, syntactic, and semantic fields (Vauquois, 1998 in (Lin & Chien, 2009, p. 134). Moreover, Vauquois (1998, in Lin & Chien, 2009, p. 134) added that MT productions for written or spoken language in the original texts to another language, including explicit and implicit meanings could be perceived working effectively.

MT is believed to be practical, simple to use, and efficient. Due to the practicality, simplicity, and efficiency offered by MT, MT becomes a shortcut for many people to overcome their language barrier in the communication process and to make the use of technology to ease them when processing language translation. People use MT for various reasons: casual conversation, understanding topic of a reading, looking for idioms in the target language, and many more.

As of today, there are plenty of choices of open-source or paid MT software offered. Take for example, Google Translate and Bing Translate are instances of widely used MT all around the world. Both of these products are developed and owned by two giant tech companies, Google and Microsoft respectively. People use both of them since they are easy and simple to use, available online so people can access it anytime and anywhere they want, and they are free to use.

People agree that MT is practical, easy and simple to use, and available online, however, what about its accuracy? Hutchins and Somers (1992) stated that major obstacles of MT lie in linguistic aspect, not computational. The linguistic aspects mentioned are lexical ambiguity of syntactic complexity, vocabulary differences between languages, elliptical and ungrammatical constructions, extracting the meaning

of sentences and text (Hutchins and Somers, 1992: 2). MT must deal with linguistic phenomena, complexities of terminology, misspellings, neologisms, and aspects of performance.

To draw insight into the phenomena found in MT translation, Maučec and Donaj (2019, p. 6) reported that “machine translation approaches are not equally successful for all language pairs”. Further, they stated that the problematic MT translation was morphologically rich languages. Specifically, if the source language is less complex morphologically to more complex morphologically target language (Maučec & Donaj, 2019). This will of course affect the result of the translation done by the MT.

Another report on MT translation phenomena comes from Almahasees (2018). In his study, he reported that MT, in this case Google Translate and Bing Translator, produced major linguistic errors that inhibit the comprehension of the text: lexical and grammatical collocations. This drawback may also affect the overall quality of MT translation.

Ahmad (2016) also conducted a study on how Google Translate and Bing Translator perform when translating scientific academic texts. By conducting this study, Ahmad (2016) expected that the study was able to discover the quality of both the mentioned MTs. He used 279 translated sentences from a scientific text entitled “*Kualitas Terjemahan Teks Ilmiah Hasil Penerjemahan Mesin Google Translate dan Bing Translator*”. To analyze the data, Ahmad (2016) compared the translated sentences, in this case Indonesian (TT) to the source sentences (ST): English.

The result of the study showed that Google Translate’s translation in terms of accuracy is higher by 10.1%: Google Translate’s was 58.8% and Bing Translator’s was 48.7%. When it comes to readability, Google Translate was still better with 48%, while Bing Translator was 45%. Google Translate scored 46.6% while Bing Translator was 35% in acceptability test.

Another phenomenon was reported by Ulfah (2015) who focused her study on the performance of Google Translate. Similar to Ahmad, Ulfah also used scientific academic text as the data. She also employed equivalence at word level, equivalence above world level, grammatical equivalence, textual equivalence: thematic and information structures, and textual equivalence: cohesion which was Baker (1992). Al

those collected sentences were analyzed using each parameter. After the analysis was done, the writer then looked for errors made by Google Translate in the translated sentences.

The finding suggested that that Google Translate failed to make a single correct sentence when it comes to compound sentence and compound complex sentence translation. While the highest percentage of successful translation was simple academic sentences (Ulfah, 2015). A conclusion could be drawn that Google Translate found difficulty translating complex sentences written in an academic context.

Ariani conducted her research in order to examine and observe the errors present in Google Translate and Bing Translator translation products. She used English literary text “Cat in the Rain” of Hemingway and an academic text “Feminism and Feminist Criticism” in *Beginning Theory* written by Barry. Ariany conducted the analysis with error analysis with emphasis on semantic accuracy. She then compared the two MTs to discover how each performs by taking into account the types of error each machine produces.

To collect the data, Ariany employed sample study; specifically, purposive sampling. Therefore, the data collected matched the requirement that represents the study’s purpose. The data is then analyzed with semantic theory with the help of error analysis classification proposed by Koponen (2010). She classified the error produced by the MT and compared them to alternative correct translation in order to find out the missing parts that caused the errors. After classifying the errors, she calculated and interpreted the number of errors found in the MT translation result.

Ariany’s finding suggests that Google Translate produced lesser errors than Bing Translator did. Therefore, she concluded that Google Translate was better in transferring the semantic concepts and its relation to one another.

Machine translation phenomena mostly lie on the complexity of a language: morphology, collocations, and other linguistics features, especially those involving meaning. It is believed that the problem is not in the computation level, rather in linguistic level (Huthcin & Somers, 1992).

Another to consider is Both Google Translate and Bing Translator are statistical-based machine translator. It means that they translation is based on statistical models. To name a few, those models are word-based model, phrase-based model, and

language model (Koehn, 2010). Since it is a statistical based translation, MT may encounter problem when it deals with cultural translation.

From a few reported phenomena above, hence, the author is motivated to put the quality of MT result under analysis. This is to provide insight into how reliable MT is, how efficient it is, and how it deals with translation errors. To conduct the present study, the author tests one of the above mentioned MTs, namely Microsoft's *Bing Translator* by translating excerpt in a novel entitled *The Outcast*. *The Outcast* is an English translation from Indonesian novel entitled *Maryam* by Okky Madasari, and translated into English by Nurhayat and Makna Sinatria. The author attempts to translate excerpt from the novel into Indonesian as the target language. Related to that, *The Outcast* is one of Okky's novel that was translated into English (Cahyaningsih, 2015). For that reason, using the concept of back-translation (Shigenbou, 2007), the accuracy of the translation using *Bing Translator* into Indonesian can be confirmed through the original novel that is written in Indonesian.

2. METHOD

The present study uses qualitative method since the objective of the study is to describe the quality of a back-translation produced by machine translator, in this case Bing Translator. The present study object are sentences derived from an English translated novel entitled "The Outcast" translated by Nurhayat and Makna. The original novel entitled "Maryam", was in Indonesian written by Okky Madasari. To limit the size of the study, only chapter one and two will be taken as the data of the present study.

To collect the data, first, the researcher read the whole two chapters and take some sentences. The sentences in chapter one and two in the *The Outcast* were translated back to Indonesian using *Bing Translator*. The 56 collected error sentences were analyzed and classified using Koponen's Error Analysis (2010) into omitted concept, added concept, mistaken concept, substituted concept, and untranslated concept. The translation of 574 sentences were compared to the original version of the novel in Indonesian entitled *Maryam* to see the quality of the translation by using criteria proposed by Nababan, Nuraeni, & Sumardiono (2012).

To analyze the data, this study employs error categorization proposed by Koponen (2010). The sentences were analyzed and classified into types of error in the Koponen's error analysis. The error categorization will help the author to interpret data

and describe the types of error existing in the translation. After the error categorization, the author will investigate the translation quality by taking into account its translation quality aspects, namely the accuracy, the acceptability, and readability (Nababan, Nuraeni, & Sumardiono, 2012). Other than that, the sentences were also then compared to the original version of the novel in Indonesian entitled *Maryam* to see the accuracy even more.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Finding

As previously mentioned in the previous chapter, this study utilized error categorization proposed by Koponen (2010) in order to help with minimizing subjectivity when doing the data analysis. Additionally, the translation results were also compared to the original novel. Each error category in this study findings is presented in below.

Out of about some sample sentences taken from chapter one and two, 56 errors were found. These were determined by how well the translation can be understood. The typo in the ST was not considered error in the TT. The number of mistakes found was lower than the correct ones, which could generally mean that *Bing Translator* performance was good in translating those English sentences into Indonesian.

Table 1. Error types based on sentences found

Type of sentence	Error	
Positive	49	87.5%
Negative	4	7.14%
Interrogative	3	5.36%
Total	56	100%

In terms of error categorization, mistaken concept is the most contributing error found in the data analysis. It contributes 44.64% or equals to 25 sentences to the overall error categories of the present study. Followed by substituted concept and untranslated as the second most contributing error categories with 28.57% or equals to 16 sentences and 14.29% or equals to 8 sentences respectively.

Table 2. Type of Errors

Error Categories	Error Found	
Omitted Concepts	5	8.93%
Added Concepts	2	3,57%
Mistaken concept	25	44.64%
Substituted Concept	16	28.57%
Untranslated	8	14.29
Total	56	100%

Of all the errors present in the present study data analysis were mostly found in positive sentences. Positive sentences errors percentage is 87.50% while the second most sentences with error are negative sentences followed by interrogative sentences with 7.14% and 5.36% respectively.

The table 2 indicates that there are 8.93% errors found in total related to this category. As what Koponen (2010) defined, this error category deals with omission of the concept of ST in TT combined with the Back Translation (BT), in other words, the ST concept does not present in the translation result (TT). The present study analysis indicates that there are five sentences that experienced this type of error. Of those five sentences, four errors were found in positive sentences, one error was found in interrogative sentences.

Table 3. Omitted Concept Error Category

Sentences	Omitted Concept	
Positive	4	80%
Negative	0	0%
Interrogative	1	20%
Total	5	100%

From the table above, it is safe to say that this omitted concept error could be found mostly in positive sentences with 80% occurrence. The rest is interrogative sentence with 20% occurrence. To further learn about the present study finding, samples are provided consisting of Source Language (SL)-sentences from *The Outcast*, Back Translation (BT)-translation using *Bing Translator*, and Original Text (OT)-original sentence from *Maryam* Novel.

Sentence 1(005/P.10/SL/OT).

SL: **The sight** of all the foreign tourists, the new buildings that were not there before-it all added to the nervousness she felt.

BT: *Melihat semua wisatawan asing, bangunanbaru yang tidak ada*

sebelum-itu semua ditambahkan ke kegugupan dia merasa

OT: *Lalu-lalang* wisatawan asing, bangunan baru yang dulu taka da
menggenapi perasaan gamang dalam dirinya.

In the Sentence 1, it could be seen that the omitted concept error lies on the translation of "the sight" in source text. The word "sights" is translated to "lalu-lalang", however, the back translation translated "the sight" was translated as "melihat".

Sentence 2 (001/P.9/SL/OT):

SL: What does **someone** who has been cast out hope for upon returning home?

BT: *Apa yang telah dicampakkan harapan bagi setelah pulang ke rumah?*

OT: *Apa yang diharapkan orang yang terbuang pada kepulangan?*

Sentence 2 is a little bit more complex sentence and *Bing Translator* made the same error: the translation of "someone" in TT is not present. Unlike Sentence 1, the translation in Sentence 2 is completely missing. *Bing Translator* was unable to translate "someone" at all. The word "someone" is a common word that *Bing Translator* should be able to translate, after all, Indonesian language has the equivalent translation for the aforementioned word: "seseorang/orang", somehow, *Bing Translator* missed it. If it is compared to the Indonesian version using back translation, the meaning was barely similar or understandable.

3.2 Discussion

The present study was designed to find out types of error and quality in *The Outcast* translation using *Bing Translator*. Based on the analysis conducted, the current study found that types of error discovered based on Koponen's error category were 44.64% mistaken concept, 28.57% substituted concept, 14.29% untranslated concept, 8.93% omitted concept, and 3.57% added concept. These show similarities from Koponen's (2010) theory on the first paper using error analysis in evaluating the translation quality that mistaken concept contributed the most in the error found. This finding was slightly different than Adiputra's (2019) finding. He found that the error on *Bing Translator*'s translation was omitted concept, added concept, mistranslated concept, and untranslated concept. There was no substituted concept in his finding. This can be because of the text types being translated. The present study translated a book for teenager or adult and the

mentioned study translated a children book. The language may be in a different level so that the translation result is also different.

Another finding revealed that the number of error translations found were lower than the accurate translation. This means that in general, *Bing Translator's* translation quality was good in translating *The Outcast*. In the same way, the findings discovered that 90.20% of the translation was considered accurate, and the other 9.76% was considered error. This supported by Koponen's (2010) result on the first study using error analysis that comprises the error was less than the correct translation. This finding is somewhat surprising given the fact that other research shows the translation result of *Bing Translator* was less in accuracy but had moderate readability (Ahmad, 2016). The similar findings was found by Millah (2016). In her study, she found that *Bing Translator's* translation was less in accuracy, clarity, and naturalness. This may be because the research mentioned was conducted four years ago that *Bing Translator* can have some modification and improvement. Comparison of the previous mentioned findings, a research by Almahasees (2018) is in agreement with the present study result. It was concluded that *Bing Translator* achieved outstanding result of 92%-93% at orthography and grammatical levels (Almahasees, 2018).

In addition to those two findings, it is safe to say that the error found in *The Outcast* translation using *Bing Translator* was quite few. Even so, it comprises five types of error including mistaken concept, substituted concept, and untranslated concept, omitted concept, and added concept. This means that *Bing Translator* perform good translation in general but still has various error translation. These findings were different compare to findings of some study about *Bing Translator* that was conducted about four years ago Millah (2016), Ahmad (2016). They found that *Bing Translator's* performance was not quite good in general. Yet, for study that has been conducted recently by Almahasees (2018) & Adiputra's (2019) found similar findings as what the present study found. This indicates that *Bing Translator* keep improving and developing its service in translation especially for Indonesian as the target language.

In line with that, another finding also shows that there are 277 sentences (48%) considered being acceptable translation with score of 1092, 277 sentences (48%) considered being acceptable translation with score of 831, and 332 sentences (58%) considered being readable translation with score of 996. This means that the quality of

English to Indonesian-*The Outcast* Novel by Using *Bing Translator* is high. This goes similar with the result of Nurhidayah (2013) showing that the result of *Bing Translator*'s translation quality is high.

The object of this study was an English translated novel by Okky Madasary. Its original title was *Maryam*. Related to that, the result of the translation that has been performed was from English (ST) to Indonesia (TT). In that case, it is not proper to generalize that the quality of *Bing Translator*'s translation is merely like what has been found in the present study. Besides, as what a survey by Chand (2016) stated that human mankind is far from achieving its dream of creating a "perfect" automatic translation tool.

4. CONCLUSION

The present study was aimed to find out error types produced by *Bing Translator* and its translation quality in translating *The Outcast*. The study concludes that In terms of error categorization, mistaken concept is the most contributing error found in the data analysis. It contributes 44.64% or equals to 25 sentences to the overall error categories of the present study. Followed by substituted concept and untranslated as the second most contributing error categories with 28.57% or equals to 16 sentences and 14.29% or equals to 8 sentences respectively. The rest was omitted concept and added concept contributing 8.93% and 3.57% or 5 sentences and 2 sentences. Thus, the error found in *The Outcast* translation using *Bing Translator* was quite few. Even so, it comprises five types of error including mistaken concept, substituted concept, and untranslated concept, omitted concept, and added concept. This means that *Bing Translator* perform good translation in general but still has various error translation Related to the translation quality, the result of the translation that has been accurate-because more than half of the translatin are accurate, nearly acceptable-because almost half of the translation are acceptable, and readable-because more than half of the translation was readable. This is proved by the result of the analysis showing that there are 364 sentences (63%) considered being acceptable translation with score of 1092, 277 sentences (48%) considered being acceptable translation with score of 831, and 332 sentences (58%) considered being readable translation with score of 996.

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