

Microstrategies Analysis of Cultural Categories in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia

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Abstract

The role of translation is very important when it comes to connect different ideas from the source language to the target language. Due to the cultural diversity of language, this also affects the translation result to emerge so that the ideas can be easily understood by the target reader. Hence, this matter encourages the researcher to analyze the usage of microstrategies in the English translation of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Furthermore, this research also utilizes the theory of cultural categories emphasized by (Newmark, 1988) in order to determine the cultural aspects that can be found in the English version of “Undang-undang Dasar Tahun 1945” (the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia). The result of this research shows that the most found cultural category in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia is social organization category with 62.5% followed by social culture category with 37.5%. Additionally, the microstrategies analysis shows that the most used type of translation in the English translation of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia is non-creative translation with the percentage of 62.5%. On the other hand, the creative translation microstrategies can also be found with the percentage of 37.5%.

Keywords: *cultural categories, cultural aspects, microstrategies*

A. Introduction

Communication is a fundamental aspect of human existence, influencing how we connect with others on a daily basis. Human uses language, as a tool for human interaction and it also holds a significant role in the realm of communication. (Rabiah, 2012) states that language is a communication tool used by everyone in their daily life as a tool to convey information to others.

In present time, effective communication becomes a key asset. While there are numerous languages spoken globally, only a handful, such as English, serve as widely used communication tool. One of the most commonly used communication tools is

translation, which considered as a universal tool for creating connections that bridge the gaps between people from different backgrounds. Aside from language, culture is deeply connected into human existence. (Guo, 2012) define culture as pattern of customs, traditions, social habits, values, beliefs, and language within a society. In this case, language cannot be separated from culture because language represent its nation and also related to the behavior of groups of speakers of the languages.

Translation emerges as one of the most effective solutions to address the challenges posed by 'language barrier' issues. (Budiarta & Hendrawati, 2017) define translation as the process of transferring messages or meaning from a source language to a target language. Essentially, translation serves as a method for conveying ideas and meaning across linguistic borders, playing an important role in facilitating effective communication.

According to (Bharati, 2018) Translation is highly influenced by cultural differences and the accuracy in any translated text is highly proportional to the knowledge the translator has of another culture. Additionally, the relationship between language, culture, and translation further shows the importance of translation in creating effective communication.

Translation consists of changing from one state or form of writer's idea into another's language. Translation is basically a change of form. When we speak of the form of a language, we are pointing to the actual words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, etc., which are spoken or written.

Moreover, according to (Larson, 1984) translation can be defined as an activity of transferring meaning from one form of language to the other. In addition, the form of a language, encompassing words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs, is the tangible expression of spoken or written communication. In essence, translation involves substituting the form of the source language with that of the target language. The primary aim of translation is to identify equivalent expressions for words that flow naturally in the target language.

Based on the definitions above, it can be concluded that translation is an act of substituting ideas from source language to target language. Aside from that, translation serves as a linguistic bridge that plays an important role in providing effective communication across diverse linguistic contexts. According to Tylor E. B, (1871), culture is the combination of knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, laws, customs, and other gained capabilities including habits that are obtained by individuals as members of a society. Tylor E. B (1871) also states that societies evolve from simpler to more complex forms, mirroring the evolutionary patterns observed in the natural world. This idea describes that human culture, much like living organisms, experience changes and advancements, adapting to

their surroundings and progressing through various stages of cultural complexity. Translation and culture are connected to one another.

This study discusses about the microstrategies as well as the cultural adaptation of the translation of the 1945 Indonesian Constitution. This discussion aligns with the current digitalization of legal documents in online websites which are available for anyone to access them. This means that the role of translation is very needed in connecting readers from around the globe. Exploring this adaptation unveils how cultural categories are integrated into the translated text while maintaining the originality of the source language that contains Indonesian cultural aspects. Moreover, the microstrategies analysis can help researcher to identify what types of translation is used by the translator in translating the 1945 Indonesian Constitution.

Based on (Newmark, 1988), cultural words are divided into five categories, which consist of Ecology, Material Culture, Social Culture, Organizations, and Gestures and Habits.

1. Ecology is a geographic feature that differs from other cultural terms by being typically neutral in value, both politically and commercially. It encompasses elements like flora, fauna, mountains, rivers, plains, and natural conditions. Example: ST: “Wilayah Negara” translated to TT: “State Territory”
2. Material culture, may involves culture-specific items such as clothing, food, transportation, tools, and equipment. For instance: ST: “Lambang negara ialah Garuda Pancasila” translated to TT: “The national coat of arms shall be the Pancasila eagle”
3. Social culture encompasses work and leisure, including the distinctive names of music, games, or dances in specific areas. For example: ST: “Tentara Nasional Indonesia” translated to “the Indonesian National Military (TNI)”
4. Social organization involves political and administrative aspects, encompassing terms related to institutions, history, international relations, religion, and art. Translating these concepts is challenging when the audience is unfamiliar with them. Example: ST: “Atas berkat rakhmat Allah Yang Maha Kuasa” translated to TT: “By the grace of God Almighty”
5. Gestures and habits, often described in non-cultural language, are activities or actions passed down through generations. Example: ST: “menghormati” translated to TT: “respect”. This study intends to apply microstrategies as the analytical framework for the translation analysis.

Microstrategies, as explained by Schjoldager et al. (2008), offer a nuanced and comprehensive set of tools for addressing specific challenges encountered in the translation process. These strategies consist of direct transfer, calque, direct translation, oblique translation, explicitation, paraphrase, condensation, adaptation, addition, substitution, deletion, permutation. According to (Nugroho, Nababan, & Edi, 2016) these microstrategies have distinct differences on each one of its approaches, as explained below:

1. Direct transfer means to transfer something unchanged, such as (ST) paradox translated to Indonesia (TT) paradox
2. Calque Transfers means to transfer the structure or makes a very close translation, such as (ST) gag reflex, translated to (TT) refleks gag
3. Direct translation means translation in a word-for-word procedure, such as (ST) basic principle, translated to (TT) dasar prinsip. The correct translation is (TT) prinsip dasar.
4. Oblique translation means translation in a sense-for-sense procedure, such as (ST) science, translated to (TT) ilmu pengetahuan (knowledge)
5. Explicitation, making implicit information explicit, such as (ST) psychological studies translated to (TT) psikologi sosial (social psychology – one of the branches in psychology studies)
6. Paraphrase means to translates rather freely, such as (ST) effective, translated to (TT) komprehensif (comprehensive)
7. Condensation means to translates in a shorter way, which may involve implication (making explicit information implicit), such as (ST) social psychology translated to (TT) psikologi (psychology)
8. Adaptation means to recreate the effect, entirely or partially, such as (ST) prison translated to (TT) lapas (it stands for Lembaga Pemasyarakatan (correctional center))
9. Addition means to add a unit of meaning, such as (ST) behaviorism translated to pendekatan behaviorisme (behaviorism approach)
10. Substitution means to change the meaning, such as (ST) behaviorism translated to (TT) perilaku (behavior)
11. Deletion means to leave out a unit of meaning
12. Permutation means to translate in a different place

Furthermore, according to Holst (2010), these microstrategies are divided into two kinds of translation, especially differentiating translation characterized by a high degree of creativity and translation without a creative element. The microstrategies that are categorized into high degree of creativity are substitution, permutation, adaptation, paraphrase, addition, deletion, condensation, and explicitation. Meanwhile, non-creative translation microstrategies consist of oblique translation, direct translation, calque, and direct transfer

B. Method

The research uses descriptive qualitative methods to analyze the microstrategies of cultural categories that are found in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The method of qualitative descriptive is utilized to generate a comprehensive description of events (Doyle et al., 2020). Additionally, descriptive qualitative gathers data consist of words, pictures, and other but figures. The data can be taken through interview, field record, photograph, video tape, personal documentation, note or memo, and other documentation (Moelong, 2010). The data was taken from the website of

“Mahkamah Konstitusi RI” <http://www.mkri.id/>. It provides the constitution of Republic of Indonesia in two versions, Indonesia and English..

C. Findings and Discussion

The results show that there are 24 cultural words found in the data. This study uses cultural categories proposed by (Newmark, 1988) to differentiate the cultural aspects that rely in the 1945 Constitution which then analyzed with microstrategies. With this strategy, the researcher can determine whether the translation work done by the translator of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia is categorized as creative or non-creative translation.

The findings of this research are discussed based on the microstrategies as well as the cultural categories which is summarized in the table provided below.

No	Cultural Words	Amount	Percentage	Microstrategies	Amount	Percentage
1	Social Organization	15	62.5%	Creative translation	9	37.5%
2	Social Culture	9	37.5%	Non-Creative translation	15	62.5%
	Total	24	100%	Total	24	100%

Table 1. Cultural Categories and Microstrategies in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia

The result of the analysis shows that the English translation of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia consists of Social Organization and Social Culture category. On the other hand, two types of microstrategies used by the translator namely creative translation and non-creative translation. According to the data, it can be concluded that the English translation of the 1945 Constitution is classified into creative translation. Here are the discussion of the result :

1. Social Organization

Excerpt 1

SL: Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat

TL: People Consultative Assembly Republic of Indonesia

In the first translation, A name of an official organization "Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat" is translated as "People Consultative Assembly Republic of Indonesia." This translation provides the direct equivalent of the Indonesian name into English. The translation of “Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat” into “People Consultative Assembly Republic of Indonesia” can be analyzed through micro-translation strategies.

SL	Majelis	Permusyawaratan Rakyat	
TL	People	Consultative Assembly	Republic of Indonesia
Micro strategies	Permutation	Direct Translation	Addition

The translation above can be analyzed by using micro-translation strategies. To identify each unit in this translation, researcher has categorized the type of micro-strategies that the translator used, during the translation process. In this case, the result shows there are one permutation, one direct translation, and one addition. It means that the translation of “Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat” into “People Consultative Assembly Republic of Indonesia” is categorized into creative translation.

Excerpt 2

SL: Undang - undang Dasar Negara Republik Indonesia

TL: The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia

The term “Undang-undang Dasar Negara Republik Indonesia” from the source text is translated to “The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.” In this content, it refers to the fundamental components of legal documents. It can also be seen that there is an addition in the target text which is the year “1945” to give more context to English reader about when did the constitution was established.

SL	Undang-undang dasar	Negara	Republik Indonesia	Tahun 1945
TL	The 1945	-	Constitution of	The republic of Indonesia
Microstrategies	Permutation	Deletion	Oblique translation	Direct transfer

The result of the microstrategies analysis above consists of one permutation, one calque, one deletion, one oblique translation, and one direct transfer. Therefore, it can be concluded that this translation is classified into non creative translation due to the domination of non-creative micro-strategies translation over the high degree of creativity translation.

Excerpt 3

SL: Lambang negara ialah Garuda Pancasila

TL: The national coat of arms shall be the Pancasila Eagle (Garuda

Pancasila)

The word "Garuda" refers to a mythical bird in Hindu and Buddhist mythology, while "Pancasila" is the official philosophical foundation of Indonesia. In some cultures, the symbolism of certain animals or creatures may not be widely recognized. The use of "Eagle" in English helps convey the idea that "Garuda" is a bird of significance, similar to how an eagle is seen in Western culture.

SL	Lambang negara	Ialah	Garuda pancasila
TL	The national coat of arms	Shall be	The Pancasila eagle (Garuda Pancasila)
Micro-strategies	Adaptation	Paraphrase	Direct Translation

The translation above can be analyzed by using micro-translation strategies. To identify each unit in this translation, researcher has categorized the type of micro-strategies that the translator used, during the translation process. In this case, the result shows there are one adaptation, one direct translation, and one paraphrase. It means that the translation above is categorized into creative translation, due to the high degree of creativity micro-strategies is appeared more dominant compare to the non-creative translation micro-strategies.

Excerpt 4

SL: "...Bhinneka Tunggal Ika.."

TL: "...Unity in Diversity.."

"Bhinneka Tunggal Ika" is a profound concept in Indonesian culture, emphasizing the importance of unity despite the country's diversity. The phrase "Unity in Diversity" itself is a well-known and widely used phrase in English, such as in the United Nation and European Union.

SL	Bhinneka Tunggal Ika
TL	Unity in diversity (Bhinneka Tunggal Ika)
Micro-strategies	Paraphrase

By using microstrategies, the translation process of the phrase above can be determined whether the translator made a creative translation or non-creative translation. Based on the analysis above, there is only one microstrategies which is paraphrase strategy. It means that the translation of "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika" into English as "Unity in diversity (Bhinneka Tunggal Ika)" can be classified as a creative translation due to the appearance

of paraphrase strategy which is included as a high-degree creative translation. While the non-creative strategy doesn't appear in this phrase fragment.

Excerpt 5

SL: “..Angkatan Darat, Angkatan Laut dan Angkatan Udara.”

TL: “..the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.”

The translation above focuses on the authority that a president has. In this context the translation ST: “Angkatan Darat, Angkatan Laut, dan Angkatan Udara” into TT: “the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force” can be classified as a military organization. The translation of the phrase above are categorized into social organization because it relates to military organization which is commonly found in every nation and every language has its own uniqueness in naming this type of organization.

SL	Angkatan darat	Angkatan laut	Dan Angkatan udara
TL	The army	The navy	And the air force
Micro-strategies	Oblique Translation	Oblique Translation	Oblique Translation

The translation above is analyzed with micro-translation strategies. It is found that there is one type of microstrategies that is used in this phrase fragment, which is the oblique translation. The result shows that the translation above is categorized into non-creative translation. The translator maintains the original idea by translating it through sense-for-sense procedure or oblique translation strategy.

Excerpt 6

SL: “Pemilihan Umum”

TL: “General Elections”

The translation above is classified as social organization in the context of categories due to the relation with political and administrative aspects. The phrase ST: “Pemilihan umum” is directly translated into TT: “General Elections”, because the meaning in TT is commonly used and it is easy to be understood by the target reader.

SL	Pemilihan Umum
TL	General Elections
Microstrategies	Oblique translation

Based on the anlysis above, one microstrategies is found which is calque. It can be

concluded that the translation of the phrase ST: “Pemilihan umum”, TT: “General Election” is categorized as non-creative translation.

2. Social Culture

Excerpt 7

SL: Atas berkat rakhmat Allah Yang Maha Kuasa

TL: By the grace of God Almighty

Here, the word “Allah,” which refer to God in Islam religion, is translated into “God” which has more general meaning compare to “Allah.” The reason is because in this context, the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia or UUD 1945 is written to be widely opened and accepted to all race, religion, culture, and other things that differentiate human from one to another. So, in this case, the translator uses the word “God” to translate “Allah” to convey more general idea to the reader.

SL	Atas	Berkat Rahmat	Allah yang maha kuasa
TL	By	The grace of	God Almighty
Microstrategies	Oblique translation	Oblique translation	Paraphrase

The analysis shows that there are two oblique translation and one paraphrase. This implies that the translator maintains the idea from the source language with a sense-for-sense procedure. The analysis shows that the translation is classified into non-creative translation due to the appearance of the non-creative translation is more often than the domination of high degree of creativity translation.

Excerpt 8

SL: Nusa dan Bangsa

TL: Country and Nation

The literal meaning of the word “Nusa” actually means “island” which typically refers to the geographical or territorial aspect of a nation. It often signifies the land, islands, and physical borders that make up a country. While the word “Bangsa” means “Nation” refers to the collective identity of a group of people who share common cultural, historical, and often linguistic characteristics. Moreover, in this context, translators often aim for simplicity and conciseness. The translator may have considered that "Nusa" encompasses not just the physical land but also the broader territorial and geographical concept, which "Country" can capture. On the other hand, the translator translates the word “Bangsa” into “Nation” with literal meaning method.

SL	Nusa	Dan	Bangsa
TL	Country	And	Nation
Micro-strategies	Paraphrase	Direct translation	Direct translation

The analysis above shows that the translation of “Nusa dan Bangsa” into “Country and Nation” consists of one paraphrase and two direct translations, which can be concluded as a non-creative translation.

Excerpt 9

SL: “Fakir miskin dan anak-anak terlantar..”

TL: “Impoverished persons and abandoned children..”

The phrase “Fakir Miskin” refers to "impoverished persons" or individuals who are extremely poor and in need. The term "fakir" carries the connotation of severe poverty. This phrase is a formal and respectful way to refer to people who are living in poverty or low economical state.

SL	Fakir miskin	dan	anak-anak terlantar
TL	Impoverished persons	and	abandoned children
Micro-strategies	Oblique translation	Direct translation	Direct translation

According to the analysis above, the microstrategies that can be found in this phrase consists of one oblique translation, and two direct translations. Therefore, it can be categorized as a non-creative. In this phrase, the translator maintains the idea from the source text by transferring it in a sense-for-sense procedure as well as word-for-word procedure.

D. Conclusion

According to this study, researchers found that social organization category is the most dominant cultural category in *The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia* with the percentage being 62.5%, while the rest of 37.5% goes to social culture category. The subject of this study contains many words that are related to basic law, government, as well as political & administrative aspects, therefore, the most dominant social cultures are more related to social organization. Additionally, out of 24 analyzed microstrategies, the non-creative translation category of microstrategies is more frequently used with the percentage of 62.5% compare to the creative translation microstrategies with the percentage of 37.5%. The translator used non-creative

translation more often to maintain the original idea from the source language while conveying the message properly so that the target reader will easily understand the original meaning from the source text.

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