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Indonesian-English Compound Word Equivalence

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Abstract

This study discussed the equivalence of Indonesian-English compound word translation since both had different classifications and characteristics to be investigated. By implementing the descriptive-qualitative method, it was expected to elaborate on the distinctions of Indonesian-English compound words. There is 84 data analysis considered counting percentage of changing form and word-class either Indonesian or English. Equivalently, the English compound words as the target language met the meaning of Indonesian compound words as the source language even though the shift occurred mostly in structure shift, but those represented the meaning and had the same lexical features. It matched with the concept of equivalence that covered aspects as accuracy, acceptability, readability and fidelity. They are not only meaning but also style.

1. Introduction

Compounding in every language has its regulated form as in Indonesian and English, and it is characterized by the systems which can determine some words combined called as compound words. Indonesian compound words have their constructive rules which are different from the Indonesian phrases, for example, in *kamar mandi* and *meja belajar*. In contrast, the English compound words cover parts of speech such as noun, adjective, verb, and adverb combinations, for example, the noun compound of *flashlight* (verb + subject) and the adjective compound of *breathtaking* (object + *-ing* participle) (Quirk, 2007).

Reflected from the distinctive rules of compound words in the two languages, translating Indonesian compound words into English may bear various problems which are quite critical to be

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discussed as a rehearsal of the word development based on the usage and circumstances especially in literary works as applied in the novel used as the data source in the present study.

The dictions of literature such as novel are imaginative, powerful, and captivating manner. How do people gain the meaning of the novel words? Some novel words consist of single units. The meaning of such novel words must be derived of the syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic context of their use, or by direct instruction (e.g., reading or being told as a definition), or sometimes by analogy with similar words. Some novel words can be understood through the known word and the known derivational or inflectional addition, as well as all the mechanisms available for single-unit words. Sometimes, however, novel words are made of two or three morphs, which are themselves names. In English, nominal compounding is highly productive and a growing way to add new words into the lexicon. This collection of verbs, the compound, is the subject of the current analysis.

Apart from the concept of compound words, investigating the meaning of compound words' translation from Indonesian to English in the novel is the challenging topic since the compound words are the creative word product of people and there is a process behind it. In addition, novels provide many compound word forms and types which are very helpful to collect and classify.

2. Materials and Methods

In connection with the topic of this study, two concepts are available as the basic ideas of the study; they are compound words and equivalence as the main focus of this study and since this research proposes to describe the translating of Indonesian compound words into English, the most suitable method of research applied here is descriptive in nature.

2.1 Concepts

2.1.1 Compound words

In Indonesian, compound words are created by two or more words to make a new word. Alieva (1991) defined that compound word is a way to form words by combining two components, meaningful words or root morpheme. It can be said that one word has transposition even the word used in a different distribution. Indonesian compound words have the three basic classifications as follows:

Table 1
Indonesian compound words' classification

COMPOUND WORDS	TYPE	EXAMPLE
Forms	1. Senyawa (closed form)	Matahari
	2. Non-senyawa (open form)	Sapu tangan
Word class	1. Noun + noun	Alam semesta

	2. Noun + verb	Anak didik
	3. Noun + adjective	Rumah sakit
	4. Adjective + verb	Salah guna
	5. Adjective + noun	Ahli bahasa
	6. Adjective + adjective	Besar kecil
	7. Verb + verb	Maju mundur
	8. Verb + noun	Akad nikah
	9. Verb + adjective	Amar makruf
	10. Numeration + noun	Pancaindera
	11. Numeration + verb	Satu padu
	12. Adverb + noun	Aneka warna

In the meantime, in English, words, especially adjectives and nouns, are combined into compound structures in a variety of ways. And once they're created, they're metamorphosing over time. A common pattern is that two words *fire fly*, or will be joined by a hyphen for a time *fire-fly*, and then be joined into one word *firefly*. It is called a compound as a lexical unit consisting of more than one base and functioning both grammatically and semantically as a single word. English compound words consist of three basic forms influenced by the way of separating the words as follows:

1. the **closed form**, in which the words are melded together, such as *firefly*, *secondhand*, *softball*, *childlike*, *crosstown*, *redhead*, *keyboard*, *makeup*, *notebook*;
2. the **hyphenated** form, such as daughter-in-law, master-at-arms, *over-the-counter*, *six-pack*, *six-year-old*, *mass-produced*;
3. the **open form**, such as *post office*, *real estate*, *middle class*, *full moon*, *half sister*, *attorney general*.

According to Quirk's theory in his book *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, compounding can take place within any of the word classes, but within the present framework, we shall in effect be dealing only with the productivity of compounds resulting above all in new nouns and, to a lesser extent, adjectives. These may involve the combination of the unchanged base; or the first element may be in its special 'combining form'; or the second element may have a suffix required by the compound type; or both elements may have a form that is compound-specific (2007: 1567). Further, he characterizes the English compound words as follows:

Table 2
English compound words' classification

COMPOUND WORDS	TYPE	EXAMPLE
	1. Subject and Verb	
Noun Compounds	a. subject + deverbal noun	sunrise
	b. verb + subject	rattlesnake

	c. verbal noun in - *ing* + subject	dancing girl
	2. Verb and Object	
	a. object + deverbal noun	blood test
	b. object + verbal noun in – *ing*	fault-finding
	c. object + agential noun in –er	tax-payer
	d. verb + object	punchcard
	e. verbal noun in -*ing* + object	chewing gum
	3. Verb and Adverbial	
	a. verbal noun in -*ing* + adverbial	swimming pool
	b. adverbial + verbal noun in –*ing*	day dreaming
	c. adverbial + agential noun in –*er*	baby sitter
	d. adverbial + deverbal noun	homework
	e. verb + adverbial	search light
	4. Verbless	motorcycle
	5. Subject and Complement	blackboard
	6. Combining-form	agriculture
	7. Bahuvrihi	birdbrain
Adjective Compounds	**1. Verb and Object**	
	a. object + -*ing* participle	man-eating
	2. Verb and adverbial	
	a. adverbial + -*ing* participle	ocean-going
	b. adverbial + -*ed* participle	home-brewed
	c. adjective + -*ing* participle	hard-working
	d. adjective + -*ed* participle	dry-cleaned
	3. Verbless	
	a. noun-based adverbial of respect + adjective	footsore
	b. noun (denoting basis of comparison)+ adjective	green-grass
	c. adjective + adjective	grey-green

Those categories separate compound words based on the part of speech of the words. They are also collocated to mean something different from each words combined. For example, noun compound *sunrise* which consists of two words *sun* as subject and *rise* as deverbal noun. In this category subject and verb, subject + deverbal noun is a very productive way. Further, the compound words' categories attached on the table above is as the guidance to classify the compound words in the analysis of this study.

2.1.2 Equivalence

The term “equivalence” is the noun form of “equivalent” which is categorized as both adjective and noun in English (Oxford Advanced Dictionary, 2000). By dictionary “equivalent” that is used with “to something” means “equal in value, amount, meaning, importance e.g. *eight kilometers is roughly equivalent to five miles*. This word also a noun that usually followed by “of” or is used to something” as found in the Oxford Dictionary’s explanation, “a thing, amount, word, etc that is equivalent to something else. According to the standard meaning of "equivalent," the process of translation is widely known as the activity of finding equivalent (See Manafe, et al., 2020).

In fact, parallel in translation operation is the satisfaction of equity of meaning and value. "Meaning" means that the concept and the meaning are consistent, while "importance" is linked to the effect of the translation object. It is clear, then, that translation is about giving another expression of particular things in one language to another, or even in the same language. It is not possible to distinguish translation from the process of seeking equivalence and give the intended audiences the same interpretation as the source language texts. In fact, it is one of the efforts to satisfy the standards that translation will have the same advantages and information for both the readers of the original works and the intended readers who will appreciate the translation edition. The translation cannot be precisely the same in form and style, but the translator's focus must be context and effect.

There must be a specific reason why the translator in different ways conveys the same meaning. The naturalness is one consideration which can be thought of. That is something important that the translator has to do. Giving natural speech in the target language in translation is one form of translation evaluation which is assumed to provide happiness to the target population. The status of naturalness has a clear relation to acceptability. This ensures that the translation items will be completely appropriate in order to achieve precision in meaning. Besides naturalness, the translation result will be deemed successful if it fulfills the requirements of the intended readers who should be given the closest edition of the source text. The argument of the nearest variant is in line with the theory of Nida's nearest natural counterpart, which then includes three characteristics that are now known as accuracy, acceptability and readability to the present time. These three categories are frequently used to assess the quality of a translation in translation analysis. Moreover, Leonardi (2000) stated several ideas of the leading linguists in translation studies concerning equivalence in her paper *Equivalence in Translation: Between Myth and Reality*. He noted that Nida had proposed two different types of equivalence i.e formal and dynamic equivalence.

(1) Formal equivalence, which, then is called as formal correspondence (Nida and Taber, 1982) focuses on the message. This means that both form and meaning become the key aspect in translation. It involves a TL item representing the closest equivalent of a SL word or phrase. The two linguists, Nida and Taber emphasized that there are not always formal equivalence between language pairs. The formal equivalence representing in the equivalent items should be used wherever possible. It is especially done when the translation has the purpose of achieving formal correspondence can sometimes “distort the grammatical and stylistic

patterns of the receptor language, and hence distorts the message, so as to cause the receptor to misunderstand" (Leonardi, 2000).

(2) Dynamic equivalence focuses on the principle of seeking the same effect on the target reader. The translator tries to make the transfer of meaning of the source texts in such a way. The objective is that the TL wording should trigger the same impact on the TL audiences as the original wording did upon the SL audience (Leonardi, 2000). This is the summary of Nida and Taber (1982) who stated that "frequently, the form of the original text is changed; but as long as the change follows the rules of back transformation in the source language, of contextual consistency in the transfer, and of transformation in the receptor language, the message is preserved and the translation is faithful." As a linguist and educator, Nida appears to be more in favour of using the complex equivalence in his dissertation on the language of the Bible. The basic function of dynamic equivalence is therefore the close consideration paid to the target text. The translated edition will have the same effect on the target audiences that the adaptation is intended for. In Nida and Taber's opinion, it is not only a translation tool that meets acceptability and readability, but also corrects contact knowledge that reflects accuracy.

2.2 Research Methods

Data analysis was a crucial step in conducting a research. The way to analyze the data determined the result of a research. For this reason, this study applied descriptive qualitative method in which the analysis was presented in the form of words and sentences rather than symbols (Sudaryanto, 1993). The analysis which was based on the specified problems and the theoretical framework were presented descriptively. In this phase, the data were interpreted in order to elaborate the characteristics of the translations of compound words, the fidelity of meaning using the translation methods, and the possible translation. The data of this research were taken from the Indonesian novel entitled *Lelaki Harimau* written by Eka Kurniawan and its rendering into English entitled *Man Tiger* translated by Labodalih Sembiring. Presenting data analysis was started from elaborating the characteristics of compound words of Indonesian and English translation proposed by the theory of Indonesian and English compound words and then scrutinizing the equivalence to ensure whether the translation reached acceptability, readability and fidelity in meaning.

3. Results and Discussions

In the base of form, Indonesian compound words have two forms; they are close form and open form; while English has three forms, such as close form, hyphenated form and open form. The following analysis showed the description of the forms clearly.

Datum 1

No.	SL	TL
	…., dan tiruan-tiruan sembrono atas **mahakarya** Raden Saleh. (Kurniawan, 2014:	….., and impeccable compies of Raden Saleh's **masterpieces**. (Sembiring, 2015: 13)

1.	14)	

The word *mahakarya* is included in closed form or *senyawa* in Indonesian. It combines the adjective *maha* and noun *karya* which mean the excellent work, such as painting, sculpture, or other art stuffs. Meanwhile, the English translation, *masterpieces*, has the same closed form, without space and hyphen. It combines verb *master* and noun *pieces*. It means equivalently same as the source language that is excellent work. However, the shift occurs here in intra-system shift, which the source language does not mention the plurality, while the target language put 's' after the compound word stated as more than one masterpiece.

Datum 2

No.	SL	TL
2.	Di tengah perkebunan, mengalir sungai kecil penuh dengan **ikan gabus** dan belut. (Kurniawan, 2014: 1)	Through this plantation ran a creek full of **snakeheads** and eels. (Sembiring, 2015: 1)

Snakeheads are a result of translator's work to render *ikan gabus* in Indonesian. *Snakeheads* include as closed form of compound word while the Indonesian is open form. Both SL and TL have the same type, noun + noun they are *ikan* and *gabus* in Indonesian, snake and head in English. Related to shift, the translator applied intra-system shift because the SL just mention singular form of noun, while the English shows the plurality. This translation is still included equivalent and accurate due to the same features. Snakeheads are members of the freshwater perciform fish family Channidae, native to parts of Africa and Asia, and so is *ikan gabus* in Indonesian.

Datum 3

No.	SL	TL
3.	….dan membiarkan binatang-binatang itu mengigit ujung celana dan **sandal jepit**nya. (Kurniawan, 2014: 9)	….and letting the animals bite the hem of his pants and his **flip-flops**. (Sembiring, 2015: 8)

Indonesian *sandal jepit* is translated into *flip-flops*. The SL is open form of compound words and both *sandal* and *jepit* are nouns so that *sandal jepit* is noun compound words in open form, because it is formed by noun + noun. Meanwhile, the English *flip-flops* included in hyphenated compound words and also categorized as unit shift and intra-system shift because there is a plural form in flip-flops, moreover, the Indonesian phrase is changed into compound word in English as the characteristic of unit shift and both meanings are equivalent.

Datum 4

No.	SL	TL
4.	….ke warung minum Agus Sofyan di pojok **lapangan bola**. (Kurniawan, 2014: 24)	….to Agus Sofyan's drink stalls at one corner of the **soccer field**. (Sembiring, 2015: 22)

Lapangan bola is translated into *soccer field*. The Indonesian is formed openly with space and so is English. *Lapangan* and *bola* are nouns, they have same feature as *soccer* and *field* which are nouns. However, their structure is different, the translator applies structure shift to get the equivalent meaning in both SL and TL, *bola* modifies *lapangan*, while *soccer* modifies *field*.

Datum 5

No.	SL	TL
5.	Mereka memajang pengilau akbar di atas **bak mandi**, sisa kaca lemari … (Kurniawan, 2014: 71)	There was a large mirror over the **water tub**, the remains…. (Sembiring, 2015: 66)

Bak mandi is translated into *water tub*. *Bak mandi* is included in open form and fortunately the English also has the same open form. However, they have different word class, *bak* is noun and *mandi* is verb, while *water* and *tub* are nouns. Their structure is also different; *bak* is modified by *mandi*, while *tub* is modified by *water*. The translation is considered to be equivalent since its features represent the same characteristic.

Datum 6

No.	SL	TL
6.	….sebab **anak-anak haram** jadah selalu akan jadi petaka …. (Kurniawan, 2014: 17)	….**bastard children** would always be more of a curse to….. (Sembiring, 2015: 16)

Anak-anak haram is rendered into *bastard children* in English. *Anak* considers as noun while *haram* is adjective. This compound word includes in noun + adjective type. On the other hand, the translation also has the same type that is an adjective + noun although it is different in the structure. *Bastard* is an adjective modifying *children* as a noun. This different structure involves in the structural shift, yet the meaning is still equivalent due to the same features.

Datum 7

No.	SL	TL
7.	….dan ketika jarum-jarum **hijau muda** telah mencuat …. (Kurniawan, 2014: 97)	….when their **light green** spikes shot up…. (Sembiring, 2015: 91)

The compound word *hijau muda* consists of double adjective type, while the translation *light green* also involves in double adjective (adjective + adjective) and just the structure is reversed due to different form. Both SL and TL have the equivalent meaning because *muda* and *light* modify *hijau* and *green*.

Datum 8

No.	SL	TL
8.	…pemuda-pemuda terbaik ke tanah Deli untuk **kerja paksa**. (Kurniawan, 2014: 44)	….abducts the best young men for **forced labor** in the Land of Deli. (Sembiring, 2015: 42)

Kerja paksa is verb + verb compound word category and translated into *forced labor* which consists of adjective and noun word class. *Forced* is past participle functioned as adjective modifying *labor* as main noun. It means not all compound words category will have the same category. Moreover, structure shift is applied because Indonesian and English have different rules in forming compound words.

Datum 9

No.	SL	TL
9.	….sebagaimana tak ada nafsu **sabung ayam** …. (Kurniawan, 2014: 31)	….as he got no pleasure from watching **cockfights**…. (Sembiring, 2015: 28)

Sabung ayam is traditional gambling in Indonesia. *Sabung* includes as verb means using rooster to compete some cash. *Sabung* is a verb while *ayam* is noun. It is translated into *cockfights*, a closed form of English compound word. *Sabung ayam* is open form of Indonesian. The phrase change into word so that unit shift applied by the translator. Specifically the meaning of both is equivalent.

Datum 10

No.	SL	TL
10.	….bahwa hubungan mereka **omong kosong**, baha pelukan dan ciuman …. (Kurniawan, 2014: 186)	….their relationship is **wasting time**, the kisses, the tenderness…. (Sembiring, 2015: 168)

Omong kosong is rendered into *wasting time* in English. *Omong* is a verb while *kosong* is an adjective. This compound word includes in verb + adjective category. Meanwhile, *wasting time* consists of *wasting* (verbal noun-ing) and *time* as a noun. Both are equivalent although they are different in form.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, the result of data analysis shows that from 84 data of Indonesian compound word, 63 (75%) is categorized as open form and 21 (25%) is included in closed form. Meanwhile, based on the word class category, there are only noun + noun, noun + verb, noun + adjective, adjective + adjective, verb + verb, verb + noun, verb + adjective found in the novel with the percentage as follows 19 compound words (23%) of noun + noun, 24 compound words (29%) of noun + verb, 23 compound words (27%) of noun + adjective, 2 compound words (2%) of adjective + adjective, 3 compound words (4%) of verb + verb, 8 compound words (10%) of verb + noun, 5 compound words (6%) of verb + adjective. Related to the translation result, not all Indonesian compound words translated the same form and word class in English. From 84 data of Indonesian compound words, it is found that 35 (42%) changed into English closed form compound, 31 (37%) changed into English open form compound, and 18 (21%) changed into English hyphenated form compound. Besides, there are 53 noun compound and 31 adjective compound found as the translation result of Indonesian compound words into English. Equivalently, the English compound words as the target language meet the meaning of Indonesian compound words as the source language even though the shift occurs mostly in structure shift but those represent the meaning and have the same lexical features.

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