

TRANSLATION ANALYSIS ON PASSIVE VOICE FROM INDONESIAN INTO ENGLISH FOUND IN “GUA SUNYARAGI” BOOK

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ABSTRACT

This research is designed to analyze data of translation of passive voice which is found from Bahasa Indonesia into English and to find out how the passive sentences were translated by students in translation class of Unswagati Cirebon. The researchers use qualitative descriptive method in this research. The data were taken from the book “Gua Sunyaragi” by group 6 of Indonesian-English Translation class. The analyzed data limited only to the first section of “Gua Sunyaragi” book. The researchers use some steps in analyzing the data, first was classifying the collected data, then the researcher analyzed the data based on grammatical and semantics approach, then the researcher put the result into tables, and the last step was to draw the conclusion. The findings have shown that there are 32 passive sentences found in the “Gua Sunyaragi” book. 21 sentences or (65.62 %) of the data were passive sentences that translated into passive sentences, 7 sentences or (21.86%) were passive sentences that translated into active sentences, 2 sentences (6.25%) were passive sentences that translated into sentence with deletion, and 2 sentences or (6.25%) were passive sentences that were translated into active sentences with preposition. Translation shift occurs in the process of translation in order to create a natural translation from the SL to the TL.

Keywords: English passive voice, Indonesian passive voice, shift

INTRODUCTION

Parrot (2000) explains that clauses are either active or passive. According to Griera (2014), passive voice occurs in a sentence in which the typical order of ‘subject + transitive verb + object’ is reserved. That is to say, the object in the active sentence becomes the subject in the passive sentence and the subject in the active sentence becomes the agent that is

either introduced with a *by-* phrase or left unstated in the passive sentence. Passive voice is used when the writer wants to show interest in the action rather than the agent who performs the action.

There are many structural differences among languages which cause the rules and usages of passive voice are not identical in all languages. In English, we have to change the verb or predicate

into past participle, but in Indonesian, we can use prefix *di-* and *ter-* or change the predicate in the form of *ke-an* when we want to use passive voice. The frequency of use of the passive voice in each language may also differ. For example, passive voice is used more frequently by Indonesian than English speaking people because of cultural difference where Indonesian tends to put the subject at the end of the sentence.

Translating Indonesian passive sentences into English by keeping the same structure is not always possible. The difference of grammatical features between Indonesian and English can evoke problems in translating passive voice (Sadiyani, 2011). Furthermore, according to the previous studies by Suprato (2013) not all of the passive sentences of the SL can be translated in the form of passive sentences in the TL. Instead, the passive sentences can be translated in the form of active sentences in order to deliver the equivalent meaning. Translation shift may also occur in the translation process as it is helpful to create a natural translation from source language to target language.

Looking into the above statements, this study is aimed at analyzing the translation of passive voice

from Indonesian to English that is found in the “GuaSunyaragi” book.

Definition of Translation

Several experts have proposed the definitions of translation which are related to each other. Catford (1965: 20) defined translation as the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL). He also stated that translation as a process is uni-directional, meaning that it is always performed in a given direction from a source language into a target language.

According to Newmark (1988), translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in a way that the author intended the text. It means that the product of a translation process in the target language should be able to convey the information/message that is intended by the original writer.

Translation can also be defined as reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style (Nida&Lyby, 1969: 12).

From all the definitions above, it can be concluded that translation is a process of replacing/rendering/reproducing message

from a source language (SL) to a target language (TL) in such a way that you capture the equivalent meaning and style.

Passive Voice

Passive voice “occurs in a sentence in which a grammatical subject of the verb is the goal or recipient of the action expressed by the verb” (Hartmann & Stork 1976, cited in Griera 2014: 4). What this statement means is that passive voice is used when the focus of the sentence is the result or the person affected by the action and it is not important or not known who or what is performing the action.

The use of passive voice allows writers/speakers to organize sentences by placing figures other than the agent in the subject position either because they do not know or do not want to put the focus on who performed the action. Passive voice is thus often used in scientific writing because it allows writers to highlight the most important participants or events within sentences by placing them at the beginning of the sentence. The use of passive voice in scientific writing is also encouraged because it helps to achieve “an objective tone” in the sentences. In contrast, the use of passive voice in literature is not supported because it is seen to make the text lengthy, slow to read, and often ambiguous.

Passive Voice in Indonesian

Passive voice is frequently used in Indonesian, more than it is used in English. One of the reasons is because Indonesians tend to write and talk by putting the subject at the end of the sentence. There are some characteristics that can be used to identify passive voice in Indonesian:

1. The subject plays the role of the receiver or product of an action
2. The verb uses an affix such as di-, ter-, ke-an, and ter-an
3. The object in passive sentence is the subject in the active sentence
4. Usually uses ‘oleh’ and ‘dengan’ in the sentence to state the agent/’doer’ when necessary

There are two types of passive voice in Indonesian. The first one is regular passive voice which is the result of transformation from transitive active voice. The verb in this type of sentence usually uses affixes such as di-, ter-, and ke-an. For example: Sekolah ini dibangun pada tahun 1996 (This school was built in 1996). The second type is called zero passive voice. For this type, the placement of the subject is close to the object and the verb uses suffix (usually suffix –kan) instead of prefix. For example: Akan saya sampaikan pesanmu padanya. According to Widya&Ayu (2015: 127), the first type

is commonly used if the subject of the active voice is noun or noun phrase. On the other hands, the second one is used if the subject of the active voice is personal pronoun.

Passive Voice in English

The passive form of an active voice in English is formed by putting the auxiliary 'be' followed by the past participle of the main verb (Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech & Svartvik: 1986). The object of the active voice becomes the subject of the passive voice while the subject of the active voice is often not mentioned in the passive voiced and when it is mentioned, it is preceded by a 'by' phrase and placed at the end of the clause. From the explanations above, we can then construct the form of passive voice in English, which is: subject + finite form of to be + past participle (+ by the 'agent', if necessary).

Example: A letter is written by Samuel.

In the above sentence, 'a letter' is the subject, but it is not the 'agent' who does the action and instead the product of the action. The subject is then followed by 'is' (to be) which gives information about the tenses of the sentence and whether the subject is singular or plural. Then, it is followed by the past participle form of 'write' which is 'written'. Then the object (which is the 'agent' of the action) is put

at the end of the sentence with a 'by' phrase.

There are two types of passive voice: personal and impersonal passive. Personal passive means that the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. For example: She is reading a book. (active) □ A book is being read by her. (passive). Impersonal passive is used when the sentence uses an intransitive verb (verbs without an object). It is not as common in English as in some other languages, but it is still possible with verbs of perception (e.g. say, think, know). For example: they say that cat has nine lives (active) □ It is said that cat has nine lives.

Translating Passive Voice

Baker (1992: 103) claims, "Languages which have a category of voice do not always use the passive with the same frequency". There are even languages which simply have no passive and all the passive forms that appear in the languages with the passive voice have to be changed into active forms in the translation (Nida 1964: 201). Further, the function of the passive voice in the source and target language might be quite different. Thus, even though passive voice exists in both the source and the target language, a translator cannot translate

passive voice automatically without respecting several important factors. According to Baker (1992: 109) those factors include the frequency of use of active, passive, and similar structures in the source and target languages, their respective stylistic value in different text types, and most important of all, the functions of the passive and the similar structures in each language. The application of translation shift in passive voice can be very helpful as it enables translators to create a natural translation from source language to target language.

RESEARCH METHOD

Qualitative descriptive method is used to analyze the data in this research. The data are taken from the first section of the Indonesian and English versions of the book “Gua Sunyaragi” that was made by group 6 of Indonesian-English Translation class (2017). To collect the data, the book is read thoroughly both in the Indonesian and English version to get the understanding of the content as a whole. The next steps are collecting the data by identifying the sentences that contain passive voice and compared the data with its translation in the English version of the book. In analyzing the data, the first step that is applied is data classification, followed by data analysis based on both grammatical and semantics

approach, then tabling the data to make it easier to be read.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

This section tells about data analysis and its results. The analysis was based on the data taken from the Indonesian and English version of book entitled “Gua Sunyaragi”. 32 samples of passive Indonesian sentences have been used as the data for this research. They were then grouped according to the type of sentences and translation shifts that were applied in the translation.

Table 1. Data analysis

Type	Amount	Percentage
Passive form translated into passive form	21	65.62%
Passive form translated into active form	7	21.86%
Passive form translated into sentences with whiz deletion	2	6.25%
Passive form translated into active form with preposition	2	6.25%
Total	32	99.98%

Table 1 shows the grouping of the type of sentence transformation that was made in the samples. By looking at this table, it can be seen that there are 32 passive sentences that were found in the Indonesian version of “GuaSunyaragi” book. 21 (65.62%) of the samples were translated into passive form in the target language, 7 (65.89%) were translated into active sentences, while 2 (6.25%) were translated into passive form with whiz deletion, and 2 (6.35%) were translated into active form with preposition.

Discussion

Passive Form Translated into Passive Form

Excerpt 1.

Source Language (Indonesian)	Target Language (English)
Taman Gua Sunyaragi dibangun dalam tiga periode.	Sunyaragi cave was built in three periods.

From the sentences above, it can be observed that the translator translated the SL passive voice *dibangun* into *was built* in the TL. The passive construction in SL is formed by prefix *di-* and the sentence has a construction form of S (subject) + P (predikat) + K (keterangan). The translator translated the sentence into passive form in the TL with the

construction of S + to be + past participle + Adv. It can be seen from the use of *was* as the to be that the tense that was used in TL is simple past tense. Although there is no tense in Indonesian, the choice of tenses was applied from the assumption that the subject in the sentence (GuaSunyaragi) was already built and thus the sentence must be in the past form.

Grammatically, there is unit/rank shift applied in this translation. Unit/rank shift enables the change of rank from the SL in the TL. In the above example, the word *dibangun* in SL was shifted to the phrase *was built* in TL.

Passive Form Translated into Active Form

Source Language (Indonesian)	Target Language (English)
Taman Gua Sunyaragi terdiri atas zona inti seluas 1,8hektar dan zona penyangga seluas 3,4 hektar.	Sunyaragi cave comprises a mainareaof 1.8 hectare a 3.4 hectare outsidearea.

In the text above, the translator translated the SL passive voice *terdiri* into active voice *comprises* in the TL. The passive construction in te SL is formed by prefix *ter-*, and in the TL, it is formed by *v1 comprise*.

There is structure shift that has been applied in translating this sentence. As we can see, passive voice is used in the SL while active voice is used in the TL. Despite of the shift, the translator is able to transfer the meaning from the SL to the TL well. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, *compromise* means “to be made up of; compose, constitute; to include especially within a particular scope.” which has the equivalent meaning with *terdiri* in Indonesian.

Passive Form Translated into Sentences with Whiz Deletion

Source Language (Indonesian)	Target Language (English)
Batu karang yang digunakan terdiri dari dua jenis.	There are two types of coral used in the construction.

In this example, the translator translated the SL passive voice *digunakan* into the word *used*, an arguably passive form with whiz-deletion in the TL. Whiz-deletion is a “relative clause reduction” (Aniya, p.39). In other words, it is a type of ellipsis that applies to relative clauses (e.g. who, which, that) plus a copula verb—a form of the verb ‘to be’—and creates a bare verb phrase without a tensed verb, but with whatever is left after the deletion. In this case, the sentence *Batukarang yang*

digunakan terdiridaridua jenis was translated into *There are two types of corral used in the construction*. The proper passive construction in the TL should be: relative clause + to be + past participle (‘which were used’), but here, the translator omitted both the relative clause that has the function as a conjunction and the ‘to be’. It is still an unresolved argument whether this type of sentence can be categorized into passive voice of not because it doesn’t follow the proper formula of passive sentence, but it is not fitting into active form either.

Passive Form Translated into Active Form with Preposition

Source Language (Indonesian)	Target Language (English)
Sejatinya, bangunan taman gua sunyaragi menghadap ke timur atau menyongsong matahari yang diibaratkan sebagai sumber kehidupan.	Originally, Sunyaragi cave faces the east or the sun as the source of life, but due to the development and the changing of time,

In the text above, the passive word *diibaratkan* in the SL was replaced by a preposition *as* in the TL. There is a class shift that happens in this translation. The

verb *diibaratkan* in the SL functions as a verb, while the word *as* in the TL functions as a preposition. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, ‘as’ as a preposition is used to indicate how a person or thing appears, is thought of, etc. which is equivalent with the word ‘diibaratkan’ in the SL.

CONCLUSION

In this research, 32 samples of passive voice were found in the first section of Indonesian version of “GuaSunyaragi” book. 21 (65.62%) of the samples were translated into passive form in the target language, 7 (65.89%) were translated into active sentences, while 2 (6.25%) were translated into passive form with whiz-deletion, and 2 (6.35%) were translated into active form with preposition.

Based on the data analysis, the researcher concludes that in this book, the translator mostly translated passive sentence in the SL into passive sentence in the TL. Aside from that, the translator also translated the passive sentence in the SL into other variation of forms in the TL. The translator also occasionally applied translation shift—such as unit/rank shift, structure shift, and class shift—in the translation process as it is helpful to create

a natural translation from source language to target language.

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