

**Analysis of Conditional Clause Translations: Case Studies of Assassin's Creed: Revelations Novel Translation from English to Indonesian**

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**Abstract**

This research is entitled Analysis of Conditional Clause Translation: Case Study of Assassin's Creed: Revelations Novel Translation from English to Indonesian which is an analysis of translation method used in translating conditional clause in Oliver Bowden's Novel Assassin's Creed: Revelations, translated by Melodi Violine. The purposes of this study are to find out how the translator translates the conditional clause from English to Indonesian and describes the translation techniques used by the translator. The research methodology used is descriptive qualitative. The theory used to identify the data is the translation method invented by Newmark (1988) which is depicted in a diagram called a V diagram, whereas in the translation there are two models of emphasis, namely on the source language and target language.

*Keywords: Translation, Translation Methods, Conditional Clause.*

**1. Introduction**

Translation is considered a branch of science, but other opinions suggest that translation is an art form, as well as a skill. As it is known, human activities cannot be separated from the use of language. One of them is translation. Most books containing important knowledge used in Indonesia are written in English, especially for tertiary institutions. That is why students, especially college level students, are required to learn English to improve their understanding of English in general, and translation in particular.

Translation is a very important activity in today's modern world. People who are interested in translation are not only linguists, translators, or language teachers, but also electronic engineers and mathematicians. Various books and translated articles in these fields have been written by experts in their own respective field. Currently, translation is used to establish international relations.

When we write in any kind of language, it is important to create logical connections between the ideas presented. There are several relationships that we can make; such as adding, contrasting, or others. There are also many words and expressions that we can use to express these important relations. The conditional sentence is one of these relationships.

English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students usually face major obstacles in making conditional sentences. According to Norris (2003) and Ramirez (2005), the conditional difficulty depends on one situation to the condition of another. There are various possible meanings of conditional sentences; such as cognitive reasoning, counterfactual, possible and impossible, real and unreal, and hypothetical. More specifically, form, meaning, and tenses relationship are causing great difficulty in conditional sentences (Nekoueizadeh & Bahrani, 2013).

Linguists conducting descriptive studies assume that every human language has a method of conditional sentence formation and have found that conditional sentences do exist in many languages (Traugott et al., 2009). There are various ways to express a condition in English. This is quite different from how Indonesian language works. In order to translate an English conditional text into Indonesian, the translator must know that this particular structure indicates a condition, and then the translator can translate it into an equivalent structure.

The analysis as well as the description of the translation process must pay attention to the use of categories related to language descriptions because translation is related to language. In other words, translation must be based on language theory, namely general linguistic theory. Although conditional sentences are one of the most popular sentences in the English language, they are not easy to be expressed or used. After years of teaching English, the researcher realized that students had difficulties in translating conditional sentences. The uses and meanings of conditional sentences are many and varied. Although there are many students who know how to use conditional sentences, they don't really pay attention to the meaning in translation.

It does not seem easy to translate conditional sentences in a clear and persuasive way. Besides, translation is an activity related to the source language and target language. The lack of similarity, language competence, background, and cultural knowledge of the translators in each language, are some of the reasons for the difficulties in translation. The researcher himself has difficulty translating these kinds of sentences and the researcher feels interested in conducting research on this problem. For the above reasons, the research, entitled "Analysis of Conditional Clause Translation: Case Study of Assassin's Creed: Revelations Novel Translation from English to Indonesian," is intended to help English learners as well as translators overcome the difficulties this type of sentence can cause when they are translating.

## **2. Theoretical Framework**

### **Translation**

Nida and Taber (1968) define translation as "the process of reproducing the equivalent meaning and then the style of the source language in the target language." Catford (1965) argues that "translation is the replacement of textual material in the source language with the equivalent textual material in the target language." Larson (1984) said that "translation is the transfer of meaning from the source language into the target language through a three-step approach, namely studying the source language text, analyzing the source language text, and re-expressing the same meaning by using the appropriate words and language structures in the target language." The same argument was also stated by Hoed (2006) which states that "translation is an effort or activity to divert messages from the source language to the target language, each language has a different cultural background."

Meanwhile, Larson (as stated by Choliludin, 2006) classified translations into two main types, namely translations based on form (Form-based translation) and translation based on meaning (Meaning-based translation). Form-based translations tend to follow the source language form, usually known as literal translation, while meaning-based translations tends to communicate the meaning of the source language text in the target language naturally. This translation is known as an idiomatic translation. The theory of translation types division, according to Larson, has something in common with the theory of shifts proposed by Catford, which is categorized in four types of shifts, namely (1) structural shifts, (2) class shift, (3) unit shift, as well as (4) intra-system shift.

## Equivalence in Translation

The translation process that produces the ideal target language is an equivalent result of the accurate message from the source language, the readability, and also the product acceptability. The equivalence concerns the equivalence at the level of lexemes (words), phrases (above word level), grammatical, textual, and at a pragmatic level. But in this case, Baker (2011) states that “the entire level is used on the condition that although equivalence can be practiced, it is still influenced by various linguistic and cultural factors; which is therefore relative.”

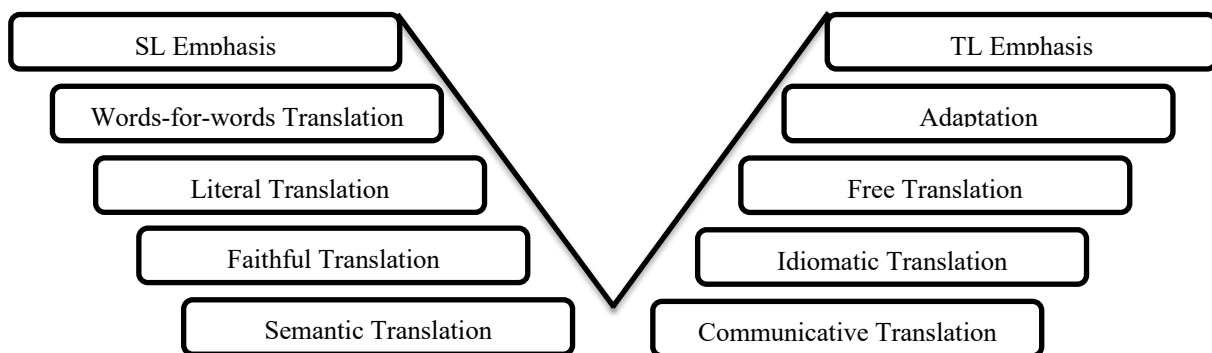
Salzmann (1993) states that “translation is the placement or representation of a text which is equivalent from one language to another, so different language texts can be equivalent at different levels; both as a whole, or in relation to the context of semantics, syntax, lexeme, and others; as well as in the level of translation word for word, phrase by phrase, and clause by clause.”

In contrast to Baker, Snell-Hornby (1988) used the term "parallel text" as the replacement for "equivalent." The result of a translation is always obtained from other text; parallel text, which is the result of two texts that are independent from the linguistic side and come from a very identical situation. However, they are substantially the same, because the equivalence to parallels are two synonymous terms - that is, the message contained by the source language reaches the reader through the target language.

Halliday (as cited in Steiner and Yallop, 2001) said that “inaccuracies in translation are marked by the inequality between the source language and the target language, which is then called a poor translation product because neither the source language nor the target language contains the same idea.”

## Translation Method

Molina & Albir (2002) states that “the translation method is the method used by translators in the translation process based on the purpose of translation so that the choice of the method will affect the translation results.” The translation method is a macro choice, which affects the whole text. Translation has many types of methods, Newmark (1988) revealed that there are eight methods in translation which are described in the form of V Diagram. In V Diagram, Newmark divides translation into two, namely translation oriented to the source language (SL Emphasis), and translation oriented towards the target language (TL Emphasis).



**Figure. 1 Diagram V**

*Source: Newmark (1988)*

## **Conditional Clauses**

Conditional clauses are used to denote cause and effect or the temporal sequence of two events. The main structure of the conditional contains "antecedent clause" and "consequent clause" or "protasis" and "apodosis" (Polańska, 2006; Traugott et al., 2009; Yule, 1998; Zhang, 2005). Antecedent is defined as a subordinate clause which refers to presumed situation, whereas a consequence consists of propositional situation that occurs if the antecedent is realized (Dancygier, 1998; Elliot, 2006; Young, 1989). Conditionals mostly convey the logical sense "if situation A, then situation B" and perform different functions, for example imagery, inference, habit, factual and reasoning (Geis & Zwicky, 1971; Traugott et al., 2009). In English conditionals, the future is usually expressed with the present tense, present or future sentences that are impossible are expressed with past tense, and impossible events that did not happen in the past are expressed with the past perfect (Comrie, 1986).

## **Conditional Sentence Structure**

According to Celce-Murcia & Larsen-Freeman (1999), some grammarians believe that there are three types of conditional sentences (i.e. future, present and past). However, other grammarians (Cowan, 2008; Liu, 2011; Wu, 2012; Yule, 1998; Zhang, 2005) said there are four types of conditionals, namely zero, future, present, and past conditional. It should be noted that conditional meaning can fall into one of two broad categories, namely factual and non-factual, which depend on the form of the verb in the antecedent part. In a factual structure, the antecedent part refers to a condition whose reality has not been confirmed, and the verb in the consequent clause can be three tenses, namely the past, present, and future (Palmer, 2001). In addition, factual and realistic conditionals include four features: generic, habitual, inference, and future conditional (Cowan, 2008; Wu, 2012; Yule, 1998). Under unrealistic conditions, antecedents refer to conditions that are known to be untrue or impossible. Non-realistic conditions are also divided into two main types, namely counterfactual and hypothetical (Cowan, 2008; Wu, 2012; Yule, 1998). The result of a hypothetical construct (as opposed to factual) consists of a conditional verb containing "will" (or "may", "could", "should") and the root form of the previous verb or the verb with "have" and past-participle.

According to Celce-Murcia & Larsen-Freeman (1999) and Guilani (2012), conditional can refer to three kinds of semantic relations, namely conditional factual, future, or predictive and imaginative, whereas according to Yule (1998) and Wu (2012), conditional consists of four types of semantic relations: factual, predictive, hypothetical, and counterfactual

## **3. Methods**

### **Research Design**

This research is a descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive nature is associated with research efforts that attempt to analyze data with all its characteristics (Sutopo, 2006), so that what this research produces will only be in the form of exposure as it is. The main characteristic of the exposure produced by this descriptive study later on, is that the exposure does not consider the right or wrong use of language in the text to be analyzed.

The data source in this research is novel *Assassin's Creed: Revelations* and its translation from the informant Melody Violin as the translator. The objects of research are the phrases and words in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Revelations* and its translation. In collecting data, several steps have been taken, namely (1) reading the original novel and its translation repeatedly at different times and

places, (2) marking words, phrases, clauses and sentences that have the potential to become data, (3) inputting them into the table, (4) categorizing the temporary data according to the page.

The analysis method used is as follows: (1) temporary data are selected to obtain valid data, (2) identify language elements and meanings in text 1, (3) identify language elements and meanings in the text 2, (4) comparing the two texts whether there are differences in elements of language and meaning or not, (5) making conclusions.

#### **4. Results and Discussion**

##### **Results of the Research**

**Table 1. Translation Methods**

No	Translation Methods	Total	Percentage
1	Word for Word Translation	46	57.5 %
2	Literal Translation	18	22.5 %
3	Free Translation	16	20 %
TOTAL		80	100%

##### **Discussion**

##### **Data Classification Based on Translation Methods**

According to Table 1, there are 80 instances of conditionals found in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Revelations* manifested. Throughout the novel, the conjunction 'if' is the main contributor to the conditionals. The translation methods used to analyze the data of conditional clauses consist of eight types of translation methods. After being analyzed, three groups of data were found according to the translation method used.

##### **1. Word-for-Word Translation**

It can be seen that the word for word translation method is the most widely used method. From the findings, 46 data were translated by this method. The lingual unit in applying this method is at the word level. One by one the words are translated sequentially, regardless of context. Cultural terms in the source language are translated literally. This method can be applied well if the structure of the source language is the same as the structure of the target language, or the source language text contains only single words - not constructed into phrases, clauses or sentences - so that the meaning is not interlinked. This method can also be used when facing a difficult expression, namely by doing the initial translation (pre-translation) word for word, then reconstructing it into an appropriate expression translation.

##### **2. Literal Translation**

In this study, there are 18 data which are translated using the literal translation method. In the translation process, the translator tries to change the grammatical construction of the source language to the target language. This literal translation is independent of context. This translation was initially carried out like a word-for-word translation, but the translator then adjusted the wording according to the grammatical language of the target.

### 3. Free Translation

In this study, 16 data were identified to be using the free translation method. The free translation method prioritizes the content of the source language rather than the form of its structure. The freedom in this method is still limited to expressing the meaning in the target language, so that the meaning or content of the source language is still limited even though the form of the source language text has not been reappeared. Furthermore, the search for equivalents also tends to be at the level of the text, not words, phrases, clauses or sentences, so that it looks like paraphrasing the source language. The translation is wordy and lengthy, even if the translation looks like it is not a translation

### 5. Conclusion

After analyzing the data contained in Oliver Bowden's novel entitled *Assassin's Creed: Revelations* which was translated into Indonesian by Melody Violine, it can be concluded that in translation of conditional clause, the translator used several methods; word for word translation, free translation, and literal translation. The translation that is most widely used is oriented towards the source language, that is, word for word translation. In general, the translation results of conditional clauses in the novel are good, natural, easy to understand, and communicative.

### Suggestion

It is recommended for the translation community to carry out other literary translation process that are rarely researched. For example, the Indonesian cultural texts. It is also recommended that other researchers conduct research on the translation of other novels related to the aspects of translation, for example the quality of translation.

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