TRANSLATION APPLICATIONS IN EFL CLASSROOM: INSIGHTS FROM STUDENT PERCEPTIONS

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	With the advanced and innovative development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), translation apps have gained popularity. As a language learning tool, translation app has become increasingly popular among students, especially those who are learning a new language on their own. Learning a foreign language can be a challenging task, especially if you are not fluent in the language you are trying to learn. However, with the help of modern technology, translation apps can be one of the tools to help learn a new language. The objective of this research is to investigate the students' perception on the use of translation applications. This study uses a qualitative method. Researchers applied this method to describe students' perceptions about the use of translation apps in learning foreign languages. The results of this study indicate that the sixth semester srudents of English Education Study Program of UKI Toraja (Christian University of Indonesia Toraja) have 2 different perspectives in responding to the use of translation applications in learning foreign languages, namely positive and negative perspectives. From the positive perspective, mostly students stated that translation app in learning are really helpful in translating languages, increasing vocabulary, translation apps speed us up in translating languages, easy to use, and some of them are free. From negative perspective, most of the students stated that translation app can make them lazy to learn new things and become dependent, so there is no effort to try to increase knowledge. *This is an open access article under the <u>CC BY-SA</u> license.*

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INTRODUCTION

The rise in popularity of translation apps may be related to the inventive and sophisticated development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Machine translation has become ubiquitous in the last few years (Rychtyckyj & Plesco, 2013). People of all ages, from students to older people, utilize translation apps often (Deng & Yu,

2022). Students are using translation apps more and more as a tool for language acquisition, particularly those who are learning a new language alone because as Setiadi & Piyakun (2015) state that foreign languages play crucial roles that enable different people to understand each other. Acquiring proficiency in a foreign language can be difficult, particularly if you are not a native speaker of the language, even, according to Malone et al. (2005), all native speakers of a language are not automatically assumed to possess high-level language proficiency. However, one tool to aid in learning a new language is a translation software that is interconnected to contemporary technology.

In line with Salih (2023), the use of machine translation tools poses both benefits and risks in various contexts, including academia and the workplace, the usage of translation software for studying a foreign language can have both beneficial and negative consequences, depending on the students' perspectives. Positive impact: The translation software allows students to quickly and simply translate words, phrases, and even full sentences from one language to another, which may be quite useful in comprehending new terminology as shown by Omar et al. (2020) in their research that the significant part translation technologies and software programs play on improving the professional standards of translation and EFL students' translation productivity. One of the advantages of utilizing translation apps is that they are accessible from anywhere and at any time. This allows students to learn and practice their language abilities while on the road as Urlaub and Dessein (2022) explain that they also have the potential to support language learners to develop autonomous proficiency in a second language. The translation tool also speeds up the process of learning a new language by making difficult words and phrases more understandable. Furthermore, the translate program can help with translating papers, websites, and other critical information that demand a quick comprehension of the language.

However, there are anxieties that the usage of translation apps will have a negative influence on students' language acquisition. It is also anticipated that the use of translation apps may lead to dishonest academic behavior through illegal use for assignment completion (Murtisari et al., 2019).

Foreign language learners regularly utilize translation applications to help them learn and acquire a new language. Of course, each student has a unique viewpoint while using this translation software, both in terms of its efficacy in assisting with translation and improving language abilities, as well as the good and bad effects on students studying foreign languages.

LITERATURE REVIEW

After reviewing various studies, the researcher has some relevant past investigations that support this research as a comparison, which are as follows: (Urlaub & Dessein, 2022) said in their study "Machine Translation and Foreign Language Education" that online machine translation systems have the potential to dramatically improve foreign language education. This research illustrates how online machine translation gives valuable chances for

students and persuades language teachers of the good impact that MT technologies may play in their courses.

Sujarwo (2020) in his research entitled showed that EFL students had to recheck and rearrange words, phrases, texts, and paragraphs to get a good translation based on their own understandings. Machine translation (MT) is another method for determining the meaning of a foreign language. Machine Translation can also serve as a dictionary. MT is incredibly beneficial and helpful; it may give people with a broad summary as well as inspiration or thought so that they can comprehend the meaning.

Based on the findings of prior studies, the researcher may conclude that the similarity of this research to the previous investigations above is the determination of student perceptions of using translation tools. However, the purpose of this study is to investigate students' impressions of utilizing translation apps when learning a foreign language.

Perception

Perception is the subjective opinions, beliefs, attitudes, and views that students hold regarding a particular topic or experience, in this case, the use of translation apps in language learning.

Perception can be defined into positive and negative side. People may perceive things differently due to many influences that can occasionally skew perceptions. Internal and external influences both have an impact on how someone perceives the world (Khotimah et al., 2021). The term "internal factor" refers to a factor that originates from an individual, such as their sentiments, attitudes, personality, bias, desire, or hope, learning process, physical state, psychiatric problems, values, needs, and interests. Environment and stimulus variables such as: family background, information learned, circumstance, surroundings, knowledge, and wants, as well as intensity, size, independence, repetition of motion, new things, and known or unfamiliar things about the object are examples of external factors. People's perceptions of things rely on the circumstances they expect to encounter. External factors can influence how people view things and what they believe to be true.

Translation

There are several definitions of translation provided by various specialists. According to Newmark, translation is the process of transferring the meaning of a text into another language in the same way that the author intended (Newmark, 1988). Newmark's idea of translation highlights that translation involves more than simply channeling messages from the source language into the target language; it must also comprehend the target language and the author's purpose to avoid mistakes.

Furthermore, Catford defines translation as the substitution of textual information in one language (SL) with equivalent textual material in another language (TL) (Catford, 1965). When redirecting the message into the target text, the translator has to identify the closest and fair equivalent of the meaning in line with the source language. Translation is the process of translating messages from one language to another. It is possible that two separate languages

will be used to deliver a comparable message. This idea in translation is generally known as translation equivalency.

Based on Oxford Dictionary, translation is the process of changing something that is written or spoken into another language.

Translation App

Translation software is any computer application that converts text from one language to another (Pairphrase, n.d.). A translation app is a smartphone or online application that enables users to translate words, phrases, or sentences from one language to another while also offering meanings. According to Schoening (n.d.) Translation software is any application that supports human translators in transferring text from one language to another. These applications primarily use machine translation technology to transform text from one language to another, and they frequently contain extra features like pronunciation help, example phrases, and synonyms. The app may employ a combination of pre-existing translation databases, language dictionaries, and artificial intelligence algorithms to give real-time translations and definitions. The technology also has access to a big library of common words, meanings, and other data that it has gathered through past analyses of millions of documents in many languages (Agarwal, 2022). Users may enter the word or phrase they wish to translate, as well as the source and target languages, and the software will deliver the translation and definition in the appropriate language. Travelers, language learners, and those who want swift and simple translations for a variety of reasons use translation applications frequently. They are available for different platforms such as iOS, Android, and web browsers, and support a wide range of languages. Most translation apps are also designed to be user-friendly, making them easy to use even for people who are not tech-savvy (Yu, 2023).

Translation Apps in Learning Foreign Language

A foreign language is one that is neither a person's native language nor the official language of a certain country or region. It is a language that is often studied and spoken by non-native speakers. Learning a foreign language often includes learning its vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and cultural factors. People acquire other languages for a variety of reasons, including communication, travel, employment, cultural appreciation, academic endeavors, and personal interests. Learning a second language may be an exciting and gratifying experience. It creates new chances for communication, cultural understanding, and personal development.

Translation plays a fundamental role in enhancing communication among people from different nations (Mahdi et al., 2022). It is necessary to raise foreign language students' awareness about the use of translation programs and place the lessons that cover the data-based translation programs in the curriculum (Darancik, 2016). Kolhar & Alameen (2021) in their research prove that the use of the developed technology for translation during classroom sessions was beneficial. Using a translation app can be a helpful tool when learning a foreign language. It can assist you in quickly looking up and understanding words, phrases, and

sentences in your target language. Machine Translation (MT) is a technology that automatically converts text from one language to another (Alifa et al., 2023). Here are a few popular translation apps, namely Google Translate, Microsoft Translator, iTranslate, dan Yandex Translate.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses qualitative method. Researcher applies this method to describe students' perceptions about the use of translation app in learning foreign language.

The respondents in this study are sixth-semester English Education Study Program students at Universitas Kristen Indonesia Toraja. Because sixth-semester students at Universitas Kristen Indonesia Toraja are studying Practical Translation and Interpreting II (PTI II), they are focusing on learning and examining how to utilize the translation software to assist them translate English content. As a result, the subjects of this study is sixth-semester students at Universitas Kristen Indonesia Toraja.

The researchers conducted interviews with sixth semester English Education Study Program students at Universitas Kristen Indonesia Toraja. In this study, interviews were conducted to learn about students' impressions of using translation apps to learn a foreign language. The interview is one of the studies, which is a method of gathering information through question and answer sessions between the researcher and the topic under study. The researcher uses interviews to collect data. The researcher utilized a smartphone to record interview data. Taking notes is frequently used as another tool to obtain more information during an interview.

RESULTS

This study was conducted utilizing semi-structured interviews with informants as a means of searching and direct documenting in the field. This study focuses on students' impressions of utilizing translation apps to learn foreign languages. Information collecting lasted one day, on June 12, 2023. Furthermore, the data on students' impressions of utilizing a translation app when learning a foreign language revealed the following.

NO	PERCEPTIONS	COMMENT
1.	Students often use translation applications in learning foreign languages	S1 : *"I use Google Translate almost every day. I use it to translate English to Indonesian, and vice versa."* S2 : *"I very often use translation applications such as Google Translate, Bing Translator, and Yandex Translator, especially when learning English."* S5 : *"Sometimes while studying."* S3, S4, S6 : *"Very often."*
2.	The translation application has a very important role for students in the	S1 : *"So the role of the translation application in learning is to help me translate languages and also increase my vocabulary. These translation apps speed us up in translating languages, easy to use, and some are also free."*

	learning foreign language	S2	:"It's help me in translating and interpreting a word that I don't understand."
		S4	: "It plays a very important role in helping me translate long texts."
		S6	: "I think it's very important. We can learn more for all languages."
3.	Translation App is easy to use	S1	: "So far, it's been easy. Some of the features of the translation application are easy to use."
		S2	: "Yes it is very easy because it is very helpful. The translation application features are also easy to use."
		S3, S4, S5, S6 : "Yes, it is very easy to use."	
4.	Students prefer translation applications in online form.	S2	: "Online translation results are better."
		S3	: "I mostly use online applications. Offline applications usually have words that cannot be found (limited), whereas online the words are more."
		S4	: "I mostly use online ones. Online applications have more features that can be used, whereas offline applications are very limited."
5.	Translation Applications can make students lazy.	S3	: "That's usually makes me sometimes lazy to learn new things because I always rely on translation app."
		S4	: "Because we use translation applications too often, we become dependent, so there is no effort to try to increase knowledge."
		S5	: "Previously, I used to translate more manually (using a dictionary) but now I'm lazy because of a translation app."
		S6	:"Sometimes we become lazy to learn more deeply because of translation application."

After evaluating data from six students, the researcher intends to share the findings of the students' impressions of using a translation app to learn a foreign language. Based on the research findings, the researcher may conclude that students have both favorable and negative impressions of utilizing translation applications to learn foreign languages.

Students' perceptions are the subjective thoughts, beliefs, attitudes, and perspectives that students have about a specific topic or event, in this case, the usage of translation applications for language learning. So, using the interview, the researcher summarized the data, chose the major material that connects the themes, and concentrated on important data, such as removing and rejecting irrelevant data. As a result, the researcher will explore four groups of students' perspectives of utilizing translation apps to learn foreign languages, namely:

1. The translation application has a very important role for students in the learning foreign language

   Based on the interview, the student stated that the translation software plays a significant role. Using a translation software may be really useful. For starters, it helps students to swiftly translate unfamiliar words or phrases, which can help them better grasp the topic they are learning. Translation applications may be a quick and effective tool for learning a foreign language. They include a variety of features that can assist students in improving their language skills and are accessible at all times and from any location.

2. Translation App is easy to use

Based on an interview with six students, all of them indicated that the translation software is simple to use. Translation applications are intended to be user-friendly and simple to use. They are often designed with simple interfaces and features to give a smooth translation experience (Pokrivcakova, 2022). Many translation applications also provide extra features to improve the user experience, such as offline translation, pronunciation guidance, and the option to save and organize translated words. Some apps even offer real-time translation via the camera, allowing users to aim their cellphone at signs or writing and instantly obtain translations on their screen. Overall, translation applications aim to reduce language barriers by offering an accessible and quick tool for communication and comprehension across various language.

3. Students prefer translation applications in online form

According to the interview, students prefer using a translation tool in online format. Online translation tools offer instant translations, allowing students to get the information they need in a matter of seconds. This quickness and efficiency can be especially advantageous when students are constrained for time or want immediate assistance with their academics. Many internet translation software offer a broad number of languages, including lesser-known ones. This variety of linguistic assistance is advantageous to students learning many languages. Online translation apps frequently provide extra elements that might help students study more effectively. The digital revolution triggered the creation of tools, software and resources that helps ease the burden of translation and improve efficiency, consistency and quality (Gabriel, 2019). Some programs, for example, provide pronunciation instructions, synonyms, example sentences, and even grammar explanations to help students grasp the translated content.

4. Translation Applications can make students lazy.

According to an interview with six students, the majority of them believe that using a translation software might make them sluggish. The usage of a translate application might make students sluggish about studying other languages in detail, stifling the development of their foreign language abilities. This situation will only confuse the students' minds during the language learning process and thus their motivation level will reduce (Darancik, 2016). Students might become overly reliant on technology and struggle to grasp content without the assistance of a translation program.

CONCLUSION

Based on the description above, it is possible to conclude that the sixth semester of English Education Study Program of UKI Toraja (Christian University of Indonesia Toraja) has two different perspectives in responding to the use of translation applications in learning foreign languages, namely positive and negative perspectives.

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From a positive perspective, most students maintained that translation apps in learning are extremely useful in translating languages and increasing vocabulary. Translation apps also speed up the translation process, are simple to use, and some are free. From a negative standpoint, the majority of students claimed that translation apps can make people lethargic to learn new things and grow dependant, therefore there is no effort to attempt to expand knowledge.

Even though it is very easy to translate using a translation application in this day and age, the researcher advises students to learn to translate using a dictionary and not be lazy in deepening their knowledge because this translation application will not always be available in various situations and conditions. Therefore, preparing oneself with the skill to translate will undoubtedly be extremely valuable in the future.

The researcher recommends that future researchers build study techniques and instruments for investigating student impressions of translation applications.

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