

A COMPARISON BETWEEN HUMAN AND GOOGLE TRANSLATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this research was to know the comparison between human and Google translations in terms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability at the fifth semester students of Muhammadiyah University of Makassar. The researcher applied comparative study which compared the quality of Google and human translations based on the criteria of acceptability, readability and accuracy aspects proposed by Nababan. This comparative study was done at Muhammadiyah University of Makassar. The subject research was 50 students at the fifth semester of Muhammadiyah University of Makassar in 2017-2018. The instrument was a text in Indonesian. The findings of this research were the different scores which showed the different quality between human and Google translations in the terms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability. The average score of human translation was 2.16, while the average score of Google translation was 2.67. Therefore, it can be concluded that there were some differences between human and Google translations in terms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability in which Google translation had higher score than human translation. In this case, the quality of human translation was reflected by the quality of the English Department students at the fifth semester at the year of 2017-2018.

Keyword: *Translations, The Comparison of Quality, Human Translation, Google Translation*

ABSTRAK

Tujuan utama dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui perbandingan antara terjemahan manusia dan Google dalam hal akurasi, penerimaan, dan keterbacaan pada mahasiswa semester lima Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar. Peneliti menerapkan studi komparatif yang membandingkan kualitas Google dan terjemahan manusia berdasarkan kriteria penerimaan, keterbacaan, dan aspek akurasi yang diajukan oleh Nababan. Studi banding ini dilakukan di Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar. Subjek penelitian adalah 50 siswa pada semester kelima Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar pada 2017-2018. Instrumennya adalah teks dalam bahasa Indonesia. Temuan penelitian ini adalah skor yang berbeda yang menunjukkan kualitas yang berbeda antara terjemahan manusia dan Google dalam hal akurasi, penerimaan, dan keterbacaan. Skor rata-rata terjemahan manusia adalah 2,16, sedangkan skor rata-rata terjemahan Google adalah 2,67. Oleh karena itu, dapat disimpulkan bahwa ada beberapa perbedaan antara terjemahan manusia dan Google dalam hal akurasi, penerimaan, dan keterbacaan di mana terjemahan Google memiliki skor lebih tinggi daripada terjemahan manusia. Dalam hal ini, kualitas terjemahan manusia tercermin oleh kualitas mahasiswa Jurusan Bahasa Inggris pada semester kelima tahun 2017-2018.

Kata kunci: *Terjemahan, Perbandingan Kualitas, Terjemahan Manusia, Terjemahan Google.*

Introduction

Translation as an important skill of English becomes necessity in language learning. It is because translation is frequently used to facilitate language learning and to help us more confident to understand foreign words and expressions and express ideas in the target language. Moreover, through translation, we are more likely to notice the differences between the two languages, and this is facilitative in our development of foreign language.

Nowadays, It is not too hard to translate a text because of the technology. One of the examples is by using Google Translation as a machine translator. By using Google translation, we can translate not only a word, but also a phrase, a sentence or a paragraph. Moreover, Google Translate can pronounce translated text and highlight corresponding words and phrases in the source and target text. All of it can be done just in one click.

Even though some people use Google Translation to translate text, some other people still use human translation. Human translation is executed by a human translator, whereas Google Translation is executed by a translation machine. The process of translation involves the work of a professional linguist/translator, usually done by one who has studied the target language extensively.

A few studies have examined the comparison between Google and human translations. Even if Google Translate provides a means for people who need a quick translation to acquire information (Li, 2014), Google Translation makes several errors on the lexical level (Hijazi, 2013). On the other hand, translating a text by using human translators is more accurate than Google Translate. (Brazill, 2015)

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Although considerable research has been devoted to errors made by Google Translation and its accuracy , rather less attention has been paid to the comparison of the quality of translation between Google and human translations based on the acceptability aspect.

Nababan (2012: 44) stated that a qualified translation should have three aspects. The aspects are accuracy, acceptability and readability. The term of accuracy refers to whether the source language text and the target language test are compatible or not, the term of readability refers to whether the target language text is readable or not, and acceptability refers to whether a translation is disclosed in accordance with the norms of culture that applied in the target language or not.

This research is done to measure the translation based on their acceptability, readability and accuracy. To know the differences on the quality in translating text by using google translation and human translation in accordance to those aspects, it is a necessity to compare the machine translation with the human translation. With this comparison, we may have an overall view on the quality of machine translation, as compared with human translation and the source language. It is done because some people always use google translate or human translation when they translate the text. In doing this, the researcher decided to conduct a comparative reasearch entitled "A Comparison Between Google and Human Translations"

Based on the statement above, it can be conclude that even if google translate is unable to grasp the subtle differences in meaning associated with different cultures and has so many grammatical errors especially when it attempts to translate a sentence or a paragraph .On the other hand , translating by using human translator is more accurate than Google translation

Some Concepts of Google and Human Translations

1. Translation

There are some definitions of translation already put forward by different linguists. Catford (1965: 20) defined translation as the replacement of textual material in one language by equivalents textual material in another language. The use of textual material underlies the fact that in normal condition it is not the entirety of a SL which is translated, that is, replaced by TL equivalents because at one or more levels of language there may be simple replacement, by nonequivalent form. In line with Catford, Bell (1991:5) stated that translation is the expression in a certain language (or target language) of what has been expressed in another, source

language, preserving semantic and stylistic equivalences. This definition clearly asserts that the goal of translation is the transformation of a text originally in one language into an equivalent text in a different language retaining, as far as possible, the content of the message and the formal features and functional roles of the original text. Munday (2001: 5) stated that translation is a process of changing of an original written in the original verbal language into a written text in a different verbal language.

Semenov (2005: 16) stated that translation is the translator`s activity of transforming a message in one language into a message with the same meaning in another language; secondly, translation is a result of the translator`s activity, i.e. an oral or written language utterance. Bassneet (2002:6) who defines that translation is not just the transfer of texts from one language into another, but also a process of negotiation between texts and cultures. It means that translation is not only transmitting a language, transferring the meaning, and conveying the message, but also transmitting a cultural aspect of the SL.

Meanwhile, Hatim and Munday (2004:6) in Munday (2009:7) define translation as:

- a. The process of transferring a written text from SL to TL, conducted by a translator, or translators, in a specific socio-cultural context.
- b. The written product which results from that process and which functions in the socio-cultural context of the TL.
- c. The cognitive, linguistic, visual, cultural and ideological phenomena which are an integral part of 1 and 2.

Other definitions are proposed by Bassneet (2002:6) who defines that translation is not just the transfer of texts from one language into another, but also a process of negotiation between texts and cultures. It means that translation is not only transmitting a language, transferring the meaning, and conveying the message, but also transmitting a cultural aspect of the SL.

Based on the definitions above, there are some similarities about the definition of translation. It can be concluded that translation is a process transferring message from a source language to target language. A translator also has to consider

the context and the culture in the target text, so that the message can be accepted by the readers well.

2. Translation Process

According to Larson (1984: 3) when translating a text, the translator's goal is an idiomatic translation which makes every effort to communicate their meaning of the SL text into the natural forms of the receptor language. Furthermore, he states that translation is concerned with a study of the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of the SL text, which is analyzed in order to determine its meaning. The discovered meaning is then re-expressed or reconstructed using the lexicon and grammatical structure which are appropriate in the receptor language and its cultural context. The following diagram is presented by Larson as the translation process.

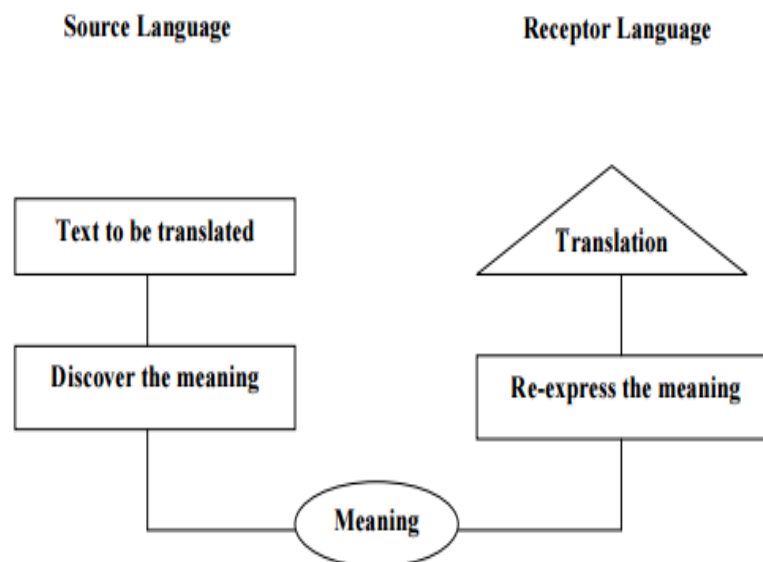


Figure .1 Translation process by Larson (1984: 4)

Nida and Taber (1982: 33) distinguish translation process into three stages: (1) analysis, in which the surface structure is analyzed in terms of (a) the grammatical relationships and (b) the meaning of the words and combinations of words, (2) transfer, in which the analyzed material is transferred in the mind of the translator from language A to language B, and (3) restructuring, in which the transferred material is restructured in order to make the final message fully acceptable in the receptor language. The translation process can be illustrated in the following diagram.

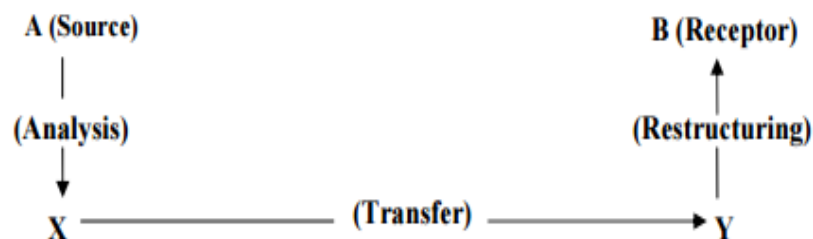


Figure 2. Translation process by Nida and Taber (1982:33)

3. Google Translation

Dillinger and Lommel (2004: 3) stated that machine translation is a method for translating something from one language to another automatically, without human intervention.

Boitet et al in Li et al (2014: 190) stated that Google is an automatic machine-translation service provided by Google Inc. It translates one written source language to another directly or with English as a medium.

Karami (2014) discussed different models used in Google Translate. He focused on two major engines used by Google Translate and tried to assess advantages and disadvantages of each one separately. He concluded that rule-based models are easier and efficient for machine translations translating languages which are simple in their linguistics and rules. He believes for a machine translation like Google Translate which supports 90 languages and gets advantage of statistical models the quality of translated texts is due to data provided for the machine and the pair of languages applied in translation process.

Concerning the merits and demerits of GT, Butler (2011) asserted that today GT is known as a free online application and top of third party websites offering an automated translation of the content in any of the available languages. Using GT is fast, easy and it provides adequate general content translation for over 50 languages. It gathers data and finds information on sites that were previously inaccessible due to the language barrier. However, Google Translate can misinterpret complex structures and provides inaccurate translations while one uses it, may not be aware any errors and inadequacies. For informational purposes it provides the user with a

powerful tool to gather data and find information on sites that were previously inaccessible due to the language barrier. Due to its limitations, however, it creates a false sense of security, because it may not detect or accurately convey linguistic and certainly not cultural nuances.

Furthermore, Shankland (2013) stated that the use of the automatic machine translation has increased in recent years with the dramatic increase in communication between countries. Google Translate provides a billion translations a day for 200 million users. The service now works in 71 languages; the last five added are Bosnian, Cebuano, Hmong, Javanese, and Marathi, Estelle said. Initially, only some language translation pairs were supported, but in 2008, Google launched the ability to translate any language to any other language.

4. Human Translation

Whyatt (2012: 11) stated that translation as a human skill is a broad complex issue. It can be studied from various perspectives and every different approach can contribute relevant points. Taking into account the multitude of languages in the world and the fact that there are currently more people who speak at least two languages, the number of potential translators must be impressive. Yet, translation is still a socially misunderstood phenomenon. On the one hand, the ability to translate from one language into another is socially expected of anybody who can communicate in the two languages.

Translation as Human Skill

Predisposition → Ability → Skill → Competence → Expertise

Figure 3. the process of human to be expertise by Whyatt

Whyatt (2012: 25) described about the process of human to be expertise in translation. First of all, the further on the developmental continuum a translator is the richer and more refined set of abilities and skills he or she will have. In terms of quantity however there will be a filtering effect. From all people who have access to at least two languages and who by nature are predisposed to translate (just as they

are predisposed to communicate), potentially all can use this ability and translate when the need arises. However, only some of those who translate will make the effort to refine their ability and will become capable of a skilled performance. Possibly some percentage of skilled translators will choose to pursue a career in translation and will develop translation competence either with or without the support of structured education. Finally, some of those who are competent in translating will develop their skills to reach the level of translation expertise. In a way just like in any other complex skill there probably is a process of self-selection governed by a combination of individual factors (personal predispositions including affective factors such as a love for languages, cognitive abilities, personality features) and environmental impact (social need, personal circumstances) which decide that some, and frequently few individuals become experts in their chosen areas of expertise.

tidak baik, seperti gramatikalnya tidak benar, kalimatnya taksa, pengungkapan idenya tidak runtut, banyak kesalahan ejaan dan fungsi, dan lain sebagainya.” (1999:60).

Research Design

In this researcher, the method was comparative study which compare the quality of translations between human and Google . The purpose was to find out the difference on the quality between human and Google translations in the term of accuracy, acceptability and readability.

Population

The population of the research was the was the fifth semester students of Makassar Muhammadiyah University in academic year 2017. in this research there were 10 classes and the total of samples were 50 students.

Findings And Discussion

The research findings present the data of students and Google translations quality. The further presentation of data is given below.

1. Translation Quality

Translation quality refers to accuracy, readability, and acceptability. Accuracy relates to the meaning of a word, technical term, phrase, clause, sentence

or source language text is accurately translated into the target language; there is absolutely no distortion of the meaning. Acceptability refers to the translation is natural; technical terms used are commonly used and familiar to the reader; the phrase, clause and sentence are in conformity with Indonesian norms and culture. Readability means that the words, technical terms, phrase, clause, sentences or the text can be easily understood by the reader.

1.1. Students' Translation Quality

Students translation quality refers to accuracy, readability, and acceptability of students' translation. Accuracy refers to the messages in the source text are transferred correctly into the target text. It also means that there are no distortions of meaning in the translation. Acceptable translation refers to the target text which sounds natural and it is also precise with the principle of the target language. Readability refers to the content of the text is not hard to understand by the reader. The quality of the students' translation can be seen in Table 2.

Table 1. The quality of students' translation

Aspect	Score	Category
Maximum score	2.83	Accurate, Acceptable and Readable
Average Score	2.16	Less accurate, less acceptable and less readable
Minimum score	1.00	Not accuracy, not acceptable and not readable

Table 4.1., students' maximum score is 2.38. this score is categorized as accurate, acceptable and readable. Accuracy in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or texts that are transferred correctly into a similar meaning in SL and TL. Acceptability in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or texts that are natural, familiar to the reader, and appropriate with Indonesian norms. Moreover, the technical terms are commonly used in target language. Readability in this score is described through the ease for readers to understand the translation.

The average score is 2.16. This score is categorized as less accurate, less acceptable and less readable. Less accurate category in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or texts that are accurately into a similar meaning in SL and TL. However, there are still distortions of meaning. Less acceptable category in this score is described through few grammatical errors little problem with the use of technical terms. Less readable category in this score is described through the repetition when reading some parts of the translation.

The minimum score is 1.00. This score is categorized as not accurate, not acceptable and not readable. Inaccurate category in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or text which are transferred inaccurately into a similar meaning in SL and TL. Inacceptable category in this score is described through the translations that are unnatural, unfamiliar, and inappropriate with target language's norms. Unreadable category in this score is described through the difficulty to understand the translations.

1.2. Google Translation Quality

The translation quality of Google in terms of accuracy, readability and acceptability are in high category. It can be seen from the tables below.

Table 2. The score of Google Translation

Aspect	Score	Category
Maximum score	3.00	Accurate, Acceptable and Readable
Average Score	2.67	Accurate, acceptable and readable
Minimum score	2.00	Not accuracy, not acceptable and not readable

Table 2., the students' maximum score is 3.00. This score is categorized as accurate, acceptable and readable. Accuracy in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or texts that are transferred correctly into a similar meaning in SL and TL. Acceptability in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or texts that are natural, familiar to the reader,

and appropriate with Indonesian norms. Moreover, the technical terms are commonly used in target language. Readability in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or texts which can be easily understood.

The average score is 2.67. This score is categorized as accurate, acceptable and readable. Accuracy in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or texts that are transferred correctly into a similar meaning in SL and TL. Acceptability in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or texts that are natural, familiar to the reader, and appropriate with Indonesian norms. Moreover, the technical terms are commonly used in target language. Readability in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or texts which can be easily understood.

The minimum score is 2.00. This score is categorized as less accurate, less acceptable and less readable. Less accurate category in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or texts that are accurately into a similar meaning in SL and TL. However, there are still distortions of meaning. Less acceptable category in this score is described through few grammatical errors and little problem with the use of technical terms. Less readable category in this score is described through the repetition when reading some parts of the translation.

1.3. The Comparison Between Human and Google Translations

The comparison of the quality between Google and human translation can be seen in table below

Table 3. The average scores of human and Google translations

Translation	Average	Category
Human Translation	2.16	Less Accurate, less acceptable, less readable

Google Translation	2.67	Accurate, acceptable, readable
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Table 4.3. the average score of human translation rated by rater 1 is 2.16, while the average score of Google translation rated by rater 1 is 2.67. The table above shows that there are some differences between Google and human translations in the terms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability. Score 2.16 is categorized as less acceptable, less accuracy and less readable. While, score 2.67 is categorized as accuracy, acceptable, and readable. So, the score of Google translation is higher than the score of human translation

Discussion

This part presents the discussion of the research findings which provides evidence to answer problem statement. In this part, the researcher would like to explain the result of data analysis as follows:

1. Human Translations

Based on the data analysis, the average score of human translations is 2.16. This score is categorized as less accurate, less acceptable and less readable.

1.1. Less Accurate

Below are the samples as proof of the human translations' quality in term of accuracy:

SL: pertama, pendidikan mempengaruhi dunia pekerjaan. Manusia dituntut untuk memiliki keterampilan di bidangnya(pelajar 12)

TL: firstly, education affects on working. People are required to have skill. (students 12)

SL: manusia telah diperkenalkan dengan dunia pendidikan sejak mereka lahir dan terus berkembang hingga kematiannya(pelajar 24)

TL: the human was with education world since they was born and till the death. (students 24)

SL: dewasa ini, pendidikan sangatlah penting bagi kehidupan manusia. Hal ini menjadikan pendidikan sebagai kebutuhan utama yang harus dimiliki oleh manusia (pelajar 26)

TL: in this time, education is most important to our life. It's making education as centre needs to people. (students 26)

The translations above are less accurate. The sentence *firstly, education affects on working. People are required to have skill* translated by student 12 is also less accurate because there are some deletion words which disturbs the meaning.

The sentence *the human was with education world since they was born and till the death* translated by student 24 is less accurate too because of there are also some deletions which disturbs the integrity of the sentence.

The sentences *in this time, education is most important to our life. It's making education as centre needs to people* translated by student 26 are also less accurate because there are deletion and addition of word in the sentence. The proper sentence should be *nowadays, education is very important for human's life*. Moreover, the sentence *It's making education as centre needs to people* is also less accurate because the source text is *hal ini menjadikan pendidikan sebagai kebutuhan utama yang harus dimiliki oleh manusia*. It means there are some deletion of words in that sentence.

1.2. Less Acceptable

Below are the samples as further proof of the human translations' quality in term of acceptability:

SL: Ketiga, pendidikan mempengaruhi jaman. Saat ini manusia hidup di jaman yang serba modern, sehingga segala sesuatunya menjadi lebih canggih termasuk tehnologi. Tehnologi kini memenuhi kehidupan

manusia, bahkan alat – alat sederhana seperti pembuka kaleng telah menggunakan teknologi.

TL: The third, education impact for era. **To day** the people **life** in the modern era. So that all of the **things is very improving** such as technology. **The technology always there is in the people life**, there are tools like **scrop have use technology**. (student 6)

TL: Third, education **that** influence era. Nowadays, human **lived** in modern era. So all of the things become **more improve** include the technology. Technology now fulfill human's life, even the simple tools such as can opener has been used the technology. (student 25)

TL: Third, education influence era. Now, human **life** in modern era, so all have relation with technology. (student 29)

In those texts, there are some words which have inappropriate diction and also sound unnatural. It can be seen in the datum above that the translator uses the word *to day*, *is very improving*, *there is people life*, and the sentence *there are tools like scrop have use technology* translated by student 6.

In the translation of student 25, there are some words which have inappropriate diction and also sound unnatural. It can be seen in the datum above that the translator adds unnecessary word *that*, the word *lived* is past form whereas there is word *nowadays* in the first sentence. the word *more improve* makes the translation becomes unnatural. Moreover, *Canggih* in English is not *improve* but *sophisticated*.

The translation of student 29 is less acceptable too because of the usage of word *life* which means kehidupan. It is noun not verb. Whereas the word *hidup* from the source language refers to verb not noun. Moreover, to mke the sentence comple, the translator needs verb not noun.

1.3. Less Readable

Below are the samples as further proof of the human translations' quality in term of acceptability

SL: Ketiga, pendidikan mempengaruhi jaman. Saat ini manusia hidup di jaman yang serba modern, sehingga segala sesuatunya menjadi lebih canggih termasuk teknologi. Tehnologi kini memenuhi kehidupan manusia, bahkan alat – alat sederhana seperti pembuka kaleng telah menggunakan tehnologi.(pelajar 7)

TL: Third, education influence the era. Nowadays, human lived in modern era, so all things become more improve include the technology. Technology now fulfill human's life, even the simple tools such a can opener has been used can opener. (student 7)

SL: oleh sebab itu, manusia telah diperkenalkan dengan dunia pendidikan sejak mereka lahir dan terus berkembang hingga kematiannya. (pelajar 22)

TL: that's why human has introduction to education world since their were born until they are died. (student 22)

This text is not readable because we need to read many times to understand the meaning.

2. Google Translations

Based on the data analysis, the average score of human translations is 2.67. This score is categorized as accurate, acceptable and readable.

2.1. Accuracy

Below is the sample as further proof of the human translation's quality in the term of accuracy

SL: Dewasa ini, Pendidikan sangatlah penting bagi kehidupan manusia. Hal ini menjadikan pendidikan sebagai kebutuhan utama yang harus dimiliki oleh manusia.

TL: Nowadays, education is very important for human life. This makes education as a primary need that must be possessed by humans.

The translation above is accurate because the meaning of a words, phrases, sentence or source language text are accurately transferred into the target language. There is absolutely no distortion of the meaning.

2.2. Acceptability

Below are the samples as further proof of the human translations' quality in the term of acceptability

SL: Kedua, pendidikan memiliki peran yang penting dalam hal komunikasi. Sebagai seorang manusia yang baik, sangatlah penting untuk memiliki kemampuan komunikasi yang baik dengan manusia lain.

TL: Second, education has an important role in terms of communication. As a good human being, it is very important to have good communication skills with other humans.

The translation above is natural; technical terms used are commonly used and familiar to the reader; the phrases, clauses and sentences used are in conformity with Indonesian norms.

2.3. Readability

Below are the samples as further proof of the human translations' quality in the term of accuracy

SL: Kedua, pendidikan memiliki peran yang penting dalam hal komunikasi. Sebagai seorang manusia yang baik sangatlah penting untuk memiliki kemampuan komunikasi yang baik dengan manusia lain.

TL: Second, education has an important role in terms of communication. As a good human being, it is very important to have good communication skills with other humans.

The example above is readable because the translations can be understood by reading it once.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the comparison between Google and human translations, the researcher finds that the average score of human translation is 2.16 which is categorized as less accurate, less acceptable and less readable. Less accurate category is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or texts that are accurately into a similar meaning in SL and TL. However, there are still distortions of meaning. Less acceptable category is described through few grammatical errors and little problem with the use of technical terms. Less readable category is described through the repetition when reading some parts of the translation.

On the other hand, the average score of Google translation is 2.67 which is categorized as accurate, acceptable and readable. Accuracy in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or texts that are transferred correctly into a similar meaning in SL and TL. Acceptability in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or texts that are natural, familiar to the reader, and appropriate with Indonesian norms. Moreover, the technical terms are commonly used in target language. Readability in this score is described through the use of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or texts which can be easily understood.

In conclusion, Google translation has higher score than human translations. This means that the quality of Google translation is better than human translations in the terms of accuracy, acceptability and readability. In this case, the quality of human translation is reflected by the quality of the English Department students at the fifth semester at the year of 2017-2018

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