

Translation Error in Auto Translation Feature in Song “Higuchi Ai – Akuma No Ko” The First Take

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Abstract. This study analyzes the automatic translation error in the Youtube application feature on the song Higuchi Ai - Akuma no Ko, uploaded by The First Take channel on December 2, 2022. The data collection process was conducted using qualitative descriptive approach, employing research methods and note-taking techniques. The identified errors were then classified based on Nord's theory of translation error categories. The findings reveal a total of 19 translation errors, comprising 6 Pragmatic Errors, 6 Linguistic Errors, and 7 Textual Errors. Notably, no errors were found in cultural error category for this song. It can be concluded that despite significant advancements in technology, numerous errors are still found in automatic translation features. This indicates that translation is a complex and challenging task, particularly when the translator lacks full proficiency in both the target language and the source language.

Keywords: Error, Translation, Language, Song

1. Introduction

Translation is something that has a very important role to play in communication between languages. When explained literally, translation is a process of changing the meaning of a written message from one language (source language) to another language (target language). According to Newmark in his book entitled “A Text Book of Translation” defines that translation is not only a process of transferring messages in writing but can also be done orally which has its own art in translating it to have the same meaning as the source language and target language. Catford defines translation as the replacement of text material in one language (source language) by using the equivalent text material in another language (target language).

When translating, accuracy in using the right sentence is very important. As with communicating spoken or written sentences, the message contained therein must be conveyed well to the reader or listener. Along with the times, where new technologies that facilitate human activities are starting to emerge, access to the internet world is very easy. Various translational media have begun to emerge that are easily accessed without the need to know the source language. One of them is a giant media called Youtube, which has an “Auto Close Caption” feature. With the presence of this feature, it is very easy for an individual to

understand and understand a language without the need to understand and understand the language. However, even though this feature is known for its sophistication, it still has some problems such as errors and translation accuracy that result in the message or meaning to be conveyed not being conveyed properly to the audience. Translation is especially important in content that has artistic value and complex contextual meaning, such as song lyrics.

Song lyrics are an expression in a work of art that contains literary elements, metaphorical symbolism, and wordplay that usually has a very deep meaning that is very difficult when translating it. Song lyrics are a human creation, which can describe outside the human self exactly as it is [1]. Song lyrics are a form of short poetry that can express emotions. From this explanation it can be concluded that it requires accuracy when translating a song lyric, so that the meaning of the song can be conveyed properly to the listener. By using the automatic translation feature, the meaning contained in a song can experience a distortion or damage, caused by the lack of accuracy and understanding of the automatic translation machine algorithm. This also applies to songs from Japan, because Japanese songs always involve word play using idioms and *ateji*.

Previous studies on translation have been conducted by several researchers. Shifts in the lyrics of the translated songs *Eureka Milik Kita* and *Seventeen* by JKT48 using a qualitative descriptive approach and note-taking techniques [2]. Their findings identified 16 instances of meaning shifts, including 7 cases of modulation of meaning coverage, 1 case of modulation of viewpoint, 5 additions, and 3 deletions. Notably, no modulation of viewpoint was found in *Eureka Milik Kita*. Subsequently, common errors in YouTube's automatic translation system, focusing on machine translation errors in movie trailers [3]. Their study was based on the translation error categories proposed by Vilar et al. The analysis of 14 data samples revealed that 63% of errors were lexical, 27% were due to disambiguation issues, 5% were related to word order, and 5% involved unknown words. The translation of onomatopoeia in Indonesian comics into Japanese using a qualitative research method and textual analysis [4]. The findings identified four translation strategies employed in Indonesian comics: equivalence, derivation, katakana-ka, and coinage. Additionally, error analysis of auto-generated captions in university graduation speeches on YouTube. Their study examined 20 different speeches spanning 12 years, delivered by various speakers. The results indicated that each speech contained between 10 and 46 errors, occurring approximately every 26 seconds. The most frequent errors were related to nouns, with 144 cases recorded. Finally, the quality of automatic subtitle translation on the YouTube channel *Indo4Arab Khalid Nahdi* using a qualitative research method involving data collection and descriptive analysis [5]. Their findings, based on 20 translated subtitles, revealed that the translations were generally inaccurate, lacked acceptability, and had moderate readability.

Based on the explanation above, previous studies have focused on various aspects of translation and different research subjects. Three of these studies examined translation within videos, while one analyzed translation in comics. However, research on automatic translation with song lyrics as the primary object, specifically analyzing translations from Japanese (source language) into Indonesian (target language), has not yet been conducted. Therefore, the author is interested in exploring automatic translation errors on YouTube, with the study titled "Translation Errors in the Auto-Translation Feature of the Song 'Higuchi Ai - Akuma no Ko' on The First Take."

2. Literature Review

Translation errors can occur due mostly to the incongruity between the source language and the target language [6]. However, a good translator with encyclopedic knowledge and linguistic knowledge of both the source and target languages knows how to deal with them; therefore, errors can indicate the quality of the translation; furthermore, errors can reveal what is going on in the translator's thought process [6].

If translation error is defined as a failure to carry out the instructions implied in the translation brief and as an inadequate solution to the translation problem, then translation error can be classified into four categories [6]. They are:

- (i) Pragmatic Errors. This translation error occurs when the translation does not fulfill the communicative function of the source language or the purpose of the target text. This type of translation usually does not pay attention to the type of target audience, for example using language that is too formal for young readers. This can be caused by the translator's lack of understanding of the communicative context.
- (ii) Cultural Errors. This error occurs when a translator does not pay attention to the cultural differences between the source language and the target language. For example, a translator translates a term in a certain culture literally without making adjustments to the target language. It can also be due to ignoring the cultural context that affects meaning, such as in the use of idioms or specific expressions. This can happen due to a lack of knowledge about the culture of the suggestion.
- (iii) Linguistik Errors. These errors are related to language structure, whether in terms of language structure, vocabulary, or the relationship between phrases and clauses. It usually involves errors in incorrect grammar and inappropriate word choice. Caused by the lack of mastering the target language.
- (iv) Textual Errors. This error occurs when the translation does not maintain the cohesion and coherence of the source language. Then, the translation does not look natural because the sentence structure is very rigid. Then there is a mismatch in the use of pronouns or conjunctions that can make the text difficult to understand by the reader. This can happen due to the lack of attention to the structure and flow of the text.

With the above explanation, the author will classify the translation errors by using the error theory proposed by Nord.

3. Method

The author will use descriptive qualitative research methods to analyze the data sources in this study, a descriptive qualitative approach is a research approach in which the data collected is in the form of words, pictures, and not a number [7]. The type of qualitative research is a research step that produces descriptive data in the form of writing or speech, as well as the behavior of people observed. Descriptive qualitative aims to get a general understanding of social reality from the perspective of participants Bogdan & Biklen.

Qualitative research is a research method based on the philosophy of postpositivism, where the researcher is the main instrument, the data collection technique is triangulation, the data analysis is inductive or qualitative, and the subject is natural conditions. Qualitative research results emphasize meaning rather than generalization. Qualitative descriptive research is intended to describe and describe existing phenomena, both natural and human-made, which pay more attention to the characteristics, quality, interrelationships between activities [8].

From the description above, this research is suitable for using descriptive qualitative methods because the data obtained is a song lyric not a number or a calculation data. Then the author will collect data from song lyrics that have been translated automatically using the "Auto Caption" feature on YouTube. After that, it will classify it based on the types of errors that have been proposed by Nord through four categories. In this research, the author only analyzes the song lyrics using a song owned by Higuchi Ai entitled Akuma no Ko "The First Take" and uploaded by The First Take Channel on December 2, 2022.

3. Results and Discussion

In this study, 19 data were found to have translation errors based on the theory proposed. The following will explain in detail the findings of the analysis based on the findings presented in the table, the author identified several errors among the 19 data points in the song *Ai Higuchi - Akuma no Ko*. These errors include 6 instances of Pragmatic Errors, 6 instances of Linguistic Errors, and 7 instances of Textual Errors. The results indicate that no Cultural Errors were found in the song (see Table 1).

Table 1. Translation Error in Ai Higuchi – Akuma no Ko Lyrics.

Song	Pragmatic Errors	Cultural Error	Linguistik Error	Textual Error
Akuma no Ko	6	0	6	7
Total	19			

Based on the explanation Table 1, the results of the data that has been found will be explained further, as follows:

3.1. Pragmatic error

Data 1

SL (Japanese) : 鉄の雨が降り散る情景

TL (Indonesia "Auto") : Adegan turunnya hujan besi

Data 2

SL (Japanese) : きっとどこへも行けない

TL (Indonesia "Auto") : saya yakin saya tidak bisa kemana-mana

In Data 1, the source language (SL) phrase "鉄の雨" should be translated as "Hujan Peluru" (Bullet Rain). However, when processed by the automatic translation system, it is rendered as "Iron Rain." This translation is inaccurate because the system translates the phrase literally without adapting its actual meaning, resulting in a rigid and unnatural translation. Then in Data 2, the subject "Saya" (I) was added in the target language (TL) translation. This addition makes the translation appear overly formal, as the use of "Saya" in song lyrics can be considered too formal for the intended context. Furthermore, the subject "Saya" appears twice, making the translation sound unnatural and less fluid. Based on the analysis of Data 1 and Data 2, it can be observed that the translation errors align with the theory Pragmatic Error proposed. In both data sets, errors are found in the conveyed meaning, as well as in the use of formal language.

3.2. Linguistic Error

Data 3

SL (Japanese) : 正しさとは自分のこと強く信じることだ

TL (Indonesia "auto") : Menjadi benar berarti percaya kuat pada diri sendiri

Data 4

SL (Japanese) : 同じ形同じ体温の悪魔

TL (Indonesia "auto") : Bentuknya sama, suhu tubuhnya sama

In Data 3, the translation contains grammatical errors due to the automatic translation system on YouTube rendering it literally without proper contextual adaptation. As a result, the translation appears somewhat unnatural. A more accurate translation should be: "*Keberanian itu berarti percaya pada diri sendiri dengan kuatnya.*" Similarly, in Data 4, the translation follows a literal approach, much like in Data 3. However, there is a notable difference: the system fails to translate the word “悪魔” (which means “Iblis” or “Demon”). This omission leads to an incomplete message, potentially causing confusion for the reader when interpreting the translated text. Based on the analysis of Data 3 and Data 4, these findings align with the Linguistic Error theory proposed by Nord (1997). Both data sets exhibit errors in sentence structure and grammar, which result in difficulties in conveying meaning and make comprehension challenging for the reader.

3.3. Textual Error**Data 5**

SL (Japanese) : 帰る場所がなければ

TL (Indonesia "auto") : jika aku tidak punya untuk kembali

Data 6

SL (Japanese) : 間違いだとしても疑ったりしない

TL (Indonesia "auto") : Sekalipun itu sebuah kesalahan, aku tidak akan meragukannya

In data 5 and 6, it can be seen that there is a textual error that occurs because automatic translation makes the TL sentence structure look very rigid and difficult for readers to understand. This can be explained by looking at data 5, there is a word deletion in the word “場所” which means “place”, but in the TL translation the word is omitted, making the translated sentence difficult to understand because the word “場所” is an adverb. Then in data 6, the sentence structure is very difficult to understand because there is no continuity between the translated sentences. Based on the analysis of Data 5 and Data 6, these findings align with Nord's (1997) theory of Textual Errors. In both cases, the translation produced by the system appears unnatural, making it difficult for readers to comprehend the intended meaning.

4. Conclusion

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that there are 19 translation errors in the song Higuchi Ai - Akuma no Ko. Of the 19 data, 6 pragmatic errors, 6 linguistic errors, and 7 textual errors were found. In the song, no data was found in the cultural error category because there is no discussion about culture in the lyrics of the song. Then it can be concluded that although the technology system has progressed rapidly, but in the automatic translation feature there are still many errors found. It can be concluded that translating is not an easy thing to do, and it is very difficult. Especially, if the translator does not fully master both the Target Language and Source Language. So that the message to be conveyed cannot be conveyed properly.

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