SEMANTIC ERRORS IN THE TRANSLATION OF THE HINDU’S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

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Abstract

This research is mainly aimed at analyzing the semantic error in lexis occurred in the translation done by Instagram machine translation. This research objective is to find out the types of semantic error in lexis done by the machine translation. Observation method used as method of collecting the data. The analysis applied descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the data which were taken from the posts in The Hindu’s Instagram account. This account has been verified by Instagram as an official account that sharing news on India and it has more than 1.7 million followers currently. The theory from James (1998) was utilized to analyze the types of semantic error data source. In early stages of observation has found the phenomenon in the product of translation done by the Instagram machine translation. There was confusion of sense relation and collocation error in choosing a wrong synonym. Moreover, there was also several of translation procedures used in translating the Instagram captions of The Hindu.

Keywords - semantic error, translation, instagram machine translation

Introduction

Language plays important role in human life. It is not only for communicating, but also for learning. In learning one specific thing we need language as introduction and in order to understand the contents of the learning, we have to understand the language. That is why translation is provided to meet the need. Translation becomes important since it is the basic way to understand the translation product. Translation could be defined as converting one language (Source Language) to another (Target Language) so that the target language could convey the intended message in source language. As Larson (1998) stated that in translation the form of the source language (SL) is replaced by the form of the receptor language (RL).

Previously, translation process was done by a translator. The advancement of technology influenced translation process and people start to use machine translation to complete a translation process (Susanti, 2018). There are lot of machine translations such as Google Translate, Bing translator and many more offline or online applications for translating some texts. In accelerating the process of knowing the meaning of texts in social media, social media provided a feature for translating texts. In the daily life, we use to have social media for communicating with others. There are lots of social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.

Instagram becomes a popular social media in the world. Nevertheless, the existence of Instagram not only for businessman because of most government institution, religion organization, social activities, education start to share their information to Instagram and all people all over the world can see those posts. Instagram is also equipped with machine translation for their caption. News from all around the world can be reached from Instagram account. People read the news from other countries via Instagram account and they need to translate to their own language using Instagram Machine Translation to understand the news was being shared. The accuracy of the result is still debatable and questionable because the result used wrong lexis, wrong grammar and even wrong context. Machine translation is a hard problem because
natural language is complex, many words
has various meaning and different possible
translations (Susanti, 2018). Therefore, it
could be machine translation cannot fulfill
the principal of good translation and it will
influence the result of translation and also
the meaning. In translation process, besides
changing the form we have to transfer the
meaning. In linguistics, there is study that
focused on meaning, it is semantic. In
semantic point of view, we could analyze
the result of translation by Instagram
Machine Translation. We would know, if
there are errors happened when transferring
the meaning by analyzing the lexis in the
result of translation The Hindu caption on
his Instagram by using Instagram Machine
Translation. This study focused on
semantic errors in lexis that divided into
confusion of sense relations and
collocaational error.
Considering the possibility of the
translation of the news caption, thus this
research was attempted to; (1) investigate
the types of semantic error in lexis done by
the machine translation. As mentioned
before the data on this research were taken
from The Hindu’s Instagram caption.

Methodology
To many proposal writers, the
method section is the most concrete,
specific part of proposal (Creswell, 2009).
The methods in this study will cover four
points of discussion, namely research
approach, the data source, method and
technique of collecting data, and method
and technique of analyzing data.
The data in this study were taken
from The Hindu’s Instagram Caption. This
account has been verified by Instagram as
an official account that sharing news on
India and it has more than 1.7 million
followers currently. The captions used as
the data were the captions which are posted
from September 2020 until February 2021.
The source language in English was
translated into target language in
Indonesian. The translation was done by the
Instagram machine translation. The method
of collecting the data in this research is
direct observation method. It is observed
directly through the caption and the
translation which is done by Instagram
machine translation. There were two
techniques used in collecting the data. They
are:
6. Reading. All the authors read the
English version and Indonesian
version captions.
7. Choosing. All the authors discussed
the sentences represented the
semantic error in lexis.
After the data collected, they were
analyzed. The data analyzed were the
results of the research. The obstacles in
translating were analyzed. The techniques
of analyzing the data followed three steps.
3. Note taking. The data represented
the semantic errors noted by all the
authors.
4. Analyzing and Categorizing. The
semantic errors were categorized
based on the theories proposed by

Finding and Discussion

Confusion of Sense Relations
In the confusion of sense relations,
there are four types; 1) Using general term
for specific term, 2) Using too specific term
for general term, 3) Using the less apt for
two co-hyponyms and 4) Using a wrong
one from a set of near-synonyms.

1) Using general term for specific term
This translation has semantic errors in lexis and can be categorized as the confusion of sense relations in choosing the general term for specific term. The target language used a general term for the result of translating the source language which has specific meaning. Based on Oxford learners dictionary, “crowd” in the source language means a large number of people gathered together in a public place, for example in the streets or at a sports game. Unfortunately, the Instagram machine translation failed to deliver the specific meaning of this type of people. In the target language, according to KBBI Daring “kerumunan” means an irregular and temporary group of people. Thus, the meaning between “crowd” and “kerumunan” is not connected. In this context of Instagram caption “Crowd” means the large number of football fans (who watch the match in the stadium), but “kerumunan” means irregular people who gather together temporarily. This word is better replaced by the word of “penonton” which means the people watching the show, match, performance, entertainment, etc.
Figure 2. The Hindu’s post on 22nd of December 2020

SL : Dozens of local tourists were seen **thronging** Baramulla’s Drang tourist spot, around 40 km away from Srinagar, to witness the formation of very long icicles from water dripping from a hillock.

TL : Puluhan wisatawan lokal terlihat **menembus** tempat wisata Drang Baramulla, sekitar 40 km dari Srinagar, untuk menyaksikan pembentukan es yang sangat panjang dari air yang menetes dari bukit.

Semantic error in lexis was shown in this data 2. It categorized as the confusion of sense relations in choosing too specific term for the general term. The target language used too specific meaning for translating the source language which has general meaning. Based on Oxford learners dictionary “thronging” in the source language means to go somewhere or be present somewhere in large numbers. Unfortunately, the Instagram machine translation failed to deliver the meaning of to be present in large numbers and translating it into “menembus”. In the target language, according to KBBI Daring “menembus” means breakthrough (about ranks, defenses, and so on). Therefore, the meaning between “thronging” and “menembus” is different. “thronging” means the large number of tourists presents in the tourist spot in this post but “menembus” has specific meaning that tends to the way of how the local tourists be present on the tourist spot, which is breaking through the cold area to witness the formation of icicles.

3) Using the less apt for two co-hyponyms
Figure 3. The Hindu’s post on 18th of February 2021

SL : Women block Rewari-Hisar railway track in Haryana’s Charkhi Dadri as part of “rail roko” protest against the Centre’s new agri laws called by the farmer unions.

TL : Wanita memblokir rel kereta api Rewari-Hisar di Haryana Charkhi Dadri sebagai bagian dari “rail roko” protes terhadap undang-undang agri baru Centre yang disebut oleh serikat buruh tani.

Unfortunately, the Instagram machine translation failed to deliver the meaning of “women” and choose the less appropriate co-hyponyms. In the target language, “wanita” means a single woman. The used of wanita” could not represent the “women” and could replace with “para perempuan lokal” because based on the context, “women” is plural and “para perempuan lokal” is the best phrase choice in order to point the local women.

4) Using a wrong one from a set of near-synonyms.

Data 4