



# Navigating Translation Challenges: a Holistic Examination of Common Issues Faced by Translation Learner in the Fifth Semester in Pertiwi University

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**Abstract:** This study explores the challenges faced by fifth-semester translation students at Pertiwi University during the English-Indonesian translation process. Employing a descriptive research method, the investigation focuses on identifying and analyzing challenges encountered in translation. Participants, referred to as student translators, engaged in a translation test utilizing an English historical recount text. The test aimed to assess translation difficulties and was augmented by Translog, offering detailed insights into the process. Results reveal challenges encompassing lexical-semantic, grammatical, pragmatic, rhetorical, and cultural aspects. Lexical-semantic hurdles involve understanding word meanings and contextual relations, while grammatical challenges span handling idioms and addressing words with multiple meanings. Pragmatic issues delve into speaker intentions, contextual meanings, and socio-cultural considerations. Rhetorical challenges focus on translating figurative language, and cultural problems highlight expressing specific concepts in different cultures

**Keywords:** *Lexical-semantic, Rhetorical challenges, translation*

## INTRODUCTION

The primary function of language is to interact with people to think and communicate with people the meaning of trust. In addition to being both communication and interaction, language also has great significance as a learning method in the language sphere. The following schema is based on a combination of the models of Language functions elaborated by Bühler (1934) and Jakobson (1960). It consists of four

basic functions with an open list of sub-functions.

Brislin 9 (1976: 1) in (Indra, 2022) expresses his opinion on translation. In general, translation is the transfer of messages and ideas from the source language to the target language, whether in written or non-written form, whether it already has a written system, or whether one or both languages are in the form of sign language.

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In ancient Greek, *Hermêneus* is a word used to define a translator or interpreter directly related to the name of the god *Hermes*. Verb *Hermneus* means interpreting a foreign language, translating, explaining, commenting, putting into words, stating, describing, and writing. This multiplicity of meanings shows that an interpreter or translator almost certainly existed in prehistoric times, even when writing had not been invented. The following is the development of the field of translation from time to time: (1) Ancient Times: Starting from the 3rd century BC, there was a translation of the Hebrew Bible from Biblical Hebrew into Koine Greek involving 70-72 scholars. This translation is the Septuagint, which means 70 in Roman numerals.

Furthermore, there is also another translation of the Bible, ST. Jerome, a Christian church pastor, translated the Bible into Latin (the translation is called the Vulgate. ST. Jerome). At the same time, Kumarajiva translated Buddhist writings from Sanskrit into Chinese – his famous translation is called the Diamond Sutra. (2) Ancient Middle Ages: This period was marked by the emergence of translations of written works from Latin in the 5th century. Then, there were translations from Latin to Anglo-Saxon (Old English) in the 9th century, such as the works “The Consolation of Philosophy” by Boethius and “Ecclesiastical” by Bede. And several other Latin translations that accompany this period; (3) Late medieval to early modern civilization: In the 15th century, there was pressure from Gemistus Pletho, who reintroduced Plato’s philosophies and influenced Cosimo De Medici, the leader of Florence at the time, to establish a Platonic Academic which translated many of the works of Plato, Plotinus’ *Enneads*, and several other figures; (4) Age of influence of western: beginning with the invention of the modern printing press by Gutenberg in 1453, there was a major change in literary works where written works were printed in Latin and could be enjoyed by everyone. The progress of this development had a major influence on the demand for translations of other literary works. (5) Early modern era: in the 17th century, the translation used was based on transparency and faithfulness, meaning translating into the target language by considering the context, wording, syntax, and grammar of the original work.; (6) Industrial Revolution era: Translation in this

era is all about style and accuracy, with the translation rules being the center of a text. Around the 19th century, many translation theories influenced the world’s development. (7) The end of the 2nd millennium: the concept developed at this time stated that translation was an art. In the 20th century, translation was more popular and structured, but limited to science, academia, history, and religion; (8) Today: translation is present in almost all aspects of daily life. The world is constantly evolving by applying various theories and methods of translation. Translation helps develop a language through loanwords or words adopted from a language and borrowing terms from a language. Technology and the internet have a big role in influencing translation today.

There are several types of translation. Types of Translation Based on Linguistic Aspects Jacobson (1959) divides translation into intralingual, interlingual, and intersmotic. Meanwhile, Brislin (1976, 3-4) in (Indra, 2022), Categorizing translation based on Casagrande’s framework, it is classified into four types: pragmatic, aesthetic-poetic, ethnographic, and linguistic. Based on the media used, namely written Translation and oral Translation. In English, written translation is called translation, while oral translation is called interpretation or interpreting. The person who does the oral translation is called the interpreter. In his book *A Textbook of Translation*, Newmark (1998) in (Puspita, 2020) divides translation methods into two groups: source-oriented and target language-oriented. Source Language Oriented Translation Methods: Word by word translation, faithful Translation, literal Translation, and semantic Translation. Target Language Oriented Translation Methods: Adaptation Translation, Free Translation, Idiomatic Translation, and communicative Translation.

Several others offer a broader definition of translation, showing that translation is not only related to linguistic aspects; translation understood as the transfer of meaning (of a text) from one language into another, is crucial for transmitting information, knowledge, and (social) innovations.

According to Sonia (2020), The capacity to produce a sequence of multiple acceptable



target texts (TT1, TT2...TTn) for a given source text (ST), along with the capability to efficiently and justifiably choose a single target text from this series, presenting it as a suitable replacement for the source text. This process is carried out with a specified purpose and audience in mind.

The writer highlights a few issues with the translation process. Mathieu (2003), a web translator and editor who has studied Literature and Linguistic research, states that Translators typically have to deal with five different translation issues; regardless of whether they are translating a flyer or an investment report, translators often have to cope with five different translation challenges. Translators often have to cope with five different difficulties at work, whether they are translating sworn statements or technical materials. These challenges are classified as;

- a) Lexical-Semantic problems happen when an interpreter/translator makes a mistake in choosing the correct word so that the meaning is clear.
- b) Grammatical problems are due to structural language differences between source and target languages that the translator does not understand.
- c) The pragmatic problem is that the translator misinterprets the intention to switch from the source to the target language.
- d) A rhetorical problem refers to the translator's inability to understand the meaning of figurative language and idioms.
- e) The cultural issue deals with cultural background differences between countries, such as values and ideological views.

Soemarno (1988:19-21) says that a translator, in his task, would face various difficulties, such as those relating to meaning, such as lexicon, grammatical meaning, contextual or situational meaning, textual meaning, and socio-cultural meaning. As we can see here, Mathieu's and Soemarno's problems are almost the same. Even though the meanings themselves are (translatable) translated, some people might be unable to. Most often, difficult interpretations are socio-cultural ones. The translation aims to make a text's "message" acceptable and

understandable for a single or a group of listeners. People have difficulty translating because there are so many terms, meanings, and sorts.

Besides, translation challenges have been the subject of numerous studies in the field of translation education. For example, Aprianti and Ardi (2023) analyzed problems in translating descriptive text from Indonesian to English by sixth-semester English department students at Universitas Negeri Padang, while Indira and Adha (2022) examined translation errors from Bahasa Indonesia into English. These studies provide valuable insights into the difficulties faced by translation learners and highlight the need for further research in this area. The current study at Pertiwi University builds upon this existing literature by exploring the challenges encountered by fifth-semester translation students during the English-Indonesian translation process. By identifying and analyzing these challenges, this study aims to contribute to the development of effective strategies for overcoming translation difficulties and improving translation education.

Additionally, a lot of translations are said to make it challenging. Even though most words have several meanings, a text almost never has more than one meaning. So here, the writer will use and discuss the problem translation based on Mathieu (2003).

Insofar as their union pertains to translation and nothing else but translation, these two talents combined produce a distinct translational competency. They don't relate to linguistic proficiency in the traditional sense. There is no denying that translators need to be knowledgeable about a wide range of topics, including grammar, rhetoric, terminology, general knowledge, common sense, and ways to negotiate fair compensation. However, the translation-related aspect of their work is not exclusively linguistic, common, or commercial. It involves creating and choosing from various alternative texts. Therefore, the writer aims to describe the general problems the translators face in doing a process.

## METHOD

This study employed a descriptive research method to elucidate the intricacies of the

English-Indonesian translation process. The primary focus of the investigation was to identify and analyze the challenges encountered during translation. The participants in this study comprised fifth-year students in Pertiwi University, who had selected English-Indonesia translation as one of their elective courses. Due to their formal engagement with translation studies, these participants were referred to as student translators.

To gather relevant data, a translation test was administered as the research instrument. The selected test material was an English historical recount text titled "Machu Picchu," obtained from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Hiram-Bingham-American-archaeologist-and-United-States-senator>. The participants were tasked with translating this text into Bahasa Indonesia using Translog as a supportive tool.

The implementation of Translog in conjunction with the translation test aimed to enhance data collection by providing detailed insights into the translation process. By utilizing Translog, the study sought to obtain representative data that accurately captured the challenges faced by student translators during the translation of the selected text.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Lexical-semantic Problem**

*ST: "initiated the scientific study of Machu Picchu"*

*TT: "memulai studi ilmiah tentang Machu Picchu."*

The choice of the word "initiated" may not fully reflect the stronger connotation of "memulai". These issues include term alternatives, neologisms, semantic gaps, or lexical networks. Other issues are contextual synonyms and antonyms that affect polysemous units. Synonyms and antonyms aim to be accepted according to context to determine the correct meaning. Another issue concerns semantic continuity, i.e., a consistency procedure that identifies semantic features common to two or more terms. The focus of lexical semantics is understanding how certain words and phrases contribute to the overall meaning of a sentence or speech.

### **Grammatical**

*ST: "Bingham may have been preceded by the German adventurer Augusto Berns"*

*TT: "Bingham mungkin telah didahului oleh petualang Jerman Augusto Berns."*

The problem may arise in the choice of the verb "preceded" which may not be appropriate. Knowing grammar makes it simple to comprehend why it is necessary and significant. One cannot be said to have mastered a language if one is not conversant in its grammar. Grammar teaches how to use the language; therefore, acquiring a language without studying it seems impossible. Based on research from several sources, the author reads about problems that often occur with translators in grammar.

### **Pragmatic**

*ST: "Bingham was urged by the prefect of Apurímac, J.J. Nuñez, to search the vicinity of the Urubamba River valley"*

*TT: "Bingham didorong oleh prefek Apurímac, J.J. Nuñez, untuk mencari sekitar lembah Sungai Urubamba."*

However, nuances of urgency and motivation may not be fully represented. Pragmatics is defined as a field that studies interactive meaning. So far, the concept of pragmatism has developed. There are several definitions of pragmatics. There are four ranges Includes pragmatics, namely (1) pragmatics is the study of speakers That is, (2) Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning, (3) Pragmatics is the study of how to communicate more than what is said, and (4) Pragmatics is the study of relative distances (Yule 1996: 3). briefly describe the following four areas. First of all, pragmatics is the study of the speaker's intention

Using real or real language involves the speaker and the co-pronunciator of certain things. The social environment determines the conditions of language use. In short, pragmatics can be said to consider meaning as influenced by things other than language. Pragmatic relationships between language labels and the people who use them as those symbols will be influenced to some extent by the reality that their meaning is clear and understandable to these individuals. Only this formation regime

preserves the Communicative effectiveness of originality in translation.

Four types of absolute translation errors are commonly found in DVC translations (Taryadi 2003). The first type of error is interpreting a word, expression, or sentence and converting it to TT. The second type of absolute error is translating words with multiple meanings or homonyms. The third type of absolute error is the idiom translation error. Idioms translated literally or not in the TL often cannot express a message commensurate with the TT idiom (unnatural or unacceptable form in the TL). The fourth type of absolute error is the use of punctuation.

Pragmatic failure (Thomas 1983: 91) is the inability of communicative participants to understand the meaning of what is said. The causes of pragmatic failure to convey messages in communication, including translation, can be explained from linguistic to socio-pragmatic aspects (Thomas 1983: 99). Both are the endpoints of a person's continuum of pragmatic possibilities. Pragmatic linguistic ability includes the ability of speakers and speakers to use linguistic forms related to the pragmatic function of an utterance or its linguistic abilities, such as speech acts and casual conversations. On the other hand, socio-pragmatic abilities include the ability of communicative participants to choose and use linguistic forms based on socio-cultural knowledge related to the relationship between speech participants.

There are some practical, theoretical principles: Speech acts are context sensitive, which means that the speaker must act on the speech, on hearing the speech, and on its intentions. Therefore, the role of interpersonal communication in every speech act has the content of the beginning, the content, and the end as a starting tool. It should be presented directly, flexibly, and clearly. Instead, the interlocutor must respond to the speech. According to Grice, principles have parameters: quantity, quality, relevance, and method. The speaker must be frugal and honest, speaking politely and politely from start to finish.

### Rhetorical

*ST: "Bingham's steadfastness and courage"*

*TT: "keteguhan dan keberanian Bingham."*

However, the nuances of solemnity and courage referred to in a rhetorical context may not be fully detailed. Rhetorical problem relates to the figurative words or phrases, or sentences translated into the target language (Mathieu). Another source said that A "rhetorical problem" typically refers to a challenge or problem related to the effective use of language or communication techniques to persuade or influence an audience, according to research journals by Apriyanti, Y., & Ardi, H. (2023). A rhetorical challenge in translation is when the translator cannot translate the figurative language in the source text. The result is a hieroglyphic language translation. As a result, iconic words and phrases will be lost when translated into the target language.

### Culture issues

*ST: "Choquequirau ("Cradle of Gold")"*

*TT: "Choquequirau ('Tempat Lahir Emas')."*

However, additional or alternative explanations may be needed to maintain the cultural concept and meaning behind the term "Cradle of Gold." In general, language is considered an important tool for expressing national culture: beliefs, customs, rituals, and behaviors constitute the identity of a national culture. Specific clan. It can be considered an expression of the actions of most humans, that language is associated with human nature and belonging to certain cultural groups. Furthermore, it can be considered a social phenomenon in human society that establishes a set of socio-cultural rules, norms, values, and conventions, which are used as a guideline for working together and interacting with each other. Meanwhile, Mu'in (2019) stated a language is an element of culture; in certain circumstances, a culture is expressed through a language.

Language and culture are two inseparable things because culture affects language, and language affects culture. It makes the language of one region different from another. The difference in the cultural context of each language is a unique phenomenon that occurs in society and is a difference that should be

respected and not challenged. Additionally, it influenced many things, including literary works from all over the region. The culture of one society is certainly different from the culture of other societies.

Mu'in Explained that people are guided by culture in their lives. In addition, differences between a person, a group, or a country can be observed in many ways, and one of the most distinctive features is culture. Without culture, we cannot understand human motivation and life. Newmark said there are several categories of Cultural problems, one of which is material culture (artifacts). For example, the term refers to houses and towns. Many language communities have typical houses not translated for general use, such as the Palazzo (big house); hotel (big house), ^chalet, 'bungalow', and pension, which is no corresponding English translation.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, translation challenges encompass lexical-semantic, grammatical, pragmatic, rhetorical, and cultural aspects. Lexical-semantic difficulties involve understanding word meanings and contextual relations. Grammatical challenges range from handling idioms to addressing words with multiple meanings. Pragmatic issues delve into speaker intentions, contextual meanings, and socio-cultural considerations.

Rhetorical challenges focus on translating figurative language, while cultural problems highlight the intricacies of expressing specific concepts in different cultures. Successful translation requires linguistic proficiency, cultural sensitivity, and contextual awareness to accurately convey messages across languages and cultures.

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