

GRAMMATICAL ERROR FOUND IN INDONESIAN-ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF DISPLAY OBJECT LABELS IN TAMAN PINTAR MUSEUM YOGYAKARTA

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ABSTRACT

Some grammatical errors have been found in the English translation of object labels in Taman Pintar Museum. Adapting the ATA's Framework for Standard Error Marking categories, this study only focuses on the analysis of grammatical errors, misspelling, and mispunctuation of the English translation. The study employs a descriptive qualitative method in which content analysis is applied. After analyzing the data which is 10 (ten) object labels displayed at Taman Pintar Museum, there are 109 sentences of which 102 sentences contain grammatical errors and only 7 have no mistakes. The errors are either the misuse or the lack of subject-verb agreement, tense, word order, preposition, article, and pronoun. In terms of 'Other' categories, there are some errors in the use of singularity and plurality, active-passive voice, gerund and to infinitive, parallelism, and redundancy. In addition, there are 10 misspellings and 11 mispunctuations found in the Indonesian-English translation. Therefore, it can be concluded that the English translation of the ten object labels in Taman Pintar Museum has a serious problem in producing grammatically correct English translation.

Keywords: *museum object label translation, grammatical errors, English translation*

I. BACKGROUND

Information about final paper submission is available from the conference website. Translators who work for museums will undoubtedly encounter exhibition label. At first glance, their greatest challenges are posed by the information, the context, the cultural problems, the language structural differences, and the visitors. I will focus here on such challenges in the translation problem of the structural differences between Indonesian and English. Even though this topic is still very broad, I will limit myself to grammatical mistakes in Indonesian-English translation found in display object label.

In this context, "label" is used broadly as a collective term for the many plaques, cards, panels and other printed surfaces on walls, display cases, and elsewhere in museum galleries that provide information about the museum display object. This information may be written from simple sentences to complex sentences. Also, it has to be clear or the words have to work together with the objects (Serrel, 1996: 10). Another key point is explained by McKay (2011: 14); most museum labels are interpretive, in the sense that they attempt to make the displays more meaningful and relevant to visitors. Equally important, in translating museum object labels is suggested to consider the impact of the translation on the visitor's experience.

With this in mind, the translator at first needs to think how to write a good label. Museum visitors rarely read each label diligently from start to finish. Instead, they often wander through the galleries in search of fascinating images, objects, and information. However, at museum exhibitions, most of them look for information presented in a simple, digestible way and that helps engage with the objects around them. Here one example of how we might revise the label translations found in Taman Pintar Museum so that they

communicate more effectively. Learn these two translated versions of the same sentence:

Source Text: *Gaya gravitasi bumi menjaga bulan tetap beredar pada lintasan orbitnya dan menjaga permukaan bumi sendiri tetap pada tempatnya.*

1. Earth's gravity keep the moon remains outstanding on the orbit track and keep the surface of the Earth itself remains in place.

2. Gravity keeps the Moon in orbit around the Earth, holding the Earth's atmosphere in place.

The source text explains the gravity in Indonesian language. Then, it was translated into English like in Version 1, which contains some grammatical errors. We learn that it was translated literally. The translator seems unaware using word-for-word translation results in inaccurate meaning. In fact, it is about science. For example, the clause *gaya gravitasi bumi menjaga bulan tetap beredar pada lintasan orbitnya* that was translated into *Earth's gravity keep the moon remains outstanding on the orbit track* is ungrammatical and inaccurate in meaning. The word *keep* should be in the singular form which is *keeps* and the word *outstanding* which means extremely good or excellent, changes the meaning of the source sentence. This invites readers to think that gravity makes the moon outstanding, not keep it in orbit around Earth. Furthermore, Version 2 is the suggested translation for the source text and a better version than Version 1. It is translated accurately with a simple clear sentence. The phrase *permukaan bumi* which is translated the *Earth's atmosphere* in Version 2 is more accurate than the *surface of the Earth* in Version 1. Notice also that translated information effectively does not necessarily mean using a literal translation to be accurate. Version 2 is a single sentence and is shorter than Version 1, but it can deliver an accurate information.

Some grammatical errors have been found in the English translation of object labels in Taman Pintar Museum. First thing to remember, Taman Pintar Museum is a science-and technology-based tourist attraction that was set up on 20 May 2006 located on Jalan Panembahan Senopati Yogyakarta. It was opened to support primary and secondary education. Therefore, the objects on display are according to the curriculum. Under these circumstances, the object labels are written especially for young visitors and are applied in bilingual or dual languages: Indonesian and English. Therefore, the translation is a significant thing to be concerned. The labels are written in Indonesian as the first language, so it is easy for the local tourists to understand, but if it is mistranslated into English, foreign tourists may have different view. Therefore, translation is essential not only from the process, but also from the product.

During the translation process, translators cannot avoid mistakes or errors in determining the word choice, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. The mistakes will automatically affect the inaccuracy of meaning per se. Accordingly, Sidwell (in Hartono & Azman, 2009: 363) said that even good translators inevitably make mistakes or errors. For some reason, the mistakes can be easily realized by the readers if they can understand both languages. But when it comes to the translation of object label in museums, the translation mistakes and its quality need to be examined through the translation products.

Delisle et al. (1999) defines that the translation mistakes are any fault in the translation, resulting from: 1) ignorance, 2) misinterpretation of an ST-segment, 3) inadequate application of, or failure to apply translation principles, rules, or procedures, methodological mistakes or any fault in the translation, resulting from: nonsense, misinterpretation, incorrect meaning, calque, interference, loss, omission, under-translation, addition, over-translation, inappropriate paraphrase, transcoding, and word-for-word translation.

In particular, ATA Error Categories Version 2021 evaluates translation errors which are divided into three sections which are target language mechanics, meaning transfer, and writing ability. The section 1 (target language mechanics) refers to error that interfere one or more rules of the correct written forms of TT, such as grammar, spelling, and punctuation. The meaning transfer (section 2) refers to errors which affects the TT readers' understanding of ST ideas or meaning. The last section (writing quality) refers to errors that semantically correct but pragmatically still sound incorrect.

Adapting the ATA's Framework for Standard Error Marking categories, this study only focuses on target language mechanics in the Indonesian-English translation of display object labels in Taman Pintar Museum. The study only concerns the analysis of grammatical errors, misspelling, and mispunctuation of the English translation for some reasons. First, grammatical error analysis needs to be considered because the errors have been found in the translation of several object labels in Taman Pintar Museum. Second, some prior researches on translation errors have been conducted by several researchers, such as Fitriyah (2017), Setyaningsih (2018), Rahmannia & Triyono (2019),

Hartono & Azman (2019), Trang & Linh (2020), Indira & Adha (2022), Suryani & Fitria (2022), Anindya & Yonatri (2022), and Ismailia (2022), however still none of them studies explicitly the grammatical error found in the Indonesian-English translation of museum object labels comprehensively. Third, grammar covers many aspects of linguistic knowledge like morphology and syntax (Purwanto et al, 2022), thus, the analysis of grammatical errors found in English translation can provide the better-suggested translation version for the object labels in Taman Pintar Museum. Fourth, mistranslation can lead to misunderstanding, therefore the analysis of it can suggest the translators create an accurate and effective translation that is written in well-structured sentences so the translation can convey the message properly and correctly. Therefore, analyzing the grammatical error and providing the revised translation are important to do.

There are several kinds of grammatical errors that can occur in a translation. Some of the most common ones are: subject-verb agreement errors, tense errors, word order errors, preposition errors, article errors, and pronoun errors. Correspondingly, the errors are also found in the orthography level. It relates to punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

Therefore, this study is aimed to identify the grammatical errors, mispunctuation, misspellings, and the frequency of their occurrence in Indonesian-English translation of the ten object labels found in Taman Pintar Museum in the hope that the results of this study can help the translators identify and avoid errors in Indonesia-English translation. Henceforth, this paper provides the suggested corrections for the errors.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The study employs a descriptive qualitative method in which content analysis is applied. Content analysis involves systematically analyzing and interpreting qualitative data. In descriptive qualitative research, the goal is to provide a comprehensive, detailed description of a phenomenon. Using content analysis, researchers can quantify and analyse the presence, meanings, and relationships of such certain words, themes, or concepts. Regardless of approach, there are eight steps in analyzing content analysis: (1) determining the research question, (2) identifying the source of data, (3) collecting the data, (4) developing a coding scheme to categorize the data, (5) applying the coding scheme to the data, (6) checking for inter-coder reliability, (7) analyzing the data using the coded categories, and (8) interpreting the data in light of the research question.

The main subject of the study is object labels displayed at Taman Pintar Museum in its'its 10 displays, namely Tyrannosaurus Rex (T-Rex), Zaman Jurrasic (Jurrassic Age), Spektrum Warna (Colors Spectrum), Terowongan Ilusi (Tunnel Illusion), Metode Ilmiah (Scientific Method), Optika (Optic), Lensa Cekung (Concave Lens), Lensa Cembung (Convex Lens), Cermin Silindris (Cylindrical Mirror), and Lubang Hitam (Black Hole). All the displays are available with information written in bilingual, which makes them adequate subjects of the research.

The labels are written with the name on the board indicating what the object is and the long description below to the object's name indicating further information of it. The collected data is 10 object labels in the Indonesian Language (Source Text) and in English (Target Language). The analysis focuses on the grammatical errors based on ATA Error Categories in term of grammar. It was applied to analyze the words or phrases as well as misspelling and misspellings of the translated version. The data was collected by comparing the ST and TT to find the translation errors, then recorded in the table. The next type was identifying and categorizing the data based on ATA Error Category in terms of grammar. After classifying the data, it was analyzed further to identify the grammatical errors, misspelling, misspelling of the translated text and calculating the frequency of translation error occurrence. In addition, every error and correction are written in bold to avoid confusion.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Using random sampling, the data analyzed in this study were 10 (ten) object labels displayed at Taman Pintar Museum. From the data, there are 109 sentences of which 102 sentences contain grammatical errors and only 7 (seven) have no mistakes. The errors are either the misuse or the lack of subject-verb agreement, tense, word order, preposition, article, and pronoun. In terms of 'Other' categories (outside the theory), there are some errors in the use of singularity and plurality, active-passive voice, gerund and to infinitive, parallelism, and redundancy. In addition, there are 10 misspellings and 11 misspunctuations found in the Indonesian-English translation. Based on the document analysis, the frequency of grammatical errors occurrence found in the translated labels was summarized in Table 1:

TABLE 1
 DISTRIBUTION OF GRAMMATICAL ERRORS OF 10 LABELS AT TAMAN PINTAR MUSEUM

Types	Frequency
Word Order	19
Others	18
Article	16
Subject-Verb Agreement	9
Tense	8
Preposition	8
Pronoun	3
Misspunctuation	11
Misspelling	10
Total	102

The most frequent grammatical type of error found in this study is Word Order, which accounts for 19 data. Most of the sentences were translated word-for-word, ignoring how words are strung together in the target language. The following table is an error in word order:

TABLE 2
 WORD ORDER ERROR

Source Text	Target Text	Suggested
Sebagian besar tumbuhan	Most plants were	Most of the plants are large trees and large and leafy

merupakan pohon lush. besar dan rimbun.	trees.
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Based on the table above, the translation of the text in Indonesian "pohon besar dan rimbun" is translated as "large trees and lush". This translated sentence is not well-formed. The translator mis-orders the noun phrase. In the ST, the phrase pohon besar dan rimbun has a headword pohon or tree and the adjectives besar and rimbun are written after the headword as the predicative adjective. However, it was translated large trees and lush, which is ungrammatical as we can write the attributive adjective lush before both the adjective large and the headword trees. Therefore, the better translation is "large and leafy trees". An adjective leafy is suitable for the context of the text which informs the reader about trees with a lot of leaves. Rimbun in Indonesian means berdaun dan bercabang banyak (online KBBI). Meanwhile, the word lush in English means growing thickly and strongly in a way that is attractive; covered in healthy grass and plants.

There are other grammatical errors found in the data instead of Word Order, Article, Subject-Verb Agreement, Tense, Preposition, and Pronoun. It is grouped in 'Other' category which includes the misuses of singularity and plurality, active-passive voice, gerund and to-infinitive, parallelism and redundancy. Based on the data analysis, the errors in active and passive voice account for 7 errors as the most common error found in this category. One of the examples can be seen in the Table 3:

TABLE 3
 ERROR IN ACTIVE-PASSIVE VOICE

Source Text	Target Text	Suggested
Ketika diputar piringan kekanan maka seolah-olah kamu melihat terowongan yang ujungnya semakin mengecil, sebaliknya ketika diputar kekiri terowongan tersebut semakin	When the disc rotated to the right you look at the end of the tunnel is getting smaller, when rotated to the left the tunnel getting bigger.	When the disc is rotated to the right, you look at the end of the tunnel is getting smaller, when it is rotated to the left the tunnel getting bigger.

The error is caused by the incorrect usage of active-passive form. It is a verb form in which the subject is impacted by the verb's action and it is written in the form: Subject + be + V3 (past participle). Based on table 3, the translation of the text in Indonesian "ketika diputar kekiri" is translated into English "when rotated to the left". Grammatically, the form of active-passive voice consist of a subject and the verb; be before the main verb. Thus, the suggested translation is "when it is rotated".

The following error is in the use of articles. Articles in English are a, an, and the. The article a/an is used with singular, countable indefinite nouns which refer to new things for the speaker or the listener. While the is used to refer to certain thing that is already mentioned. An example of this error can be seen in table 4:

TABLE 4
 ERROR IN ARTICLE

Source Text	Target Text	Suggested
Lensa terbuat dari bahan tembus pandang yang permukaannya lengkung.	Lens made from glass material with convex or concave surface .	Lens made from glass material with a convex or concave surface .

From table 4, it is obvious that there is an omission of article a to precede noun phrase convex or concave surface. The article a should be put before the word to refer a singular noun that is not specific or previously mentioned. In this sentence, the information about convex or concave surface is the new information.

Next, a grammatical errors also occur in the following data:

TABLE 5
 ERROR IN SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Source Text	Target Text	Suggested
Lensa cembung memiliki bentuk lebih tebal di bagian tengahnya disbanding bagian pinggirnya.	Convex lens have a bolder shape in the middle and thicker in the edge.	Convex lens has a bolder shape in the middle and thicker in the edge.

The translator translated the verb ‘memiliki’ into the verb ‘have’ but s/he did not adjust the verb based on the concord/agreement between the subject and the verb. The sentence should be ‘Convex lens has a bolder shape in the middle and thicker in the edge.’ It can be said that the translator made errors in grammar because the sentence translation is a lack of agreement between subject and verb, and constructed an incorrect case of a noun (Doyle, 2003).

TABLE 6
 ERROR IN SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Source Text	Target Text	Suggested
Misalnya, bintang-bintang yang tertarik oleh gravitasi lubang hitam akan mengorbit padanya dan memberi penampakan terang gelap ketika bintang berada di depan	For example, the stars are sucked by the gravity of the black hole will orbit and gave it the light and dark appearance when the star was in front of and behind the Black Hole.	For example, the stars are sucked by the gravity of the black hole will orbit and give it the light and dark appearance when the star was in front of and behind the Black Hole.

The concept of tense refers to the change of predicate of sentence, which are auxiliary verb or to be or main verb in accordance with the change of the following elements based on its’its subsequent priorities: (1) condition or (2) deed or (3) time (Effendi, 2008: 93). The error in tense from the Table 6 is misuse of Past Tense whereas the context of the Source Text is Present Tense. The Source Text says “... memberi penampakan terang gelap ketika bintang berada di depan” which is generally true or a fact of black hole. It was translated ‘... and gave it the light’ with Verb II form (gave) or Past Tense. The correct translation should be using the

Present Tense, “and give it the light and dark appearance” with Verb I form.

After the error in tense, other error is also found in prepositions. Prepositions is a type of word that typically come before a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase and show the relationship between that noun or noun phrase and other elements in the sentence. In other word, prepositions are important because they help clarify the meaning of a sentence and make it easier for the reader or listener to understand the relationships between different elements of the sentence. The following table is an error in preposition:

TABLE 7
 ERROR IN PREPOSITION

Source Text	Target Text	Suggested
Iklim saat itu juga tidak sepanas iklim saat periode Triassic, namun masih lebih panas daripada iklim sekarang.	The climate on that time was not too hot as the Triassic climate, but still warmer than the present climate.	The climate at that time was not too hot as the Triassic climate, but still warmer than the present climate.

In the Target Text, there is an error in preposition on before noun phrase that time. The preposition on is not the correct preposition to precede the phrase that time, but the preposition at does. Preposition at is used to indicate a specific time or time period. Therefore, the translation should be “the climate at that time” to indicate a specific time in the Jurassic period.

Another type of error observed from the translated labels is pronoun error. The error is shown in the following table:

TABLE 7
 ERROR IN PRONOUN

Source Text	Target Text	Suggested
Lubang hitam tidak dapat dilihat-hitam di antara latar belakang yang hitam – tetapi para astronom dapat mendeteksinya karena efek yang mereka timbulkan terhadap benda-benda langit lain.	Black Holes cannot be seen among black colored background, but astronomers can detect them because of the effects its cause to other celestial objects.	Black Holes cannot be seen on a black background, but astronomers can detect them because of the effects they cause to other celestial objects.

In the Source Text, the clause “... tetapi para astronom dapat mendeteksinya karena efek yang mereka timbulkan terhadap benda-benda langit” was translated into English into “... but astronomers can detect them because of the effects its cause to other celestial objects”. The possessive pronoun its is chosen as the translation of mereka to refer the Black Holes which should be in the plural form. The use of possessive pronoun is also not right because the adjectival clause needs Subject so the personal pronoun ‘they’ is suitable for the correction Thus, the correct rendition is “but astronomers can detect them because of the effects they cause to other celestial objects”.

Beside the grammatical errors, there are errors in punctuation and spelling in the translated labels. Firstly,

punctuation errors or mispunctuation appeared 11 times in the data. The study found that the errors mostly were caused by the lack of comma. The examples of error found were illustrated on Table 8 as follow.

TABLE 8
 ERROR IN PUNCTUATION

Source Text	Target Text	Suggested
Hampir di pusat setiap galaksi terdapat sebuah lubang hitam (black hole).	Almost in the center of each galaxy there is a Black Hole.	Almost in the center of each galaxy, there is a Black Hole.

The comma (,) as a punctuation mark is commonly used in writing to separate different parts of a sentence. Its main function is to clarify the meaning of a sentence by indicating pauses, separations, or breaks in the flow of information. For the Table 8, we learn that the comma (,) is needed to separate the introductory element in the form of a translational phrase “Almost in the center of each” from the main clause “there is a Black Hole”.

Secondly, spelling error or misspelling can cause confusion about the intended meaning. This errors can occur in English translations if the translator is not proficient in English spelling rules or if they are not careful in checking their work for accuracy. An example of a spelling error can be seen in the following table:

TABLE 9
 ERROR IN SPELLING

Source Text	Target Text	Suggested
Pertanyaan yang bisa muncul adalah mengapa buah tersebut jatuhnya ke bawah (ke permukaan bumi)?	A question that appears in our mind is “why the mango felt straight down? ”	A question that appears in our mind is “why the mango fell straight down? ”

The translator translated ‘jatuhnya ke bawah’ into ‘felt straight down’ that must be written in a correct spelling ‘fell straight down’. Misspelling irregular words is one of some common spelling errors in English translations. English has many irregularly spelled words that can be difficult to remember. The English translation for the word jatuh should be fall and the past form for the verb is fell. However, the translator translated it into felt (past form of the verb feel) which means experiencing an emotion or sensation or merasakan in Indonesian language. It causes the lost of the original meaning and leads to mistranslation. Moreover, other common spelling errors in English translation include confusing similar-sounding words (i.e. they’re, their, and there), typos, and using American vs. British spelling. To avoid spelling errors in English translations, it is important to have a good understanding of English spelling rules and to carefully proofread the translation for accuracy.

IV. CONCLUSION

There are several types of grammatical errors that occur in a translation of object label at Taman Pintar Museum. The

result of the study showed seven types of grammatical errors in the translation based on ATA Framework version 2021. The errors that occurred are misuse or the lack of subject-verb agreement, tense, word order, preposition, article, and pronoun. In terms of ‘Other’ categories (outside the theory), there are some errors in the use of singularity and plurality, active-passive voice, gerund and to infinitive, parallelism, and redundancy. Meanwhile, there errors also occur in punctuations and spellings. From the results of the study, it can be concluded that the English translation of the ten object labels in Taman Pintar Museum has a serious problem in producing grammatically correct English translation. Therefore it is very necessary to find alternative solutions to avoid translation errors and improve the quality of translations. For the translators, it is important to have a good understanding of both the source and target languages to ensure an effective and accurate translation.

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