

## **Mistranslation Analysis by English as Foreign Language (EFL) Students In Reading Comprehension**

**Putri Ramadhani**

Departement of Computer Engineering, Universitas Budi Darma, Medan, Indonesia

Email: pramadhaniput@gmail.com

**Abstract**–This study concerned to investigate the difficulties faced by EFL (English as Foreign Language) students in the second semester of Budi Darma University in Medan, North Sumatera-Indonesia. These EFL students faced mistranslation to comprehend article related to the medical text during COVID-19 Pandemic in Indonesia. This study focused on fifty students of the second semester in Budi Darma University Medan majored in Computer Engineering. The data was collected in May 2020. The data collection was conducted by assesing the samples of fifty students' reading comprehension exercises. The data was analyzed by using quantitative analysis to get the percentage of mistranslation commonly faced by the students to comprehend medical article related to the issues of COVID-19 pandemic. The results indicated that the students experienced most difficulties in translating vocabulary and medical terms which are not familiar to English as Foreign Language (EFL) students. Some suggestions are proposed to enhance EFL students's ability in translation skill that will support reading comprehension goals.

**Keywords:** Mistranslation, EFL Students, Reading Comprehension

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Reading is one of four English language skills which is taught in school and university. The ability of reading comprehension subject is differently performed by the students, because not all the students have similar background knowledge, students' real word-experiences, vocabulary or dictions knowledge, the fluency, activeness and critical thinking (Lucy Hart Nile Publishing). Students' real word-experience give impact to the ability of reading comprehension. Students who have read many articles, use the vocabulary in daily activities will easily comprehend the text, in addition the factor of text the presentation of detail information of describing how something look, the writer uses spatial descriptive text (Putri Ramadhani in JLEE Vol 1, No 1, March 2020, pp. 9 *Writing Descriptive Information as the Medium to Promote Halal Cuisine*) explained that the more descriptions presented in a text will help the reader with zero experience of something to be easier to describe new word, terms in the text based on the color, size, shape, and may details. EFL (English as Foreign Language) Students who have no experience in reading medical text will face some difficulties to translate the terms from source language; English to target language; Bahasa Indonesia. This mistranslation problem arose because EFL students were not familiar to those new terms which are not relevant to their academic background in computer engineering.

Cognitive strategies and metacognitive strategies are involved in the process of reading comprehension. Cognitive strategies are the strategies applied by a student to repeat, organize new language, summarize meaning, guessing meaning from context, using imagery for memorisation. Cognitive strategies called intellectual activity like thinking, reasoning, remembering which involving the activities of perceiving, memorizing, giving attention, language, visual and spatial processing. Metacognitive strategies are the activities of how a student creating, evaluating, analyzing, applying, understanding, describing, explaining in otherway metacognitive strategies are the activities to assess how successfully the task is being done (Livingstone, Jennifer 1997). The EFL students faced some misinterpretation in cognitive process while comprehending terminology related to the medical article of COVID-19. Some of the EFL students in the classroom have no idea of some medical terminology related to article of COVID-19.

Good translation ease people to get information with no misinterpretation. In order to create a good translation, the translators have to use appropriate procedures (Newmark, 1988). Language misunderstanding and misinterpretation among EFL students to communicate or comprehend another language should be minimized to enhance reading comprehension goal, so the message in article will be clearly sent to the readers. "When analyzing translations of any sort, be literally or non-literally texts, there are certain categories that allows us to examine how the target text (TT) functions in relations to the source text (ST)" (Gibova, 2012). Nord (1997a, p.29) cited in Jensen (2009, p.15) argues that according to the Skopos theory, all texts are perceived as serving a specific purpose, therefore, the translator should translate in a way which enables the text to function in the situation in which it is to be used and with the people who want to use it and in the way they want it to function. In this case, EFL students facing difficulties in comprehending medical text related to COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the medical terminology arose during this pandemic, EFL students need to comprehend some popular medical terms related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fact is from fifty sample students joined in reading comprehension class experienced misunderstanding in translating medical article. Mistranslation will effect the goals of reading comprehension, in other way, the better translations will lead the better reading comprehension goals.

## 2. METHODOLOY

The participants of this research were fifty EFL students in second semester majoring Computer Engineering in Budi Darma University, in Medan, North Sumatera - Indonesia. The research was taken in May 2020 in English Subject. The students were given an article related to COVID-19 case. The data collection and instruments were distributed among the students, the students were asked to translate the article before they read it. In the process of translation, the writer found some problems faced by the students. The problem is about mistranslation from source language; English to target language; Bahasa Indonesia. After analysing some mistakes found during the translation process, the writer administered the mistakes found in table and counted the number of students who failed to translate the source language into target language. The writer found out the most common mistake done by the students in translating the article from the highest number into the lowest.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The table below shows the number of the students who failed to translate some medical terminology in article. The writer administered the mistakes found and put them into colomn. There are thirteen terms which were adiministered. It was found that some students mistranslated more than one term.

**Table 1.** The Number of Mistranslation in Medical Terms

No	Medical Terminology	The Number of Students who Mistranslated the Medical Terms
1.	Pandemic	1
2.	Outbreak	6
3.	Corona Virus	-
4.	COVID - 19	4
5.	Suspect	5
6.	Imported Case	13
7.	Local Transmission	9
8.	Rapid Test	3
9.	Screening Test	12
10.	Self Quarantine	1
11.	Isolation	2
12.	Lockdown	2
13.	Social Distancing	2
14.	Work from Home	2
15.	Patients Under Surveillance	14
16.	People Under Monitoring	10

Based on the table above it was found that the most failed students translate the meaning of medical terminology like; “Patients under surveillance” as many as fourteen students. The second place is the terminology of “imported case” as many thirteen students. The third place is “screening test” as many twelve students. The fourth place is “people under monitoring” as many as ten students and “local transmission” as many as nine students, further “outbreak” as many as six students, after that “suspect” as many as five students, then “COVID-19” as many as four students who did not know how to write the abbreviation correctly, “rapid test” as many as three students, then “isolation”, “lockdown”, “social distancing”, “work from home” mistranslated by students for each terminology as many as two students, and the last is “pandemic” and “self quarantine” as many as one student. The table below shows us the most common mistranslation found from the highest to the lowest frequency completed with the correct target language and the students’ mistranlation.

**Table 2.** Comparison of Correct Target Language and Students’ Mistranslations

No.	Medical Terminology	Number of Students who Mistranslated the Terms	The Correct Translation (Correct Target Language)	The Students’s Mistranslations
1.	Patients Under Surveillance	14	Pasien Dalam Pengawasan (PDP)	Pasien <b>di Bawah</b> Pengawasan
2.	Imported Case	13	Wilayah penularan di luar lokasi penderita	<b>Kasus impor</b>
3.	Screening Test	12	Tes permulaan	Tes <b>Penyaringan</b>
4.	People Under Monitoring	10	Orang Dalam Pemantauan (ODP)	Orang <b>di bawah</b> Pengawasan

5.	Local Transmission	9	Wilayah penularan di lokasi penderita	Perpindahan lokal
6.	Outbreak	6	Lonjakan wabah secara drastis	Wabah penyakit
7.	Suspect	5	Orang yang dikhawatirkan terinfeksi	Tersangka
8.	COVID - 19	4	Corona Virus Disease	Virus Corona
9.	Rapid Test	3	Uji Cepat	Tes Cepat
10.	Isolation	2	Memisahkan diri dari orang lain	Mengurung diri
11.	Lockdown	2	Menutup Lokasi	Mengunci
12.	Social Distancing	2	Jaga Jarak dari kerumunan	Jarak sosial
13.	Work From Home	2	Beraktivitas dari Rumah	Kerja dari rumah
14.	Self Quarantine	1	Karantina diri setelah terpapar virus sebelum menderita sakit	Karantina Diri
15.	Pandemic	1	Penyebaran Virus Secara Global	Meluas
16.	Corona Virus	-	-	-

#### 4. CONCLUSION

After having the data analysis, conclusions are drawn as the following:

1. English as Foreign Language (EFL) students facing mistranslation related to COVID-19 terminology.
2. The mistranslation experienced by EFL students is misunderstanding and misinterpretation of source language; English to target language; Bahasa Indonesia
3. EFL students are not familiar to the medical terms related to COVID-19 article which need a serious attention from the language instructors, for example by socializing the correct translation in order to enhance the goal of reading comprehension. Correct translation from source language to target language will affect the reading comprehension goal.
4. Language Instructor must help EFL students to popularize the suitable translation from source language; English to target language; Bahasa Indonesia in order to make EFL students more comprehend the meaning of medical terms. Some English medical terms did not match the translation in Bahasa Indonesia, for example; Patients Under Surveillance in Bahasa Indonesia shortly named as PDP (Pasien Dalam Pengawasan) which is also called as "suspect" in English but in Bahasa Indonesia did not match the translation, suspect in Bahasa Indonesia is the person who is charged because of criminal case. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) in Bahasa Indonesia called as APD (Alat Pelindungan Diri). Thermo gun in Bahasa Indonesia named as Pengukur suhu berbentuk pistol. Specific translation in Bahasa Indonesia must be applied to ease the EFL students comprehending the medical terms in English.
5. Linguistic practicality in target language should be administered to ease the EFL students comprehend the source language.

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