Noun Phrase Translation Techniques in the Prologue of the Novel *The Da Vinci Code*

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to examine the translation techniques of noun phrases in the prologue of the novel *The Da Vinci Code*. Furthermore, the descriptive qualitative approach is thoughtfully implemented with careful consideration and attention to detail. Additionally, the researchers will compose the result of this research in a descriptive way. The data were obtained from the novel prologue's noun phrase, which is available in both English and Indonesian. As a result, it is found that there are 9 translation techniques utilized when translating noun phrases. This study discovered 104 noun phrases data. It includes transposition (42 data), calque (41 data), amplification (6 data), reduction (4 data), particularization (3 data), established equivalent (3 data), discursive creation (2 data), borrowing (2 data), and literal translation (1 data). In addition, this research indicates that transposition is the most frequently applied technique, while literal translation is the least commonly applied. Because noun phrases in English and Indonesian are distinguished by distinct grammatical structures, transposition is often used. Moreover, this research aims to attract other researchers in similar research by using different theories and method, so that this research is able to provide guidance and become a secondary reading for the outcoming research.

Keywords: noun phrase, novel translation, translation techniques

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengkaji teknik penerjemahan frasa nomina dalam prolog novel *The Da Vinci Code*. Disamping itu, pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif diterapkan secara seksama dengan pertimbangan yang mendalam dan memperhatikan detail. Selain itu, para peneliti akan menyajikan hasil penelitian ini secara deskriptif. Data diperoleh dari frasa nomina dalam prolog novel yang tersedia dalam Bahasa Inggris dan Bahasa Indonesia. Sebagai hasilnya, ditemukan bahwa terdapat 9 teknik penerjemahan yang digunakan dalam menerjemahkan frasa nomina. Penelitian ini menemukan 104 data frasa nomina. Teknik penerjemahan yang digunakan meliputi *transposition* (42 data), *calque* (41 data), *amplification* (6 data), *reduction* (4 data), *particularization* (3 data), *established equivalent* (3 data), *discursive creation* (2 data), *borrowing* (2 data), *and literal translation* (1 data). Selain itu, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa *transposition* adalah teknik yang paling sering digunakan, sedangkan *literal translation* adalah yang paling jarang digunakan. Karena frasa nomina dalam Bahasa Inggris dan Bahasa Indonesia memiliki struktur tata bahasa yang berbeda, maka *transposition* sering digunakan. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga diharapkan dapat menarik peneliti lain yang ingin melakukan penelitian serupa dengan menggunakan teori dan metode yang berbeda, sehingga penelitian ini dapat menjadi acuan dan menjadi bahan bacaan bagi penelitian yang akan datang.

Kata kunci: frasa nomina, penerjemahan novel, teknik penerjemahan

INTRODUCTION

Newmark (1988: 7) stated that "as a technique for learning foreign languages, translation is a two-edged instrument: it has the special purpose of demonstrating the learner's knowledge of the foreign language, either as a form of control or to exercise his intelligence in order to develop his competency". Translation is one of the crucial ways to transfer the source

language to the target language without experiencing any substantial shift. In other words, the message or meaning delivered must be the same as what is intended by the source language. Translation thus seems to have a crucial function in enabling readers to comprehend foreign languages with more ease.

In translating, accurate translation is needed to minimize differences in meaning or misunderstanding between the writer and the reader. According to Newmark, translation is "rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text" (Newmark, 1988). Meanwhile, Larson said that "translation consists of transferring the meaning of the source language into the receptor language" (Larson, 1984). Translation is the transformation of the source language's form into the receptor language. Only the form must change and the conveyed meaning must remain unchanged. At first glance, it could be seen as a simple process, but in reality, it is a complex process. Hence, there are techniques to translate from one language to another to reduce the complexity of the translation process.

One of the most used translation techniques is translation techniques developed by Molina and Albir. They defined translation techniques as "procedures to analyze and classify how translation equivalence works" (Molina & Albir, 2002). This frequently used technique makes it simpler for translators to translate by separating the concept of technique from other related ideas like translation strategy, method, and error. There are 18 techniques proposed by Molina and Albir, which are adaptation, amplification, borrowing, calque, compensation, description, discursive creation, established equivalent, generalization, linguistic amplification, libguistic compression, literal translation, modulation, particularization, reduction, substitution, transposition, and variation.

Like other novels in general, there are noun phrases found in the prologue of *The Da Vinci Code*. A noun phrase is a group of words used in a sentence that functions as a noun as defined by the Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge, 2023). A noun phrase is a linguistic structure made up of a noun along with other words, such as adjectives, determiners, or prepositions, that together form a single, meaningful unit. Pre and post-modifiers can modify a noun (Santosa, 2003). Pre-modifiers, namely deictic, number, describing, and classifying, are modifiers that come before the noun. Post-modifiers, on the other hand, is a modifier or qualifier that follows

after the noun. Soemarno (2001) classified the types of noun phrases into five categories:

1. Noun Phrase with the combination of Noun and Noun
2. Noun Phrase with the combination of Adjective and Noun
3. Noun Phrase with the combination of Verb-Ing + Noun
4. Noun Phrase with the combination of Verb 3 and Noun
5. Noun Phrase with the combination of Noun and Preposition

There are several reasons why noun phrase analysis is significant. The first is to improve understanding of the language's syntactic structure, as noun phrases are important components of the structure of a sentence. Analysing noun phrases may also aid in avoiding errors in translation. Translation errors can cause misunderstanding and miscommunication, therefore analysing will aid in reducing translation errors and improving translation quality.

Numerous studies have been done on the phenomenon of noun phrase translation, one of them is a study carried out by Virenda Amalia Sucipto Putri in 2021 (Putri et al., 2021). Putri conducted research on The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe: The Chronicles of Narnia novel's noun phrases and found that it was translated using a variety of translation methods, which she examined in her research. In that study, the theory of translation techniques by Molina and Albir (2002) was utilized. The analysis's findings indicate that the novel has 951 noun phrases and the translator in that study employs 12 different translation techniques while translating noun phrases. This study applied the same theories which are noun phrase translation and the techniques used to translate the noun phrase, the difference is only in the novels that are being analyzed.

The research gap in studies that focus on the translation of noun phrases only in the introduction of novels lies in the need for more specialized and focused research. While noun phrase translation techniques have been debated in previous studies, most of these studies tend to cover the entire text of the novel. By narrowing the scope to the intro section, this research can provide deeper insights into how the author builds the story as well as translation techniques that may be needed in this context.

Analyzing noun phrases is a crucial step to prevent translation errors, as mentioned earlier. Hence, this research will discuss several translation techniques used in translating the prologue of the novel *The Da Vinci Code* and readers are expected to be able to understand more easily and accurately in understanding the concepts and meanings that Dan Brown wants to convey to his readers.

METHOD

This article was done by employing a descriptive and qualitative method because this article produces descriptive data containing written words in the prologue of the novel *The Da Vinci Code.* Arikunto (2013) stated that a data source is a subject from which the data can be obtained. Data sources used in this article are all words that are focused on being at the noun phrase level found in the prologue of the novel *The Da Vinci Code.* The researchers performs several steps in collecting data and there are four techniques applied. They are (1) direct observation; (2) content classifying done in the prologue of the novel *The Da Vinci Code* in the form of noun phrase; (3) identifying and analyzing the data according to the translation technique based on Molina and Albir's theory; and, (4) concluding the finding by drawing the conclusion based on the analysis that had done in the result.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Using translation techniques by Molina & Albir (2002), the researchers has found 9 types of the techniques applied in translating the 104 noun phrases in English into Indonesian. Below are the detailed explanations and further examples of translation techniques by Molina & Albir (2002) that applied in the text:

1. Transposition

Changing the grammatical category to fit the target language's (TL) structure is done through the translation technique that is known as transposition. In the TL sentence, a word's position can be altered or replaced. Example:

(Data No. 4)
SL: **the nearest painting**
TL: lukisan terdekat

The grammatical structure of both languages is different. Thus, there is a position shift of the word order in the phrase. In the source language (SL), the word 'nearest' is the modifier of the noun 'painting' as the head structure. But, in the TL, the head structure is *lukisan* and the modifier is *terdekat*.

Transposition can also change the word class or the grammatical category as in the data no. 49 below:

SL: before **their own deaths**
TL: sebelum **mati**

In the example, the word category of the noun phrase is changed from noun into verb.

2. Calque

Calque is a literal translation, but in the form of a word or phrase. It can be lexical or structural. Example:

(Data No. 8)
SL: the **entrance**
TL: **pintu masuk**

(Data No. 65)
SL: his weapon
TL: senjatanya

Both of the examples use calque technique. The word 'entrance' from the SL is literally translated into *pintu masuk* in the TL. The phrase 'his weapon' also straightly translated into *senjatanya* in the TL.

3. Amplification

Using this technique, additional details that are not expressed in the source language can be added. Example:

(Data No. 42)
SL: the others
TL: **kata** yang lain

Here, 'the others' means the curator's brethren that told the attacker the same answer. Considering the context of sentence, the word *kata* is added in the phrase to create more clear explanation to the reader.

4. Reduction

Reduction technique is applied to suppress an SL information item in the TL. Some words are left untranslated in order to compress the information. Example:

(Data No. 30)
SL: the floor **of the** gallery
TL: lantai galeri

In the example, the preposition 'of the' is left untranslated. Usually, this technique is done because the absent of the preposition word do not have a significant meaning. Another example can be found in the data no. 76:

SL: horribly **drawn out** death
TL: kematian yang mengerikan

As we can see in the example above, the word 'drawn out' is not translated. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, 'drawn out' is an adjective that has a meaning 'lasting longer than is usual or necessary' (Cambridge, 2022). Hence, the original meaning of 'drawn out death' is the agonizing death due to the long dying process. If this word is translated, the meaning will be redundant because *mengerikan* is enough to describe the 'drawn out death'.

5. Particularization

A technique for making concrete terms in the target language more precise is called particularization. The translation switched from general to specific (particular). In the text, the phrase 'the man' in the data no. 31, 58, and 64 have different translation. All of them used particularization. In the data no. 31, 'the man' is translated into *lelaki albino itu*. The translator specifically refers the man as to *albino* just like the curator stated before in the text. The man is the attacker, so in the data no. 58, the translator particularly translated it into *penyerang*. With the characteristics of the man that described as huge, broad, and tall, the translator also particularly translated it into *si lelaki besar*.

6. Established Equivalent

Established equivalent technique is implemented by using a term or expression that is acknowledged by dictionaries or as equivalent in the TL. Example:

(Data No. 22)
SL: white hair
TL: uban tipis

Actually, the literal translation in the TL of 'white hair' is *rambut putih*. But, in the TL, *rambut putih* is known as *uban*. So, the equivalent word that recognized by the TL is *uban*. Another example:

(Data No. 27)
SL: the barrel
TL: moncongnya

According to the Indonesian official dictionary (KBBI, 2022), the literal translation is *pembuluh*

senapan (bedil). It could be too literal and make the translation not natural, so the translator chose the word *moncong* that is equivalent to represent the long, front part of the gun.

7. Discursive Creation

This technique is used to create a momentary equivalent that is completely unpredictable and unrelated or out of context. In the data no. 95, the phrase 'some way' is translated into *sebuah cara*. Even though, the word *sebuah* has the same meaning with the article 'a' or the word 'one'. 'Some' does not always mean '*beberapa*' because it can be paired with a singular noun with the meaning '*suatu*'. Thus, the translation is out of context yet still accurate. Similar to it, the word 'glint' in the data no. 35 is translated as *gerakan* when it should be translated to *kilauan* since the word *kilauan* is the closest meaning of the word 'glint.

8. Borrowing

Borrowing is used to directly borrow a word or phrase from another language. It can be completely unaltered or naturalized to adapt to the spelling norms of the target language. In the prologue of the novel, the French word *sénéchaux* is kept as its form in the target language. The translator may choose this technique because there is no equivalent or closest meaning found in the TL. In addition, maybe the translator wants to keep the cultural word so the reader will gain more knowledge. But, the application of borrowing word may also confuse the reader and distract their understanding of reading the text because they need to search the meaning first.

9. Literal Translation

Literal translation is similar to calque translation. Without ever changing the word's or phrase's structure, this translation technique translates the word literally. Example:

(Data No. 75)
SL: a veteran of la Guerre d'Algérie
TL: seorang veteran dari la Guerre d'algérie

From the example, we can find out that the translator translated it literally and word-for-word into the TL.

Table 1. Table of Findings on the Types of Translation Techniques

No	Types of Translation	Total	Percentage
1	Transposition	42 data	40%
2	Calque	41 data	39%
3	Amplification	6 data	6%

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4	Reduction	4 data	4%
5	Particularization	3 data	3%
6	Established Equivalent	3 data	3%
7	Discursive Creation	2 data	2%
8	Borrowing	2 data	2%
9	Literal Translation	1 data	1%
Total		104 data	100%

The table above provides a full breakdown of each translation techniques used to translate noun phrases in *The Da Vinci Code's* prologue. The prologue contained 104 elements of data that were translated using nine distinct techniques. Transposition is the most commonly utilized technique, accounting for 42 of the total data. With one data, the literal translation is the less common technique.

CONCLUSION

The research yields significant findings into the translation techniques employed by the author of *The Da Vinci Code* in order achieve comprehension goals and determine which translation techniques should be modified to fit the cultural background of the source language. Following the analysis of the various types of translation techniques based on Molina and Albir's (2002) theory, it is discovered that there are 9 techniques used in translating noun phrases in the prologue of the novel *The Da Vinci Code.* Transposition, calque, amplification, reduction, particularization, established equivalent, discursive creation, borrowing, and literal translation are found. Translation techniques affect how a text is translated, particularly in Indonesian. A number of techniques contribute to accurate translation, but the most prominent technique is transposition since the noun phrase between English and Indonesian has a distinct grammatical structure and must be shifted. The literal translation technique is the least common in our research. This translation technique translates the word literally without ever modifying the structure of the word or phrase. This research has effectively achieved its goal of gaining a deeper grasp of the linguistic structure of the language. It also fills the gap in study by analysing noun phrases in the introduction rather than the entire novel, giving this research more insights into how the translator uses translation techniques to translate the noun phrases found in *The Da Vinci Code.*

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