



## DEVELOPING TRANSLATION QUALITY THROUGH SYNTAX MASTERY OF STUDENTS

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### **Abstract**

*This research was aimed at realizing the theory of syntax in improving the student's competency in translating text from English into Bahasa Indonesia or vice versa. This research focuses on syntactic structure of sentences in the translation of the text. The text that is used to be the source of the data is the text of Asahan Profile 2018, text which is the most currently published by Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) Asahan Regency. the analysis presented in this study is strictly confined to data randomly derived from each of the chapters and the translation assessed by the English students whose performance is good, very good and excellent. The students are of Semester VI Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan UNA. Therefore, this paper primarily explores and highlights major issues that explicitly exhibit aspects of syntactic structure. Noticeably, these strategies turn to be fruitful in many cases where the SL system and the TL system slightly diverge while they prove to be fully ungrammatical, odd and even absurd. systems.*

**Key words** : *Improving, Translation quality, syntax, competency, text*



## **A. Introduction**

In its simplest, most logic sense that translation can be said to involve the translator conveying across a language (or genre) boundary whatever she or he understands to be essential to the meaning of the text, its function, and the way it achieves its effects. Translator has to involve his or mastery of sentence structure of both the Source language (SL) and Target Language (TL). Meaning or function of any languages mostly depend on its syntactic structure of the sentences. Their meanings can be differently understood if the sentences are structured differently. Therefore the proper use of syntax (syntactic structure of sentences) plays very important function to perform the better and qualified translation.

The English language, a member of the Eoropean language family, has been compared from different perspectives in the contrastive research with its non-familial languages, such as Bahasa Indonesia, and with other languages such as Chinese, Arabic and with Asian language such as Japanese. However, little research has been conducted on comparing the translation of the English and Bahasa Indonesia (BI) languages based on syntactic sentence structure. This is mainly due to the fact that only a few researchers are interested in translation, specifically that concerning with syntax studies. Dozens of books from Bahasa Indoneia have been translated into English or vise versa. Text of Asahan Profile has been continually translated and published from year to the most recent year. Besides that syntactic sentence structure of original text is worth translating, other aspects are also crucially taken into account including its language and idiom, its special connotations, its use of register and stylistic device, and the particular ways that achieves its effects on its readers.

Translation is the act out of process of translating something into a different language. A translator or a person who translates must know syntax that is word order of the languages. Having mastered BI as the mother tongue and English, as a foreign language, it is necessary to examine the students' ability to study the translation between BI and English. The ready translated works are limited, but the intention is that to put into the practice the students' understanding of the languages syntax



on how they transform meanings from BI to English. Syntax is then generated as a set of principles of word order. Most languages even from different families have been , which were subsequently classified into three common types: SVO, SOV, and VSO<sup>4</sup>. BI word order is often considered to be a free word order, and the sentence elements can be changed without a change in basic meaning. It is not easy to generate a strict rule to formulate BI word order. Therefore Syntax is the set of rules, principles, and processes that govern the structure of sentences in a given language, specifically word order. However, there are various definitions stated by the experts regarding to the definitions of syntax.

One aspect is fixed that the dominant word order is the SVO pattern, so BI is usually regarded as an SVO language. BI word order is not strictly constrained, and relatively free. BI word order is only free in the sense that a clause seldom changes its grammatical meaning or content even if words change place. In other words, the clause elements do not change function because they take a different place in the clause. This brings the fact that the case usually expresses a word's function in the clause. For example: 1. Ely telah menyelesaikan studi S3 nya. 2. Studi S3 Ely telah diselesaikannya. 3. Telah diselesaikan Ely studi S3 nya. 4. Sudah menyelesaikan studi S3 nya Ely. This is quite similar to the English sentence Ely has already completed his Ph.D. But sentence (3) Telah diselesaikan Ely studi S3 nya. and (4) Sudah menyelesaikan studi S3 nya Ely do not sound like a normal sentence, but they are still understandable.

Syntax is different from Morphology. Syntax main point is on the meaning. Syntax is the analysis of sentence structure and its clauses compared to the other languages. Various types of sentences in translating the text, through syntax the translation can be very meaningful. Therefore syntax is a very crucial thing.

The problems of this study can be in questions. The first question is to which extent is these two languages different in syntactic structure of sentence. The second question is how do the students translate the text by applying their mastery of syntax. .This study is based on a linguistic perspective, so the analysis of translation strategies will remain on the syntactic level, without taking all the translation strategies used in the



translation into account. Since this topic in itself is a specific topic, the aim is to concentrate on analyzing and discussing the syntactic methods used by translator.

## **B. Research Method**

There are three steps in conducting this study; collecting the data, analyzing the data and presenting the result of analysis, as proposed by Sudaryanto (1993:57). In conducting this study, descriptive qualitative method will be implemented. Qualitative research is broadly defined as a means of any kind of research that produces findings not arrived at by means of statistical procedures or other means of quantification" (Strauss and Corbin, 1998: 179).

The process can be in steps of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming. In this study, the first step of data condensation included the process of selecting. In this process, phrases and clause that was consisted of its meaning was selected from the ASDA 2015 Text in BI and assigned to be translated by the students. The focus is on phrase and clause which is in the main concerns of syntactic level. Phrases phrases and its meaning was focussed and taken into account in order to make sure that it was really suitable as the data. The next step is simplifying.

In this process, the types of syntactic patterns are formatted and patronized and given some codes. The codes are NP, VP, AP, Ad.P. The codes have been familiar in syntax study which are known as Noun Phrase, Verb Phrase, Adjective Phrase, Adverb Phrase. To measure and asses the students' work on translation and in order to make easier to give value, the work are to be classified into each type. The researcher placed them and group them in line with each type by categorizing the phrases. After that, it is abstracted. In this step, the data is described findings of this studt. The last is transforming. In this step, the data is displayed by making written summary of types, procedure used and the most dominant of translation stylistics that was used in translating ASDA 2015 are drawn. Below is the flow chart of the study.

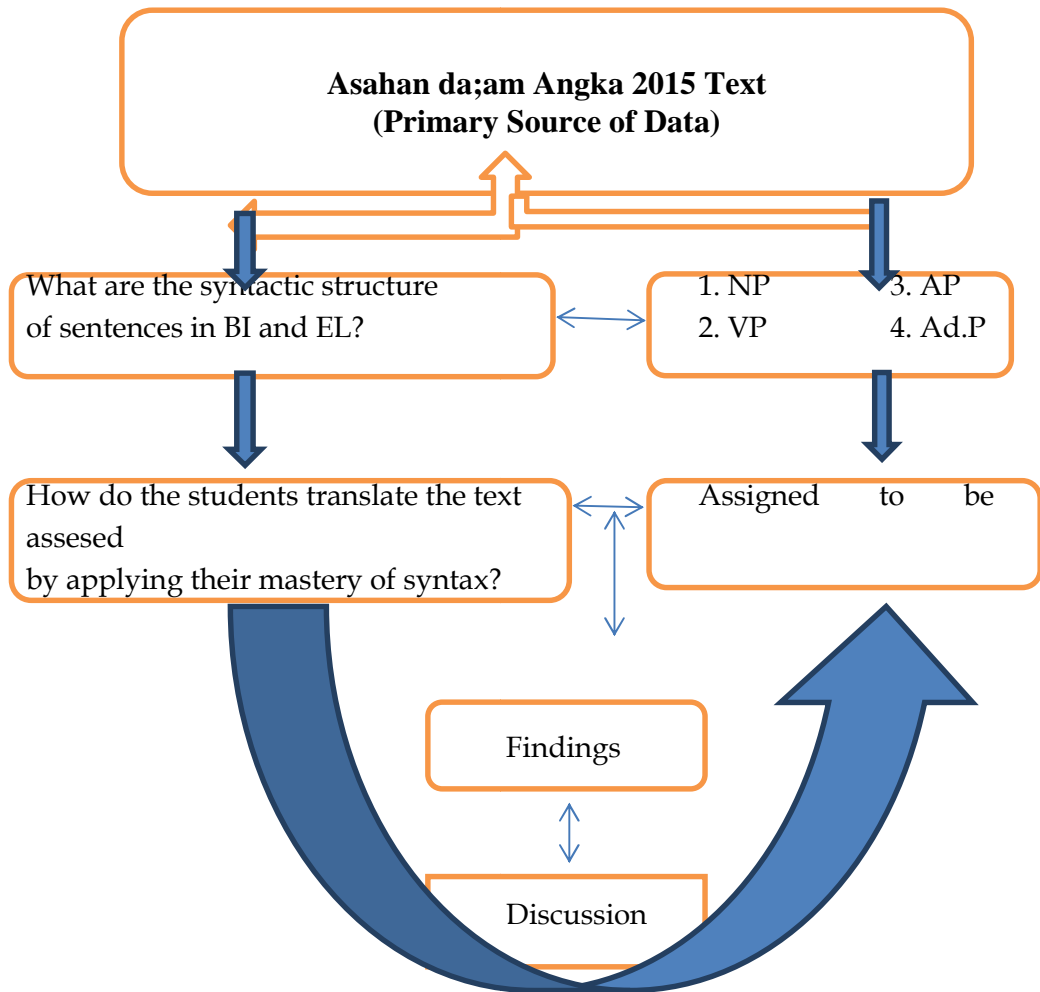


Diagram: The Frame work of the study

### C. Findings

After classifying the sentences, the types of sentence and kinds of phrase structure are classified. After grouping the sentences based on their types, the writer found that there are 149 phrases. There are 58 NP. Its percentage is for 65.10%. There are 52 VP which is 64.17. There are 23 AP which is 22.14% and there are 16 Ad.P which is 10.73%. Therefore, NP



is most frequently occurred in the Asda Text. And the least frequently occurred is Ad.P. . So, the total number of the

Phrase is a group of words functions as a non-predicative which means that none of the words positions as the predicate and has only one grammatical meaning. A noun phrase therefore is a group of words which contains a noun and one or more words that describe it further. Based on the syntax as one macro linguistics, the description of the finding can be drawn as follows :

#### **D. Discussion**

The main points of this study to find out the syntactic structure of sentences in BI and EL. As the result it is as a description of how the students present the qualified translation through their mastery of the syntax. Some specific discussions can be explained as follows:

##### **Noun Phrases (NP)**

NP is constructed by Adjective + Noun, Possessive + Noun, Demonstrative + Noun, Article + Noun. These pattern are also the same in Bahasa Indonesia. They are different in the order. In BI Noun is followed by Adjective, Possessive, article, demonstrative.

##### **Verb Phrases (VP)**

VP is constructed by Auxiliary + Verb, Adverb + Verb and Modal + Verb. Mostly, the word order in BI is same as in EL. However there are also a few differences found in the word order of the two languages.

##### **Adjective Phrases**

AP is constructed by AdV + Ad, Mostly, the word order in BI is same as in EL. Some adverbs that can be attached to construct the adjective phrases *are so, very, rather, quite, enough, and such*. However there are also a few differences found in the syntactic structure of the two languages. For example *such*

##### **Adverb Phrases**

Adverb Phrases which is the least frequent occurred consist of the syntactic structure such as AdV+ Adv, and AdV + V. The syntactic



structure of the two languages are different. The position of adverbs in BI is mostly V + AdV in contrast to AdV + V.

No	ST	TT	Syntactic Structure			
			NP	VP	A.P	Adv.P
1.	Jumlah PNS Otonomi daerah di Kabupaten Asahan tahun 2014 berjumlah 8.464 orang. Jika dirinci menurut golongan, sebagian besar merupakan golongan III yaitu mencapai 45,16 persen dan yang terkecil adalah golongan I yaitu 1,18 persen					
2.	Pelayanan terhadap kegiatan yang bersifat keagamaan harus senantiasa dipelihara dan ditingkatkan. Kehidupan beragama yang baik di masyarakat dapat dijadikan benteng dalam menghadapi berbagai masalah yang mungkin timbul dalam kehidupan sehari-hari					
3	Di Kabupaten Asahan, jumlah Pasangan Usia Subur (PUS) pada tahun 2014 berjumlah 125.323. Dari jumlah tersebut 72,50 persen adalah akseptor aktif yang jumlahnya meningkat dibandingkan tahun 2013.					



## **E. Conclusion**

Based on the purpose of this study conclusion can be taken as follows :

1. Referring to the above description and explanation as well as the theory of the translation, it is clear that the syntax that is the syntactic sentence structure in the process of translation of the text plays a very crucial part in translating the text.
2. The types of phrases focused on this syntactic study are classified into :Noun Phrases (NP), Verb Phrases (VP), Adjective Phrases (AP) and Adverb Phrases (Ad.P).
3. Translation quality of ASDA 2015 text needs to be improved and is able to be improved by developing the students' mastery of syntax. Syntax that is linguistic competence is regarded as the basic competence for the translators or students of FKIP UNA majoring in English and education study. Mechine translation used in translating ASDA 2015 text is not equipped by sufficient linguistic devices. On a basic level, MT performs simple substitution of words in one language for words into another, but that way usually cannot produce a good translation of a text because recognizing phrases and their closest counterparts in the target language is needed. Solving this problems, syntax should have well treated in the process of translating in order to develop the quality of translation.





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