
Category Shift in the Story of the First Day of World's Creation on Genesis

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Abstract. *This paper is made in order to analyze the structure shifts in the story of the first day of world's creation on Genesis. Category shifts refer as a grammatical or structural components change during translation between a source language (SL) and a target language (TL). This research aimed to find what type of category shift used and how the category shift implied in the story of the first day of world's creation on Genesis. The study revealed that all types of category shifts were used in total of 25 occurrences. Structure shift was found occurring 20% (5 times), class shift was found occurring 36% (9 times), unit shift was also found occurring 36% (9 times) including 8% of low to high unit shift (2 occurrences) and 28% of high to low unit shift (7 occurrences), and intra-system shift was found occurring 8% (2 times). Class shifts and unit shifts were the most frequently occurring while intra-system shift were the least.*

Keywords: *Biblical Text, Category Shift, Translation*

1. INTRODUCTION

Translation refers to transferring messages from the source language to the target language which is a complex process that frequently results in alterations to the linguistic structure. J.C. Catford's translation shift theory (1965) is one of the relevant frameworks to understand these changes. Level shift and category shift are the two main categories of translation shifts. But category shift was the only topic covered in this study. According to this theory, linguistic structures, word classes, units, and systems may change during the translation process as a result of differences in the source and target languages' linguistic systems.

These modifications can significantly affect how theological and symbolic meanings are communicated when translating holy books like the Bible. The primary focus of this research's analysis is the category shift that takes place in the story of the first day of world's creation on Genesis. The comparison between the New International Version (source language, English) and the Indonesia Terjemahan Baru (target language, Indonesian) is the main focus of this study.

Category shifts could happen during the translation of this story in a number of ways, including changes in parallel grammatical systems (intra-system shift), linguistic level (unit shift), word class (class shift), or syntactic structure (structure shift). Structure shifts are possible because of the story's unique narrative structure, which depends on the vocabulary and grammar used to convey the message. Additionally, there are symbolic

elements in this story that require the translator selecting a suitable equivalent in the target language, which frequently results in a class shift.

The Bible is also a perfect medium for studying the phenomenon of unit shift because it is a text that has been translated numerous times and offers concrete examples of how language interacts with cultural and religious values. In order to understand the unique patterns of linguistic change in the translation of this text, as well as how the original meaning is maintained or modified in the target language, it is necessary to identify the types of category shifts that take place and how they imply.

According to the explanation given above, the problems generated are as follows:

1) What type of category shift used in the story of the first day of world's creation on Genesis? 2) How the category shift implied in the story of the first day of world's creation on Genesis?

The goal of this study is to provide solutions to the problems identified in the previous point. They are as follows: 1) To find what type of category shift used in the story of the first day of world's creation on Genesis. 2) To identify how the category shift implied in the story of the first day of world's creation on Genesis.

2. THEORY

In his book "A Linguistic Theory of Translation" (1965, pp.76–82), JC Catford defined Category shift as a change in linguistic categories during the translation process from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL). The reason for these changes is that different languages have different grammatical structures, which makes it nearly impossible to translate words identically. Level shifts and category shifts are the two categories of translation shifts, according to Catford (1965, pp.76–82). However, the primary focus of this study's data analysis was category shift.

When grammatical or structural components change during translation between a source language (SL) and a target language (TL), this is known as a category shift. When exact equivalency cannot be achieved, the translator must alter the grammatical category to preserve the element's meaning and functional purpose. Because different languages have different rules for grammar, syntax, and word usage, these changes are necessary to achieve a translation that is natural and meaningful. The category shift was further divided into four types by Catford.

Structure Shift

Structure shifts happened because different languages usually have different word orders or syntactic structures, grammatical elements in the source language (SL) must be rearranged to match up to the target language's (TL) grammatical standards. Structure shifts guarantee that the translated text follows the target language's (TL) grammatical rules, avoiding odd or awkward wording.

For example:

SL (English) = "A white house"

TL (French) = "Une maison blanche"

The word "white" is the head and the word "house" is the modifier in the head + modifier pattern found in the SL (English). But in the target language (French), the structure changed to modifier + head, with "blanche" (white) serving as the head and "maison" (house) as the modifier.

Class Shift

Class shifts happened when a word is translated from the source language to the target language, it affects the class. This indicates that the target language word is a member of a different class than the source language. Class shifts provide translators with flexibility and guarantee that meaning is preserved even when the SL and TL use different word classes to convey the same idea.

For example:

SL (English) = "Medical Student"

TL (French) = "Un étudiant en médecine"

The example demonstrated how a class word can change from an adjective to a noun. "Medical" is an adjective in the source language. Nevertheless, it becomes "médecine" (medicine) when translated into the target language, which is a noun.

Unit Shift

Unit-shifts happened when a unit of language in the source language (SL) changes into a unit of a different size in the target language (TL). In the TL, a word from the SL could become a phrase or clause, or the other way around. Translators must modify the text to make it clear, natural, and grammatically correct in the target language (TL) because different languages produce meaning at different levels. Based on directionality, Catford distinguished two categories of unit shifts:

a) Low-to-High Unit Shift

A low-to-high unit shift, a smaller linguistic unit in the SL is expanded into a larger unit in the TL.

For example:

SL (English): "My son is six"

TL (French): "Mon fils a six ans"

"My son is six" is formed of four units in the SL. Nevertheless, the unit is expanded into five during the translation process, becoming "Mon fils a six ans" (my son is six years old).

b) High-to-Low Unit Shift

A high-to-low unit shift, occurs when a larger linguistic unit in the source language (SL) is changed into a smaller unit in the target language (TL).

For example:

SL (English): "My father was a doctor".

TL (French): "Mon père était docteur".

In the SL, the five-unit sentence "My father was a doctor" is translated to four-unit "Mon père était docteur" (my father was a doctor) in the TL.

Intra-system Shift

Intra-system shifts happened when elements of a linguistic system are different between the SL and TL. Even when two languages have corresponding systems but use them differently, these changes still occur. Intra-system shifts make sure the translation is accurate and natural without imposing the SL's norms on the TL by addressing differences in how languages use grammatical systems.

For Example:

SL (English): "advice" (Singular)

TL (French): "des conseils" (Plural)

The example demonstrates that "advice" is a singular word in SL. However, it became the plural form "des conseils" in the target language. "Un conseil" is the singular form of advice in French. In French, the word "des" is used as an article for plural nouns. Furthermore, plurality is indicated by the suffix "-s" at the end of the word "conseils." Thus, "des conseils" is a plural form of the word.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a mixed method that combines quantitative analysis with a qualitative descriptive approach. A mixed-methods approach offers a more thorough understanding of translation phenomena by combining qualitative and quantitative techniques. While quantitative methods offer quantifiable and broadly applicable insights, qualitative methods offer depth and contextual understanding.

The Bible Study Tools app, which includes the New International Version (NIV) Bible version and the Alkitab app for the Indonesia Terjemahan Baru (ITB) Bible version and, was downloaded in order to collect data. The verses were then copied from the app into Microsoft Word, both in English and Indonesian. To compare the verses, each English verse was positioned above its Indonesian translation. This procedure was then carried out again for each verse. The researcher uses the following procedures to analyze the data after collecting it:

- a. (1) Analyzing the SL and TL text
- b. (2) Finding the shifts used in the verses
- c. (3) Finding the frequently used shift on the verses by applying this formula:

$$X = \frac{F}{T} \times 100\%$$

X = Percentage of types of category shift.

F = Frequency of the occurrence.

T = Total occurrences from all type.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

After analyzing the data, it was found that that all kinds of category shifts were used in the story of the first day of world's creation on Genesis. The category shifts used are: structure, class, unit, and intra-system shifts. A more comprehensive analysis and elaboration are provided below

Structure shift

SL (English) = "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light." (Genesis 1:3, NIV)

TL (Indonesia) = "Berfirmanlah Allah: "Jadilah terang." Lalu terang itu jadi." (Kejadian 1:3, ITB)

The SL follows the modifier + head structure, with "God" (modifier) comes before "said" (head). Meanwhile, the head + modifier structure is followed in the TL, where

"Berfirmanlah" (head) comes before "Allah" (modifier). In literary Indonesian, this word order change is frequently used to highlight the action first. It also can be seen on the SL, the phrase "there was light" where the modifier "there was" comes before the head "light". But, when it is translated to the TL, it becomes the head "terang itu" followed by modifier "jadi". Because the word structure in the SL was rearranged in the TL, this indicates structure shift.

Class shift

SL (English) = "God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day." (Genesis 1:5, NIV)

TL (Indonesia) = "Dan Allah menamai terang itu siang, dan gelap itu malam. Jadilah petang dan jadilah pagi, itulah hari pertama." (Kejadian 1:5, ITB)

According to the data, the word "Light" is a noun in the English. However, it is translated as "terang," an adjective that means "bright," in Indonesian. Similarly, "darkness" is a noun in English that indicates the lack of light, but in Indonesian it is translated as "gelap," an adjective that means "dark". Because the word class in the SL was changed in the TL, this indicates class shift

Unit shift

Catford (1965) divided unit based on the directionality into two categories: Low-to-High, and High-to-Low.

a. Low-to-High

SL (English) = "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:2, NIV)

TL (Indonesia) = "Bumi belum berbentuk dan kosong; gelap gulita menutupi samudera raya, dan Roh Allah melayang-layang di atas permukaan air." (Kejadian 1:2, ITB)

The data shows that the word "darkness" was formed with one unit, however, it is translated into a phrase "gelap gulita" in the TL which formed with two units. Additionally, the word "over" in the SL is translated into a phrase "di atas". Because the unit in the SL was expanded in the TL, this indicates low-to-high unit shift.

b. High-to-Low

SL (English) = "God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness." (Genesis 1:3, NIV)

TL (Indonesia) = “Allah melihat bahwa terang itu baik, lalu dipisahkan-Nyalah terang itu dari gelap.” (Kejadian 1:3, ITB)

In the SL, the phrase “the darkness” was formed with two units, nevertheless, in the TL, it is translated into a word “gelap” which formed with only one unit. Because the unit in the SL was reduced in the TL, this indicates high-to-low unit shift.

Intra-system Shift

SL (English) = “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:3, NIV)

TL (Indonesia) = “Pada mulanya Allah menciptakan langit dan bumi.” (Kejadian 1:3, ITB)

The data demonstrates that the word “heavens” in the SL is in the form of plural, marked by suffix “-s”. However, in the TL, the word changed into singular form, become “langit”. Because the TL is in the form of plural but translated into singular, this indicates intra-system shift.

Additionally, the amount of 25 occurrences of category shifts were found in the story of the first day of world’s creation on Genesis. Structure shift was found occurring 20% with the total occurrences of 5 times. Next, class shift was found occurring 36% with the total occurrences of 9 times. In addition, unit shift was also found occurring 36% with the total occurrences of 9 times including 8% of low to high unit shift (2 occurrences) and 28% of high to low unit shift (7 occurrences). Lastly, intra-system shift was found occurring 8% with the total occurrences of 2 times.

The results show that the most frequently occurring shifts among these were the class shift and the unit shift, which each accounted for 36% of the total occurrences (9 times). In contrast, intra-system shift was the least frequent, occurring only twice (8%), while structure shift occurred five times (20%).

The high frequency of class shift indicates that in order to guarantee naturalness and clarity in the target language, grammatical category adjustments were required. When a direct equivalent in the target language is not placed into the same grammatical category as in the source language, this shift frequently takes place. Changes from nouns to adjectives, verbs to nouns, or other grammatical categories were probably necessary to preserve readability and linguistic coherence because English and Indonesian have different word-class system.

In the same way, the high frequency of unit shifts (36%) and high-to-low shifts (28%), in particular, suggests that larger linguistic units (like phrases or clauses) in the

source language were often compressed into smaller units in the target language. This is consistent with the linguistic traits of Indonesian, which tend to convey concepts more succinctly than English. Given that Indonesian typically does not require as many auxiliary words or modifiers as English, the lower percentage of low-to-high unit shifts (8%) indicates that expansion was not as frequently required.

Furthermore, there were 5 occurrences of structure shift in 20% of the result, indicating that sentence structure adjustments were required to conform to Indonesian grammatical standards. The syntactic structures of English and Indonesian differ, especially with regard to word order and modifier placement. Adjectives and determiners usually come after the noun in Indonesian. The occurrence of structure shifts implies that in order to preserve readability and grammatical correctness in the target language, sentence elements had to be rearranged. This change maintains the original text's meaning while guaranteeing that the translated text follows to standard Indonesian sentence structures.

The least common, however, was intra-system shift (8%), suggesting that variations within grammatical systems, such as singular/plural forms, tense markers, or definite articles, did not necessitate frequent translation adjustments. This may be because Indonesian frequently uses contextual markers for pluralization and definiteness instead of morphological ones, requiring fewer explicit changes.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The following conclusions are drawn after delivering an overview of the translation shifts and analyzing them in the story of the first day of the world's creation on Genesis. The analysis shows that all of the category shifts—structure, class, unit, and intra-system shifts—are occur in the verses from the English version (New International Version) into Indonesian (Indonesia Terjemahan Baru). Class shift and unit shift are the most frequent category shifts, whereas intra-system shift is the least frequent. In the context of a biblical text, this study has demonstrated the analysis of the language from the English version to Indonesian. More research is needed to examine different kinds of texts in order to gain a better understanding of translation shifts. Additionally, researchers interested in translation studies in the future should consider applying category shift analysis to more than just the five Genesis verses that were the focus of this study. Comparing multiple Bible translations can provide additional information about translation consistency and variation across different versions.

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