



An Analysis of Category Shift in The Lost Library Novel

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Abstract. This research aims to identify the types of category shifts found in the English novel *The Lost Library* and its Indonesian translation, *Misteri Perpustakaan yang Hilang*, and to determine the most dominant type of category shift. This study applies Catford's (1965) theory of translation shift, focusing on category shifts, namely structure shift, class shift, unit shift, and intra-system shift. A descriptive qualitative method was employed to analyze the data obtained from the source text and the target text of the novel. The data consisted of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences containing category shifts and were collected through document analysis. The analysis was conducted by identifying, classifying, and interpreting the category shifts based on Catford's theory. The findings show that all four types of category shift were found in the translation. A total of 1,475 category shifts were identified, consisting of 941 structure shifts (72.16%), 243 unit shifts (18.63%), 84 intra-system shifts (6.44%), and 36 class shifts (2.57%). Among these, structure shift was found to be the most dominant type of category shift.

Keywords: Category Shift; Catford's Theory; Literary Translation; *The Lost Library*; Translation Shift.

1. INTRODUCTION

Translation plays a significant role in bridging communication across different languages and cultures. It enables readers from diverse linguistic backgrounds to access literary works that were originally written in another language. As Catford (1965) views, translation involves rendering textual material from the source language into equivalent textual material in the target language. However, translation is more than just a process of converting words from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). Instead, it involves transferring meaning while preserving the message, style, and communicative function of the original text. Because every language has its own grammatical, lexical, and cultural systems, translators mostly need to make linguistic adaptation to create a natural and acceptable translation. These adjustments frequently result in translation shifts.

Translation shifts appear because the linguistic structures of the source language and the target language are rarely identical. When translating literary works such as novels, translators often modify grammatical structures, word classes, or language units to ensure that the translation sounds natural while keeping the original message intact. Budi (2022) emphasizes that understanding category shifts is essential, as they represent one of the key aspects of translation. Translators should also have a strong understanding of both the grammatical systems and the cultural backgrounds of the languages involved in the translation process. Such shifts are considered a normal and essential part of the translation process, as they help bridge the structural differences between two languages. Therefore, analyzing translation shifts provides valuable insights into how meaning is transferred from one language to another while adapting to the linguistic characteristics of the target language.

This study focuses on the translation shifts found in the Indonesian translation of *The Lost Library*. The novel presents various narrative styles, dialogues, descriptive passages, and expressive language that provide rich linguistic data for translation analysis. As a literary work, the novel reflects numerous grammatical and lexical differences between English and Indonesian, making it an appropriate source for investigating translation shifts. Through the analysis of the English source text and its Indonesian translation, The present study seeks to identify the types of translation shifts that appear and explain how these shifts contribute to producing an equivalent and natural translation.

The analysis of translation shifts is important because it demonstrates how translators solve linguistic differences between two languages while preserving the intended message of the source text. Understanding these shifts not only contributes to translation studies but also provides practical insights for students, translators, and researchers who are interested in literary translation. Although many previous studies have investigated translation shifts in various texts, studies focusing on *The Lost Library* remain limited. Therefore, the present study is expected to enrich the discussion of translation shift analysis in literary translation, particularly in English–Indonesian novel translation.

This study applies the theory of translation shifts proposed by J. C. Catford (1965), as discussed by Munday (2016) in *Introducing Translation Studies*. There are two major categories in the translation shift in Catford (1965), they are level shifts and category shifts. The Category shifts cover structure shifts, class shifts, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts. This framework is employed to classify and analyze the linguistic changes found in the Indonesian translation of *The Lost Library*. By applying Catford's theory, this study aims to analyze the translation shifts that happened and to explain how these shifts facilitate the transfer of meaning between English and Indonesian.

2. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

Translation and Translation Shift

Translation involves transferring textual material from a source language (SL) into a target language (TL) while maintaining the meaning of the original text. Catford (1965) defines it the replacement of textual material in a source language with equivalent material in the target translation. However, translation is not merely word replacement, as linguistic differences often require adjustments to produce a natural and acceptable target text.

Translation can also be viewed as a communicative activity. (Chesterman, 1997) emphasizes the importance of context, intended readers, and the message of the source text, while Nida and Taber highlight the need to produce a natural and clear translation (Nida & Taber, 1982). Differences in the grammatical and lexical systems of the source and target

languages may consequently result in translation shifts. In Catford's views, these shifts represent departures from formal correspondence and appear as a natural consequence of linguistic differences between languages (Catford, 1965).

Catford's (1965) theory of translation shift provides the theoretical framework for analyzing linguistic changes among the source and target texts in this study. Category shift arises when a translation equivalent differs from the source-language item in terms of its grammatical category or formal correspondence. Catford classifies category shifts into four types: structure shift, class shift, unit shift, and intra-system shift. These four types are used as the analytical categories in the present study to identify and classify shifts found in the English novel *The Lost Library* and its Indonesian translation, *Misteri Perpustakaan yang Hilang*.

Category Shift

A category shift appears when a translation involves changing in grammatical or class structure among the Source Language (SL) and Target Language (TL). In Catford (1965) category shifts are broken down into four kinds.

Strusture Shift

Structure shift refers to a change in the grammatical structure of a word, phrase, or sentence between the source language (SL) and the target language (TL). This type of shift appears because the form of English and the form of Indonesian have different syntactic patterns in arranging grammatical elements. One of the most common forms of structure shift found in this study is the change from a Modifier–Head (MH) structure in the source language to a Head–Modifier (HM) structure in the target language.

Table 1. Example of Structure Shift

Source Language Text	Target Language Text
“Suddenly he uttered an excited yelp, reminiscent of a Pomeranian dog.” Christie (2017). <i>Big Four</i> , (p. 33)	“Tiba-tiba ia mengeluarkan teriakan terkejut, suaranya mirip benar dengan suara anjing Pomerania” <i>Empat Besar</i> , (h. 35).

Comment: The translation of ...*a Pomeranian dog*... into ...*anjing Pomerania*... demonstrates a structure shift because the arrangement of the phrase changes from the source language to the target language. In the source text, *Pomeranian* functions as a premodifier that modifies the head noun *dog*, forming a modifier–head (MH) structure, which is the typical pattern of English noun phrases. In the target text, the head noun *anjing* precedes the modifier *Pomerania*, resulting in a head–modifier (HM) structure, which is the conventional noun phrase pattern in Indonesian. As stated by Catford (1965), a structure shift constantly defines when there is change in the grammatical arrangement of elements among the source language and the target language. Therefore, this datum is classified as a structure shift because the noun phrase changes from an MH pattern in English to an HM pattern in Indonesian.

Unit shift

In Catford (1965), a unit shift takes place when the translation counterpart operates at a different grammatical rank from the source language unit. The grammatical rank level involves morpheme, word, phrase, clause, and sentence. Therefore, a unit shift may arise from a morpheme to a word, a word to a phrase, a phrase to a clause, a clause to a sentence, or vice versa. Such shifts arise when the source language and the target language realize the equal meaning at different grammatical ranks. The table below presents the unit shifts identified in this study.

Table 2. example of unit shift

Source Language Text	Target Language Text
“ It's a bogey! ” said Compass furiously.” Rowling (2021). <i>The Christmas Pig</i> (p. 122)	“ Upil! ” kata Kompas marah Rowling (2022). <i>Petualangan Jack & Piggy Natal</i> (h.196)

Comment: From the table, the English sentence *It's a bogey!...* is translated into the Indonesian word *Upil!...* This is considered a unit shift because the translation changes from a unit at the rank of sentence stated from source text to a unit at the rank of word in the target text. The sentence in the source text is realized as a single word that stated in the target text while conveying the same intended meaning.

Class shift

Class shift refers to a change in grammatical class among the source language item and its translation equivalent in the target language. In other words, this type of shift consist a change in the word class, or part of speech, during the translation process, such as a noun being translated into an adjective or a verb into an adjective. As Catford's (1965) views, this shift reflects dissimilarity in the grammatical systems of the source and target languages, where the same meaning is expressed through different grammatical categories.

Table 3. Example of Class Shift

Source Language Text	Target Language Text
“I had prospered there, and my wife and I had both enjoyed the free and easy life of the South American continent...” Christie (1927). <i>Big Four</i> , (p. 9)	“Aku jadi kaya di sana, Aku jadi kaya di sana, dan berdua dengan istriku telah dapat menikmati hidup bebas dan nyaman di Amerika Selatan ini...” Christie (2017). <i>Empat Besar</i> , (h.5).

Comment: The translation of *...prospered...* into *kaya* demonstrates a class shift because the grammatical class changes from a verb in the source language to an adjective in the target language. In the source text, *...prospered...* is the past form of the verb *...prosper...*, which is classified as a verb in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* and expresses the meaning of becoming successful or wealthy. In the target text, *...kaya...* is classified as an adjective in the *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (KBBI), referring to the state or quality of

possessing abundant wealth. Thus, the translation changes the grammatical category from a verb expressing an action or process to an adjective describing a condition or attribute. Therefore, the translation of ...*prospered*... into ...*kaya*... is classified as a class shift.

Intra-system shift

Catford, Intrasystem shift happens when the source language (SL) and the target language (TL) share a comparable grammatical system, but the translation selects a different corresponding item within that system. This type of shift takes place within the same grammatical system, such as the system of number, where the source text may use a plural form while the target text uses an unmarked singular form. Although both languages have a similar grammatical system, they differ in the way the system is realized in translation.

Table 4. example of Intrasystem Shift

Source Language Text	Target Language Text
Felicity shook her head in disapproval—Hong Kong boys were notoriously pampered, but this nephew of hers was incorrigible Kwan (2013). <i>Crazy Rich Asian</i> , (p. 122)	Felicity menggeleng tidak setuju— anak laki laki hongkong terkenal dimanjakan, tapi keponakannya ini keterlaluan. Kwan (2016). <i>Crazy Rich Asian</i> (h. 17)

Comment: The translation of the word ...*boys*... as ...*anak laki-laki*... reflects an intra-system shift, as the grammatical choice in the number system changes from the plural form in the source language to an unmarked form in the target language. In the source text, “boys” is the plural form of ...*boys*..., marked by the suffix -s. In the target text, ...*anak laki-laki*... is rendered without any morphological plural markers, even though it refers to more than one boy in the context of that sentence. Therefore, an intra-system shift is found when the source language and target language have comparable grammatical systems, but the translation selects different items within those systems. Consequently, the translation of ...*boys*... as ...*anak laki-laki*... is classified as an intra-system shift.

Syahputri (2025) and Sabrina (2022) found unit shift as the dominant type of category shift in their respective studies. Syahputri concluded that the dominance of unit shift was influenced by lexical differences between English and Indonesian, which often require expansion or simplification to produce natural and equivalent translations. Syahputri & Wulan (2025). Similarly, Sabrina concluded that the dominance of unit shift was related to the exclusion of certain adjective–noun–noun structural patterns from the analysis, as including these patterns would have increased the number of structure shifts. (Sabrina, 2022). These findings indicate that unit shift may become dominant depending on the linguistic differences and analytical scope of the study.

Research methodology

This study implemented a descriptive qualitative research method according to (Creswell, 2014) to identify and analyze the category shifts found in the Indonesian translation of *The Lost Library*. The data were obtained from the English novel *The Lost Library* and its Indonesian translation, *Misteri Perpustakaan yang Hilang*. The data consisted of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences containing category shifts among the source text and the target text. To select representative data, this study employed proportionate stratified random sampling proposed by Sugiyono (2013).

The data were collected through documentation in Bowen (2009) view's by reading and comparing the source and target texts. Relevant expressions containing category shifts were identified and recorded along with their corresponding page numbers, then organized in a data table. The researcher served as the main instrument, supported by the source and target texts and the data-recording table.

The data were analyzed using Catford's (1965) Category Shift Theory. The analysis involved five steps: comparing the source and target texts, identifying the category shifts, classifying the data into structure shift, class shift, unit shift, and intra-system shift, tabulating the classified data, and interpreting the findings. The frequency of each category was also calculated to determine the distribution and dominant type of category shift.

Findings And Discussions

In the Indonesian translation of *The Lost Library*, the researcher found various category shifts resulting from differences between the English source text and the Indonesian target text. Following Catford's (1965) framework, four types of category shift were identified: structure shift, unit shift, class shift, and intra-system shift. The table presents the categorization of the data under the types of category shift found in the translation.

Table 5. Data of The Category Shift

No	Types of Category Shift	Quantity	Percentage
1.	Structure Shift	941	72,16%
2.	Unit Shift	243	18,63%
3.	Intra-System Shift	84	6,44%
4.	Class Shift	36	2,76%
Total Data		1.304	100%

The distribution presented in the table shows that structure shift accounted for the largest proportion of the data, with 941 cases or 72.16% of the total 1,304 cases. Structure shift involves changes in the grammatical order of linguistic elements between the source and target languages. The high frequency of structure shift indicates that differences in the grammatical structures of English and Indonesian frequently result in changes in the order of linguistic elements during translation. In addition, the mystery genre of *The Lost Library* contains various descriptive passages and noun phrases used to describe characters, objects, settings, and events.

Differences in the grammatical systems of English and Indonesian, particularly in the arrangement of noun phrases, may therefore contribute to the high presence of structure shifts in this study. This combination of the novel's diverse noun phrases and the structural differences between the two languages may explain why structure shift appears as the most dominant category in the findings.

Meanwhile, unit shift appeared in 243 cases or 18.63%, followed by intra-system shift with 84 cases or 6.44%, and class shift with 36 cases or 2.76%. Unit shift involves changes in grammatical rank, intra-system shift involves changes within corresponding grammatical systems, and class shift involves changes in grammatical class. Overall, the findings show that structure shift was the most dominant type of category shift, followed by unit shift, intra-system shift, and class shift.

Analysis of Category Shift

The subsections present a detailed analysis of the category shifts applied. Each data is presented in a parallel format, with source text (ST) and target text (TT) accompanied by analytical commentary.

Structure Shift

Structure shift was found 941 times in the analyzed data as the most dominant frequencies in this study. The change in the arrangement of grammatical elements represents a structure shift.

Table 6. Structure Shift.

Source Language	Target Language
And a real detective tracked down every possible lead. (p. 35)	Dan detektif sejati melacak setiap petunjuk yang ada. (h. 62)

The adjective *real* comes before the noun *detective* (Modifier–Head), while in Indonesian, the noun *...detektif...* comes before the adjective *...sejati...* (Head–Modifier).

Unit Shift

The Unit shift was found 243 or (18,63%) in the analyzed data. The change in grammatical rank from sentence to word represents a unit shift.

Table 7. Unit Shift.

Source Language	Target Language
CRIME: This wasn't that kind of mystery, which was a good thing . He left it blank. (p. 36)	KEJAHATAN: Ini bukan misteri seperti itu, syukurlah . Ia membiarkannya kosong. (h. 65)

From the table, the grammatical rank changes from a clause to a single word. In the source text, *...which was a good thing...* functions as a relative clause, while *...syukurlah...* is a single lexical item functioning as an interjection in Indonesian. Therefore, the translation involves a change from a higher grammatical rank, namely a clause, to a lower rank, namely a word.

Intra-system Shift

With 84 or (6,44%) presences of the Intra-system shift, it is when the source and target languages have corresponding grammatical systems but select different items within the same system (Catford, 1965).

Table 8. Intra-system Shift.

Source Language	Target Language
"why the frogs sing at night?" Both mice shrugged. (p. 44)	"mengapa katak bernyanyi di malam hari?" Kedua tikus itu mengangkat bahu. (h. 78)

From the table, the English noun *...frogs...* is translated as *...katak...* in the Indonesian translation. This represents an intra-system shift because the expression of number changes between the two languages.

Class Shift

Class shift arises 36 times or (2,76%) in the analyzed data; it happens when a linguistic item changes its grammatical class or part of speech in the target language while maintaining the intended meaning (Catford, 1965). Therefore, the change from a verb to an adjective represents a class shift.

Table 9. Class Shift.

Source Language	Target Language
Mice were better with words than he was. (p. 7)	Tikus lebih pandai berbicara dibandingkan dirinya. (h. 8)

The word *...words...* functions as a noun in English. However, it is translated into *...berbicara...*, which functions as a verb in Indonesian. Although the grammatical category changes from a noun to a verb, the translation preserves the intended meaning in the context.

3. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This study analyzed category shifts in the Indonesian translation of *The Lost Library* using Catford's (1965) theory. The findings identified all four types of category shift, namely structure shift, unit shift, intra-system shift, and class shift, with a total of 1,304 instances. Structure shift was the most dominant type in the translation of *The Lost Library*, with 941 data (72.16%), followed by unit shift with 243 data (18.63%), intra-system shift with 84 data (6.44%), and class shift with 36 data (2.76%). The dominance of structure shift indicates that differences in the grammatical systems of English and Indonesian, particularly in the arrangement of linguistic elements, frequently require structural changes in translation. The diverse noun phrases found in *The Lost Library* as a mystery novel may also contribute to the high presence of structure shifts. Overall, the findings demonstrate that grammatical restructuring plays a significant role in producing appropriate and natural expressions in the Indonesian translation.

Future researchers are encouraged to examine category shifts in different literary genres or other types of texts to provide broader comparisons of how shifts happened across different translation contexts. They may also apply other translation theories or approaches to explore category shifts from different perspectives. For students and researchers in translation studies, this study may serve as a reference for understanding Catford's theory of category shift and the grammatical differences between English and Indonesian in literary translation.

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