



ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION RUBRIC ON ISLAMIC WEBSITE

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Abstract

Purpose: Website translation requires an advanced translation to make the message transferred comprehensively. The purpose of this research was to analyze the translation quality of the Islamqa.info/id website in Indonesian as the Target Language (TL), translated from its original version in Arabic website, Islamqa.info/ar, as the Source Language (SL).

Methodology: To discover the quality of translation work, three aspects could be rated: accuracy, acceptance, and readability. The more accurate, acceptable, and readable the translated version is, the easier the text will be understood, according to Mangatur Nababan's theory.

Main Findings: The type of sentences and translation techniques were considered as the factors that could affect the translation quality. There were four types of sentences and seven techniques used in three articles from the "Education" section on Islamqa.info/id. From the analysis, it was found that the translation quality was scored 1.91 from the scale of 3.00.

Implications/Applications: The implication of this research for translators, language scientists, researchers, teachers, or students is to make a good quality translation with high accuracy, acceptance, and readability score, a translator should be aware of internal and external aspects of the target language--not the source language only, since this research found that one expression could be commonly used in one language yet strange for other language's use.

Novelty/Originality of this study: The results of this research could be considered for those who work on a website translation job, from Arabic to Indonesian, in particular. Since Arabic and Indonesian languages are very different from each other in terms of grammatical structure and form of expressions thus, this study has offered useful and practical suggestions for the translation of these languages.

Keywords: Website, Translation, Quality, Technique, Arabic Language, Indonesian Language.

INTRODUCTION

Science and technology grow rapidly nowadays. As a result, a lot of information can be accessed by people in any country with no boundaries. Still, there is one thing that could be an obstacle in transferring knowledge from different countries, which is the language. Therefore translation plays a highly important role to avoid the distortion of meaning received by those who read or access the information (Nida, 1964; Al-khresheh & Almaaytah, 2018).

The translation is key to global communication. These days, almost all sectors of human's life need translation (Newmark, 1981 & 1988; Alghamdi, 2014; Nazzal, 2012). Whether in the fields of education, tourism, or information media. In the case of information media, the need for information and knowledge has become a fundamental necessity for a modern society which are not only obtained through educational institutions, or the mass media such as magazines and newspapers, we could also easily get knowledge through the access of the internet. This has resulted in the emergence of website portals that provide various information and knowledge such as news, sports, entertainment, including religious knowledge (Mollanazar, 2001; Jacobson, 1986; Xiao-jiang, 2007; Holt, 2004).

To the access to religious knowledge, by the means of the internet, it is easier for Muslims to obtain information and knowledge about Islam. If in the past we gained knowledge about Islam only by reading books or coming to the assembly of religious teachers and clerics, presently, Islamic knowledge can also be accessed via the internet. Many website portals provide the Islamic-learning contents, and one of them is Islamqa.info, the da'wah site that has a vision of being an encyclopedia of Islam (Basha, 2011). The purpose of this site is to offer a consultation where Muslims can get answers to their problems related to the Islamic view. This site is supervised by Sheikh Muhamad bin Saleh-Munajjid hafizahullah. What makes this site different from some websites about Islam, in general, is that this site has many versions of the language in which the original is in the Arabic version. One of the translated languages provided is Indonesian. The existence of this Islamqa.info site is a good way for Indonesians to get knowledge directly from Arab sheikhs without having to go to study there and meet them face to face. The translated information made Indonesian Muslims easier to understand. But how is the quality of the translation done by the Islamqa.info website? And what translation techniques were used in translating each sentence?

Research Gap

Islamqa.info is a useful site for people who want to learn and understand the teachings of Islam directly from Arab sheikhs without having to go to study there and meet them face to face. Whereas the presence of translations in various

languages is an added quality of this website however, the authenticity of those translations is not validated. How is the quality of the translation done by the Islamqa.info website? And what translation techniques were used in translating each sentence? Answering these questions is vital as due to the structure and basics of Arabic and Indonesia language, the messages or content can be misinterpreted. This is considered important to know whether the translation techniques on the website are correct and the quality of the translation is good or not, so the information received by Arab readers who use Arabic is the same as those who read the Indonesian version. According to [Handoyo \(2015\)](#), The translator's awareness of the quality of the translation will drive him/her to find the best way to transfer the message.

The objective of the Study

The objective of this research is to analyze and discuss the translation quality and the translation techniques on Islamqa.info website which originates from Arabic as the source language (SL) to Indonesian as the target language (TL), taking into consideration that languages are linguistically different from each other ([Al-khresheh, 2015, 2016A, 2016B](#)).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The translation is not a simple process. Even though there are various translation technologies nowadays, it doesn't necessarily mean that it can be used freely. The reason is that there are differences in the characteristics of each language which is not always detected by machine ([Hatim, & Munday, 2004; Hannouna, 2004](#)). In this case, the role of a translator is very important. According to Neubert as quoted by [Nababan \(2008\)](#), there are several requirements that a person must have to be able to translate: linguistic competence, textual competence, scientific competence, cultural competence, and transferring competence.

[Newmark \(1988\)](#) wrote that A translator has to have a flair and a feel for his language. There is nothing mystical about this 'sixth sense', but it is compounded of intelligence, sensitivity, and intuition, as well as of knowledge.

A translator is also required to look for the equivalent of one language to another appropriately ([Ghazala, 1995; Denkowski, 2015](#)). So a translator should have extensive insight and knowledge about the grammatical of both languages in the level of words, phrases, and sentences. One thing that needs to be considered in translating a sentence is the sentence's type ([Ilyas, 2013; Al-Muhannadi, 2006](#)). [O'Brien \(2009\)](#) wrote on Grammar Evolution, that the division of sentences according to its function or content consists of (1) Interrogative sentence, (2) imperative sentence, (3) exclamatory sentence, and (4) declarative sentence. Besides the grammatical aspects, language external factors, such as culture is another element that must be considered by translators. According to [Gaber \(2005\) and Dingwaney and Maier \(1995\)](#), translations are never produced without culture or politics and cannot be separated from the context in which the text originated.

In the translation activities, a translator also needs to sort out the translation techniques that will be used to fit the context of the existing sentences to produce a good quality translation ([Hatim & Mason, 1990](#)). According to [Suryawinata & Hariyanto \(2003\)](#), the translation technique is divided into Literal, Addition, Subtraction, Transposition, Borrowing, Cultural Equivalent, Descriptive Equivalent, and Componential Analysis, Synonymy, Synonymy, Depreciation and Extension, Modulation, and Official Translation.

A translation quality, according to [Nababan \(2012\)](#), could be rated based on three instruments:

1. An instrument for assessing the accuracy of the message.
2. An instrument for assessing the level of acceptance of translation.
3. An instrument for assessing the level of readability of the translation.

Each of the assessment instrument consists of three parts. The first part shows the translation category. The second part is the score or number with a scale of 1 to 3, which is sorted according to the inverted pyramid, in which if a translation is more qualified the score is also higher and vice versa. The third part is a qualitative parameter from each translation category. The three instruments are presented below:

Table 1: Instrument for Assessing the Accuracy of Translation

Translation Category	Score	Qualitative Parameters
Accurate	3	The meaning of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, or texts of the source language is accurately transferred into the target language; there is no distortion of meaning.
Less Accurate	2	Most meanings of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, or source language texts have been accurately transferred into the target language. However, distortions or translations of multiple meanings (taxa) or removal of meanings, which interfere with the integrity of the message still can be found.

Not accurate	1	Meaning of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, or texts from source languages are diverted inaccurately into the target language or omitted (deleted).
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The instrument above was used for assessing the accuracy of the translation following a scale of 1 to 3. The higher the score given by the assessor, the more accurate the translation is.

Table 2: Instrument for Assessing the Acceptance Level of Translation

Translation Category	Score	Qualitative Parameters
Acceptable	3	Translation feels natural; technical terms are commonly used or familiar to readers; the phrases, clauses, and sentences used are following the rules of the target language.
Less Acceptable	2	In general, the translation feels natural; but there is a slight problem with using technical terms or there is a slight grammatical error.
Unacceptable	1	The translation is not natural or feels like a machine works; technical terms are not commonly used or unfamiliar to the reader; the phrases, clauses, and sentences used are not by the rules of the target language

The instrument was used as a guide for the assessor in determining the level of acceptance of the translation.

Table 3: Instrument for Assessing the Readability Level of Translation

Translation Category	Score	Qualitative Parameters
High Readability Level	3	Words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, or translated texts can be easily understood by the reader.
Moderate Readability Level	2	In general, the translation can be understood by the reader; but certain parts must be read more than once to understand the translation.
Low Readability Level	1	The translation is difficult for readers to understand

The third instrument used was an instrument to determine the level of readability of the translation, which is also based on a scale from 1 to 3.

The calculation of the final translation quality score was as followed:

Table 4: Instrument's Value

Instrument	Value
Accuracy	3
Acceptance	2
Readability	1
Total Worth	6

Formula:

$$1. \quad \text{Accuracy} = \frac{\text{Total score}}{\text{Total data}} \times 3$$

$$2. \quad \text{Acceptance} = \frac{\text{Total score}}{\text{Total data}} \times 2$$

$$3. \quad \text{Readability} = \frac{\text{Total score}}{\text{Total data}} \times 1$$

$$\text{Total Score} = \text{Accuracy Score} + \text{Acceptance Score} + \text{Readability Score}$$

$$\text{Quality Score} = \frac{\text{Total score}}{\text{Total Value}}$$

(scale from 1 to 3)

The data examined in this study were divided into primary data and secondary data. Primary data includes 1) Linguistic data, i.e. all data included in the "Education" section on the Islamqa.info/id, and 2) informant data, namely the results of the questionnaire from the rater about the accuracy, acceptance, and readability. Meanwhile, secondary data in this study are all information relating to the Islamqa.info/id website and Islamqa.info/ar.

As for previous researches have been done in the field of translation quality assessment whether they were AAR-based (Accuracy, Acceptability, and Readability) or ACR-based (Accuracy, Clarity, and Readability), (Dhyaningrum, 2016; Ardi, 2016; Rosita, 2017). The three studies discussed translation quality assessment categories in different objects which were social texts and novels translation. These studies also revealed the relation between translation quality and the translation techniques used in literary works.

METHODOLOGY

Qualitative research, as [Nassaji \(2015\)](#) said, however, is more holistic and often involves a rich collection of data from various sources to gain a deeper understanding of individual participants, including their opinions, perspectives, and attitudes. Qualitative research collects data qualitatively, and the method of analysis is also primarily qualitative. This often involves an inductive exploration of the data to identify recurring themes, patterns, or concepts and then describing and interpreting those categories. Of course, in qualitative research, the data collected qualitatively can also be analyzed quantitatively. This happens when the researcher first examines the qualitative data thoroughly to find the relevant themes and ideas and then converts them into numerical data for further comparison and evaluation. In such research, the data may be collected qualitatively, but it is often analyzed quantitatively, using frequencies, percentages, averages, or other statistical analyses to determine relationships.

Since this was a descriptive qualitative research, we chose data sources that represent the information needed with sampling techniques. Therefore, the selected data is used as the samples. Criteria in the selection of data are all sentences based on their functions including interrogative, imperative, exclamatory, and declarative sentences. The informants are experts in their fields, who have adequate competence in providing an assessment of the translated text. The informants consisted of 3 raters with these criteria: 1) mastering Arabic and Indonesian well; 2) have an Arabic educational background, minimum Undergraduate/Bachelor Degree; 3) have knowledge and experience in the field of translation; and 4) willing to be a rater and help to contribute in this research. Professions of the rater include lecturers of Arabic major and Indonesian students who live in Saudi Arabia.

Data acquisition was done by content analysis technique which is a variation of the document analysis. In the implementation, the content analysis in this study was carried out b 1) reading three articles in the rubric "Education", both on the Arabic and Indonesian versions of the site, and understanding the context in the article; 2) collecting and classifying sentences based on the sentence function; 3) analyzing the translation techniques used in translating the articles, and 4) analyzing the effect of the application of translation techniques on the quality of translation.

The questionnaire was used to collect data to obtain information that can be considered in conducting the analysis. In this study, the questionnaire aimed to obtain data on the level of accuracy, acceptance, and readability. Information was obtained by giving questionnaires to raters. The questionnaire contained closed questions with a limited choice of answers. The score of translation quality was associated with sentence complexity and translation techniques.

RESULTS

To examine the results of the translation, it was necessary to explore how the writer in the source articles constructed his sentences in a text. This study also analyzed the sentences used by the author and how the translator reconstructed them in the text of the target language. This is because sentence construction in the target language is very influential on the quality of the translation, especially in the readability aspect. If the sentence construction in the source language text was very complex and was left alone in the target language text, it was possible to make the translation readability being rated low. Readers will find it difficult to understand. Therefore, the sensitivity of the translator was also needed to decide whether a sentence in the text should be diverted in the target language by maintaining its original structure, or should the sentence be changed for the sake of the translation readability.

Table 4: Sentence Types Used

Sentence Type	Amount	Percentage
Declarative	64	81.01%
Interrogative	11	13.92%
Exclamatory	3	3.80%
Imperative	1	1.27%
Total	79	100%

The second thing that was considered in defining the translation quality in this paper was translation techniques.

Compared to such research which analyses the website's translation, [Rachmawati \(2016\)](#) found the most used technique in translating WordPress site is borrowing technique followed by literal, calque, reduction, and transposition. While in this research, the researchers identified translation techniques used in [Islamqa.info/id](#) from its source in [Islamqa.info/ar](#). Through the analysis of 79 data, it was found that the most used technique in the three articles was literal technique, consisted of 46 data (34.07%), followed by borrowing technique with 34 data (25.19%), and the third was modulation technique that used in 26 data (20.74%).

The complete results of the translation techniques found in this research can be seen in the following table.

Table 5: Translation Techniques Used

Translation Technique	Amount	Percentage
Literal	46	34.07%
Borrowing	34	25.19%
Modulation	28	20.74%
Transposition	11	8.15%
Addition	10	7.41%
Synonym	4	2.96%
Substraction	2	1.48%
Total	135	100%

The analysis showed that the majority of translations on the website Islamqa.info/id were sourced from Islamqa.info/ar by translating the words according to the meanings in the dictionary (literal). The second most used technique was borrowing. Translation of sentences containing religious terms was mostly done by borrowing Arabic words to use it in the Indonesian. This was caused by the complexity of the information structure in Islamic expression so that it was felt easier to use the native language instead. The modulation technique occupied the third position in the frequency of its application. Most data was translated using adjustments in word selection through shifting so the information contained in the target language can be understood while at the same time keeping its meaning. Another used technique was transposition. Transposition techniques were needed since the source language system is different from the target language. Sometimes, the transposition technique was used by shifting the structure of the sentence by breaking it up, because the sentence was too long and could cause low readability.

As mentioned previously, translation quality must meet three aspects: accuracy, acceptance, and readability (Nababan et al., 2012). These three aspects are interrelated. If a translated text has high accuracy, its acceptance and readability will follow. From the results of the analysis of translation data in this study, the quality of the translation of articles in the rubric "Education" on the website Islamqa.info/id got a score of 1.91.

This, of course, could not be separated from the application of translation techniques in translating from the source language to the target language. The dominant techniques that contributed positively to the quality of translation in this study were modulation, synonym, and addition. The dominant techniques in influencing the poor quality of the translations were literal and borrowing. Here is the example of data in each category based on the ratings:

1) Accurate

Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Technique(s)
There is no doubt that he must apply the laws of Islam	There is no doubt that he has to uphold Islamic sharia in his household.	Modulation, synonym, borrowing, addition

The sentence above was rated as an accurate translation because the meaning could be fully conveyed. There was also an addition in the sentence that made the meaning received better by readers from the target language.

2) Less Accurate

Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Technique(s)
Look at the great friends and their scholars, such as Abu Bakr, Omar, Ali, Moaz, Ibn Masood, and Zaid ibn Thabit; how are they?	Look at the great companions and their scholars, such as Abu Bakr, Umar, Ali, Muaz, Ibn Masud, Zaid bin Thabit, how are they?	Modulation, borrowing, literal

The sentence above was included in the a less accurate because the meaning of the source languages is not well conveyed in the target language the word 'they' to be translating more specifically as 'their conditions' not just translated literally as 'they'.

3) Not Accurate

Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Technique(s)
How do we <u>make</u> educators?	How do we <u>become</u> educators?	Literal

The sentence above was classified as an inaccurate sentence because the purpose of the source base was not conveyed properly. There is a word that was not translated correctly, it is 'we make' but the translator translated the word with 'we become'.

4) Acceptable

Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Technique(s)
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So it is more important for a Muslim to stay away from the marriage with the woman of the Book, but if he still wants to, it is not forbidden, if all the conditions are met.	So a Muslim should stay away from the marriage with the woman of the Book (Christians and Jews) but if he still wants to, it is lawful, if all the requirements are met.	Modulation and addition
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The translator applied a modulation technique to translate this sentence. By using this technique, there were several adjustments such as 'it is not forbidden' that translated into 'it is lawful'. The translation structure was also following the target language structure which made the sentence acceptable.

5) Less Acceptable

Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Technique
And whoever neglected the education of their children what is good for them, and left them in vain: he offended him in a very offended way.	And whoever careless in educating their children from things that are useful and leave it without direction, then really the father has treated badly for his child at the peak of badness.	Addition and literal

The sentence above is less acceptable because the structure and terms used are uncommon in the target language. As in the phrase 'treated badly for his child at the peak of badness'. should be translated as 'treated his child in the worst way' (Verb + Direct Object + Adverb).

6) Unacceptable

Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Technique(s)
This is the piety of the pious among the children of the scholars and pious people and this is the path of kindness carried out by scholars and educators.	This is the piety of the pious among the children of the scholars and pious people and this is the path of kindness carried out by scholars and educators.	Borrowing and literal

The sentence above is not acceptable because the phrase 'this is the path that' didn't need the word 'that'. The sentence is quite redundant too. It should be simplified as 'the piety of the pious people'.

7) High Readability Level

Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Technique(s)
He is the one who ultimately owns the decision about his life.	It is he who ultimately had to decide on his life choices.	Modulation

The sentence above is an example of a high readability level because the sentence can be understood easily by the reader, and it was correct to use the modulation technique which adjusted the phrase 'owns decision' as 'decide' while the literal meaning is 'owns decision'.

8) Moderate Readability Level

Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Technique(s)
Thus, it becomes clear that the core of the divine education and its basis is in the education at once, not just a silent symbolic theory of the nature of charity.	Thus, it becomes clear that the core of the divine education and its basis is in the education at once, not just a silent symbolic theory of the nature of charity.	Literal and borrowing

The sentence above rated as moderately readable because there is an inaccurate choice of words that confused this part: with knowledge good deeds, or by teaching it. because the translator used literal technique.

9) Low Readability Level

Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Technique(s)
Well-taught people are those who are close to Allah the Exalted, with knowledge, good deeds, or by teaching it.	Well-taught people are those who are close to Allah the Exalted, with knowledge, good deeds, or by teaching it.	Literal and borrowing

The sentence above got a low readability rate because it was difficult to understand since there are many terms that are not widely used in target language such as 'silent symbolic'. Also, some words are not written correctly according to the target language's rule that could confuse the reader.

CONCLUSION and IMPLICATION

This study provides useful insights for both scholars and practitioners. It is concluded that the final score of the Islamqa.info/id ``Education" rubric's translation quality is 1.91 (from scale 1 to 3) which means the translation done on

the website needs some improvements to be more acceptable and understood by the reader of Indonesian speakers. Moreover, in the three articles, the declarative sentence was the most used type of sentence, consist of 64 data from 133 data or 81.01%. Meanwhile, the most commonly used translation technique is a literal technique in the amount of 34.59%. The results of this research could be considered for those who work on a website translation job, from Arabic to Indonesian, in particular. According to this study, the modulation technique can be the better way to be used instead of literary technique due to lots of differences between Arabic and Indonesian such as grammatical structure and form of expressions. The implication of this research for translators, language scientists, researchers, teachers, or students is to make a good quality translation with high accuracy, acceptance, and readability score, a translator should be aware of internal and external aspects of the target language--not the source language only, since this research found that one expression could be commonly used in one language yet strange for other language's use.

LIMITATION AND STUDY FORWARD

This study investigated the translation technique used by Islamqa.info and its accuracy; however, few limitations are present in this study which must be addressed in the future. This study only focused on the translation technique for Arabic to the Indonesian language. Islamqa.info offers translation in multiple languages including Turkish, Urdu, French, Persian etc. Scholars must also investigate the accuracy and validity of translation techniques followed for these languages and suggest useful steps to make the content and translation of this website more beneficial for people. This will enhance the credibility of the content of Islamqa.info. Moreover, other Islamic websites offering translation services must also be investigated and compared with Islamqa.info to get a holistic view.

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AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

All authors made useful contributions to this study. Nandang Nursaleh formulated the first draft of this study and collected data. Fira Pujia Nuraini and Bayu Sekar Sari worked closely with the translators, collected data through questionnaires, and worked on data analysis. Muhammad Zulfi Abdul Malik assembled the results and refined the write-up and prepared it for publication.

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