

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE TRANSLATION OF
COMPUTER-RELATED TERMINOLOGY IN A
COMPUTER MAGAZINE:
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
CHIP COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION MAGAZINE**

BY

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**Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Arts**

June 2008

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

PRAISE BE TO ALLAH MOST GRACIOUS AND MOST MERCIFUL

Special mention of thank to my husband Ahmad Ridza Bin ABD Aziz for his encouragement, love, and patient during the completion of this study and to my beloveds Muhammad Nabeel and Khalil Ghufuran. You are my sunshine.

My special acknowledgement conveyed to my supervisor, Prof. Madya Dr. Tengku Sepora bt. Tengku Mahadi for her kindly advice, support, guidance, inspiration and for her pleasant time spent to read and comment my thesis. Without her encouragement and guidance, this study is impossible to be completed.

My appreciation is also extended to people at the Centre for Language and Translation for those who has provided a lot of assistance to finish this research.

Last but not least, my deepest thank also goes to some friends of mine at USM who has shared joyful days and to library staff who are very kind in helping me during my study at the University Sains Malaysia. Their help and understanding mean a lot to make this study possible.

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KAJIAN TERHADAP PENTERJEMAHAN ISTILAH KOMPUTER DALAM MAJALAH KOMPUTER: KHUSUSNYA MAJALAH CHIP COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION

ABSTRAK

Perkembangan teknologi komunikasi dan informasi (ICT) di Indonesia telah memungkinkan komunikasi serta merta dalam dan luar negara. Edaran maklumat juga dijadikan lebih baik. Namun, meskipun perkembangan ICT membuka banyak peluang, masih terdapat satu halangan yang besar dalam komunikasi alam siber. Halangan ini berbentuk rintangan bahasa. Lemahnya penguasaan bahasa Inggeris dalam kalangan masyarakat Indonesia tidak membolehkan mereka mencapai peluang sedia ada. Oleh itu, Kerajaan Indonesia melalui Dekri Presiden No. 44/M/KP/IV/2001 telah mengarahkan teks-teks komputer dan yang berkaitannya dalam bahasa Inggeris (dan bahasa-bahasa lain) diterjemahkan ke dalam bahasa Indonesia.

Oleh kerana bidang terjemahan teks komputer sangat penting di Indonesia, lebih banyak penyelidikan harus dijalankan. Kajian tesis ini berupa satu usaha untuk meneliti sejenis terjemahan komputer. Ia menfokuskan penterjemahan istilah komputer dalam konteks majalah hobi khusus yang mempunyai ramai pembaca dan disebar luas di Indonesia yang bertajuk *CHIP Computer & Communication*. Penyelidikan ini mengamati kaedah-kaedah dan prosedur-prosedur penterjemahan yang digunakan dalam menterjemah artikel-artikel majalah tersebut. Ia juga bertujuan mengenalpasti sama ada senarai padanan istilah yang dikeluarkan oleh Pusat Bahasa (MABBIM) mempengaruhi kerja penterjemahan teks sebegini. Kerangka teori yang digunakan untuk analisis ini berasaskan dua teori utama iaitu teori Newmark, dan Vinay dan Darbelnet. Secara umum, didapati

prosedur yang paling sering digunakan oleh penterjemah-penterjemah artikel-artikel majalah yang dipilih adalah prosedur pinjaman.

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE TRANSLATION OF COMPUTER-RELATED TERMINOLOGY IN A COMPUTER MAGAZINE: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CHIP COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION MAGAZINE

ABSTRACT

The development of information and communication technology (ICT) in Indonesia has enabled almost instantaneous communication within the country and globally. Information dissemination is also enhanced. Nevertheless, even though possibilities and opportunities have been created by this development, there is still a big barrier in cyberspace communication. This takes the form of a linguistic barrier. The lack of proficiency in English among Indonesians prevents them from grabbing opportunities. Hence, the Government of Indonesia through the President's Decree No. 44/M/KP/IV/2001, ordered texts involving computer and related fields to be translated from English (as well as other languages) into Bahasa Indonesia.

Due to the importance of computer-text translation in Indonesia, more research on this area becomes crucial. The present study is an attempt to examine only one type of computer translation. It specifically focuses on the translation of computer terminology in the context of a computer special-interest magazine that is widely read and distributed in Indonesia entitled CHIP Computer & Communication. The study examines the translation methods and procedures used in the translation of articles in this magazine. It also tries to determine the impact the standardized terminology list published by *Pusat Bahasa (MABBIM)* Indonesia has on the translation of a computer text of this kind. The theoretical framework used for the analysis is based primarily on the theories put forward by

Newmark, and Vinay and Darbelnet. In general, the findings show that the procedure of borrowing is most preferred by the translators of the various issues of the magazine.

CHAPTER 1- INTRODUCTION

1. 0 Background of the Study

Globalization has been an ongoing process for some time, blurring the national boundary of each country with the increasing volume of international movements of people and goods via physical transportation or electronic means, and often by both. One implication of globalization has been increased interactions among people who do not understand one another's language. Cross-border business negotiations or the sale of products in overseas markets have so far required professional language assistance for face-to-face meetings or marketing materials in different languages. In addition, the incredible development of the computer technology present today's companies with the opportunity to reach around the world to find new markets for their products. In order to grasp this chance, many companies in every country including Indonesia develop their local computer equipment 'both hardware and software' to make access for their customers easier. Since the development of the computer technology (IT) industry has been so rapid, the number of new words for new concepts in technical computing and acronyms has been increasing immensely. Due to the growing internationalization of business, new English terms are exported to other countries where English is not the usual language. The technical computing terminology causes communication difficulties among the computer language professionals, particularly for those translators, web editors, computer programmers and even technical writers who do not have much knowledge of technical terminology. Moreover some marketing people turn everything upside down, naming things based on how high-tech and sexy they sound. And, the worst of all is naming specific technologies

with generic words. Therefore, to overcome the difficulty of communication translation and interpretation are required.

The government of Indonesia realizes that computer is now becoming a prevalent communication means and channel across a wide range of economic sectors as well as among individuals. In order to dominate the global economic sectors, Indonesia should be able to have a very good information communication technology (ICT). One of the government initiatives in developing ICT in Indonesia is by having the computer language translated. Any language that is related to computer equipment, such as software, hardware, mainframe, 3Q virus wifi, and Bluetooth, should be in Bahasa Indonesia. Bahasa Indonesia should also be the language of computer manuals.

Many books, journals, leaflets, manuals and magazines on the computer are published in Bahasa Indonesia, either by the government body as the official body or by private agencies in order to empower the people with a good skill on computer application. Otherwise Indonesians will be left behind in the computer technology industry. The Indonesian government initiated the use of computer language in Bahasa Indonesia in order to help people who do not master English to use the computer in their activities. Consequently, many English computer terms have been rendered into various different Indonesian translations.

The impact of computer based infrastructure in Indonesia stimulates the development of translation business extensively. It is unquestionable that the industry of translation from English into Bahasa Indonesian is increasingly becoming a topic of much concern and importance. It is reasonable as science and technology develop dramatically, new English words used to express new concepts, techniques, and inventions come into existence. The rapid development of these words during the last decades causes the

dictionaries to be less in power. Consequently, this development has brought to Indonesians serious linguistic problems of expressing this ever-expanding wave of newly-founded concepts and techniques for which no equivalents in Indonesian exists. Therefore, translators no doubt encounter some difficulties and problems in translating the technical texts, particularly computer-related texts. Translating computer-related texts still poses a major intellectual challenge. As Nida (1964:223) says in his discourse on scientific translation:

“If however, the translation of the scientific texts from one language to another participating in a modern culture development is next to difficult. It is not surprising that the converse is true – that translating specific material from a modern Indo – European language into a language largely outside the reach of western science is extremely difficult. This is one of the really pressing problems confronting linguists in Asia today”.

Generally speaking, technical translation in Indonesia becomes a prerequisite not only for the acquisition of technology, but also its introduction, installation, and operation as well. The huge need for the newest knowledge on the computer technology from the West has caused the work of translation to become a commercial industry.

Many private agencies try to translate and publish the newest and up-to-date computer books, computer magazines, and computer journals into Bahasa Indonesia not only for educational purposes but also for information resources. Therefore, it is very easy to find popular translated computer books or magazines in bookstores or stationery shops in Indonesia.

Among these computer magazines, *CHIP Computer & Communications* is one of the most popular computer magazines that can be found easily in Indonesia. This special interest magazine is published by Vogel Burda Group of Germany in 17 countries including

Indonesia. The magazine was launched in September 1978. In some countries such as in USA, Canada, Singapore, and Malaysia the magazine is published in English, while in other countries, the magazine is published in their own native languages. In Indonesia, the edition of the *CHIP Computer & Communication* is a publication of *PT Elex Media Komputindo* under licensed by *Vogel Burda Holding GmbH, 80336 Munich/Germany*. It contains a big number of articles that discusses the latest and the most accurate information and knowledge about computer technology and other multimedia communication science.

According to the *CHIP Computer & Communications* managing editor; Andre M. Mantiri, about 60% of the magazine articles are taken, adopted and translated from the German edition/ publication and 40% of the articles come from local authors. The editor confirms that even though the articles come from Germany, they are written in English.

The publication of the *CHIP Computer & Communications* magazine in Indonesia is encouraged fully by the government as it can overcome the difficulties of computer users in learning and understanding the computer. Hopefully the magazine can provide up to date information and knowledge so that the readers can follow the computer technology development or ICT all over the world. Publishing the magazine in Bahasa Indonesia is in line with the Ministry of Research and Technology Republic of Indonesia's instruction No.44/M/KP/IV/2001 to encourage the use of computer application in Indonesia should be in Bahasa Indonesia.

1.1 Details of Research

1.1.1 Research Objectives

From the researcher's observation, *CHIP Computer & Communication* magazine in Indonesia contributes significantly to the Indonesian computer industry. It is of benefit computer users in Indonesia as well as other multimedia users. As one of the essential

references, *CHIP Computer & Communications* is a good source of computer science which meets the need of readers. For that reason, it should be translated into Bahasa Indonesia accurately to ensure that the intended messages are channeled through appropriately, clearly, and naturally.

Skimming the Indonesian *CHIP Computer & Communication* magazine, the presence of English computer terms is evident. These English computer terms are seen in almost every article. It may be because of the high demand for the translation of technical materials or texts, computer texts in particular, that still causes difficulty for translators. It can be said that only a limited number of terms have been compiled in terminology lists. It is impossible to keep up with the pace of the growth of computer science. New terms crop up every single day, while the list of standardized terminologies is left several years behind. This is understandable as compiling and standardizing the terminology takes time. Translators cannot wait for standardized terminology; otherwise translation will not be possible or effective. Translators, of course, in overcoming the untranslatability of the terms might try to rely on or think of various translation procedures such as coinage, borrowing, calque, compensation, paraphrase, and use of translators' note.

The present thesis in the next few chapters will examine the validity of this first impression. This research tries to find out whether the first assumption is true or not and tries to confirm whether translators apply certain translation procedures and not employ direct borrowing. It also intends to determine whether the translators borrow all the computer terms or only certain computer terms.

This study is also aimed at finding out whether the computer terminology list published by Indonesia's central language body, *Pusat Bahasa*, helps the translators of the *CHIP Computer & Communication* magazine and whether they use the standardized

terminology published by *MABBIM* in translating English computer-related terms into Bahasa Indonesia. In addition, this research will also try to investigate the translation methods and procedures used in translating the computer-related terms and, specifically, whether direct borrowing is the most prevalent translation procedure used.

To achieve the said objectives, several research questions are posed. This study is intended to explore and answer the research questions detailed in the next sub-section and highlight the problems that are likely to be encountered in English – Indonesian computer terminology translation and tries to identify certain procedures that exist which may finally lead to some hypotheses or theory for this type of translation. The study also proposes a model for English- Indonesian technical translation with further attempts driving at a more extensive study.

The researcher is keen on choosing *CHIP Computer & Communication* magazine as research material due to it being one of the most popular international magazines and the most widely used among computer users in Indonesia. Besides, it is found that there has been no study to date on the translation of serious hobby magazines into Bahasa Indonesia such as this, particularly with respect to the translation of terminology in them. Thus, to accommodate terminology given the fast growing interest in computer science, it seems justifiable and necessary that a study such as the present be carried out. At the very least, this study can give an understanding of the challenges of translating a computer magazine particularly. Some helpful hints to terminology translation may also be arrived at and subsequently translation quality in Indonesia with respect to terminology can be raised.

1.1.2 The Research Questions

This study is going to answer and investigate the following research questions.

1. To what extent is the computer-related texts translation considered difficult?
2. What are translation methods used by the translators in translating the texts?
3. What are the translation procedures applied and used by the translators in translating computer-related terminologies?
4. What are the contributions of the computer terminology list published by *MABBIM* or Pusat Bahasa to the translation of the *CHIP Computer & Communications* magazine?

1.1.3 The Research Limitation

The discussion of this research is limited to the translation of computer-related terminology in the *CHIP Computer & Communication* magazine. The study is focused on the translation methods and procedures used by the translators of this magazine. The theoretical framework for the discussion of the translation in the target text is based on Vinay and Darbelnet's pioneer work *Stylistique Comparée du Français et de L'anglais (SCFA) (1958)*. Based on Molina and Albir (2002), their work was the first classification of translation techniques that had a clear methodological purpose. Their theories and some other experts' theories that have referred to Vinay and Darbelnet's is theory elaborated in Chapter 3 of this thesis.

1.1.4 Justification for Choice of Data

The choosing of the Indonesian *CHIP Computer & Communication* magazine articles to be analyzed as the corpus of this study is because of several reasons:

1. The magazine articles represent texts for public consumption which means that the readers are not a specialized group of people; they are laymen who are interested in computers and other multi media. These magazine articles are expected to be more general in nature.
2. *CHIP Computer & Communications* is a world wide published magazine. So a parallel version in English is easily accessed as a form of comparison for the analysis of the computer terminologies.
3. CHIP Computer and Communication magazine is being widely distributed in Indonesia especially among Indonesian computer and other multimedia users. It is one of the most popular and best seller magazines especially among the young executive and teenage readers in Indonesia.

1.1.5 Organization of the Study

This study will be organized into six chapters. The first chapter is divided into two sections; the first section is a brief description of translation of computer terminology in Indonesia. This section is followed by the research objectives, research questions, and justification of the data choice and the organization of the study. The second section contains some background information on Bahasa Indonesia which is aimed at enabling the reader to have a general idea of it.

Chapter 2 presents a brief discussion of the development of translation activity and also the standardization of Bahasa Indonesia and terminology in Indonesia in an attempt to give a general view to the reader.

Chapter 3 is the elaboration of relevant literature and theoretical review of work done in relation to the topic of the research. Some theories in domains of technical translation,

computer language and translation procedures are presented in order to support the researcher statements.

Next, Chapter 4 is the description of the theoretical framework and methodology of this study. The textual analysis and data collection procedure is also explained in detail in this chapter. Then Chapter 5 embodies the data analysis and discussion of the results of the investigation. Last, Chapter 6 provides the conclusions and suggestions from this study. It is followed with the references and appendices.

1.2 Bahasa Indonesia in a Nutshell

1.2.1 Bahasa Indonesia

Although over 730 separate languages are spoken throughout the country, the language of Indonesia is Indonesia (Bahasa Indonesia). The ISO 639-3 name for this language is Indonesian, and the ISO 639-3 code for it is 'ind'. Due to Indonesia's diversity, only around 22 million people speak Indonesian as a first language, while over 140 million people speak it as a second language.

Indonesia chooses *Bahasa Melayu* as national language on October 28, 1928, at the Youth Congress in Jakarta which was then to become *Bahasa Kesatuan* for the entire Indonesian. The national language of Indonesia is Bahasa Indonesia as specified in article 26 of the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia:

“The national language of Indonesia shall be the Bahasa Indonesia or the Indonesian Language. In the areas possessing languages of their own which are actively used by the people concerned (for instance, Javanese, Sundanese, Madurese, and so forth), those languages will be respected and also cared for by the State. Those languages are part of the living culture of Indonesia.”

The language continued to develop and is now known as Bahasa Indonesia. Indonesian is the standardized dialect of the Malay language that was officially defined with the declaration of Indonesian independence in 1945, and the two languages Indonesian and Malay remain quite similar. Bahasa Indonesia is a normative form of the Malay language, an Austronesian (or Malayo-Polynesian language which had been used as a lingua franca in the Indonesian archipelago for centuries, and was elevated to the status of official language with the Indonesian declaration of independence in 1945, drawing inspiration from the *Sumpah Pemuda* (Youth's Oath) event in 1928. It is very similar to the official Malaysian form of the language. However it does differ from the Malaysian form in some ways, with differences in pronunciation and also in vocabulary, due in large part to the many Dutch words in the Indonesian vocabulary. To a certain degree, Indonesian can be regarded as an *open language*. Over the years, foreign languages such as Sanskrit, Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese, Dutch and English have enriched and expanded the Indonesian language, mostly through trade contacts and international media.

Because of its semi-open status, Sneddon (2004) cites "There are those whose regard Indonesian (as well as Malaysian and other forms of Malay) as being "soulless" or lacking in sufficient vocabulary and specialist terminologies". Yet, according to him, some linguists consider this view to be a common fallacy or misconception, not perceiving the openness of the Indonesian language as an indication of soullessness nor a lack of native terms, as a vast majority of foreign adopted words do have native equivalents. For example, the word *asimilasi* (from the Dutch word *assimilatie*) can also be communicated in its native Indonesian form - *penggabungan*. Many words describing more modern inventions, objects or ideas are often Indonesianised adoptions of foreign words (e.g. computer is simply *komputer*), although many of these words also have native Indonesian translations

or equivalents as well. For example, a "cell/mobile phone" can be referred to in Indonesian as either *pon-sel/ telepon seluler* (lit. cellular-telephone), *HP* (pronounced hah-péh - the acronymic form of **hand phone**) or *telepon genggam* (lit. "hold-in-the-hand telephone"). Other words such as "rice cooker" may be referred to simply as "rice cooker" or, again, in a more native Indonesian/ Malay form, i.e. *penanak nasi* (a word formed from the verb *menanak*, meaning 'to cook rice by boiling' + *nasi*, meaning 'cooked rice'). Overall, the use of native and non-native words in Indonesian is equally common and reflects the country's efforts towards modernization and globalization.

Farber (1991) states that "Many aspects of Indonesian grammar are relatively simple to grasp, particularly in comparison to languages such as English and, at a basic level, it is often considered one of the easiest languages to learn for adult foreigners". It is mostly due to the fact that Indonesian does not recognise verb tenses or participles, plural forms, articles and gender distinction for the third person pronouns. In addition, Indonesian is generally regarded as easy Asian languages to learn, mostly because they are not tonal languages and they no longer use complex characters within their writing system, but rather utilize the Latin alphabet.

Bahasa Indonesia is very straightforward and free of most of the irregularities and annoyances of the Roman languages. Compared to European languages, Indonesian has a strikingly small use of grammatically gendered words; the same word is used for him and her or his or her. Most of the words that refer to people (family terms, professions, etc.) have a form that does not distinguish between the sexes; for example, *adik* can both refer to a younger sibling of either gender; no distinction is made between girlfriend and boyfriend. In order to specify gender, an adjective has to be added: *adik laki-laki* corresponds to brother but really means male younger sibling. There is no word like the English man that

can refer both to a male person and to human being in general. However, there are some words that are gendered, for instance *putri* means daughter, and *putra* means son; such words are usually absorbed from other languages in this case Sanskrit through the Old Javanese language.

Plural are expressed by means of reduplication, but only when the plural is not implied in the context. Thus person is *orang*, and people is *orang-orang*, but one thousand people is *seribu orang*, as the numeral makes it unnecessary to mark the plural form (reduplication also has many other functions).

The basic word order is SVO. Verbs are not inflected for person or number, and there are no tenses; tense is donated by time adverbs such as yesterday or by other tense indicators, *sudah*, meaning already.

On the other hand, there is a complex system of verb affixes to render nuances of meaning and denote active-passive voices. Such affixes include prefixes, infixes, suffixes, and their combinations; all of which are often ignored in daily conversation.

Indonesian as a modern dialect of Malay has borrowed heavily from many languages, among them: Sanskrit, Arabic, Portuguese, Dutch, Chinese and many other Austronesian languages. It is estimated that there are some 750 Sanskrit loanwords in modern Indonesian, 1000 Arabic (Persian and some Hebrew) ones, some 125 Portuguese also Spanish and Italian ones and a staggering number of some 10,000 loanwords from Dutch. The latter also comprises many words from other European languages, which came via Dutch, the so-called “International Vocabulary”. The vast majority of Indonesian words, however, come from the root lexical stock of its Austronesian heritage.

Although Hinduism and Buddhism are no longer the major religions of Indonesia, Sanskrit which was the language vehicle for these religions, is still held in high esteem and

is comparable with the status of Latin in English and other West European languages. The loanwords from Sanskrit cover many aspects of religion, art and everyday lives. The Sanskrit influence came from contacts with India long ago from the beginning of the Common Era. The words are either directly borrowed from India or with the intermediary of the old Javanese language. The old Javanese-English dictionary by Prof.P.J.Zoetmulder, S.J. (1982) contains no fewer than 25,500 entries. Unlike other loanwords, Sanskrit loanwords have entered the basic vocabulary of Indonesian, so by many these are not felt as foreign anymore.

The loanwords from Arabic are mainly concerned with religion, in particular with Islam, as can be expected. Much early bible translation, when they came across unusual Hebrew words or proper names, used the Arabic cognates. In the newer translations this practice is discontinued. They now turn to Greek names or use the original Hebrew.

The Portuguese loans are common words, which were mainly connected with articles the early European traders and explorers brought to Southeast Asia. The Portuguese were among the first westerners who sailed east to Spice Island.

The Chinese loanwords are usually concerned with cuisine, trade or often just exclusively things Chinese. This is the considerable Chinese presence in the whole of Southeast Asia. According to the Indonesian government, the relative number of people of Chinese descent in Indonesia is only 3.5%. Whether this is true or not is still a matter of debate, many think the number is much higher.

The former colonial power, the Netherlands, left an impressive vocabulary. These Dutch loanwords, and also from other non Italo-Iberian, European languages loanwords which came via Dutch, cover all aspect of life. Some Dutch loanwords, having clusters of

several consonants, pose difficulties to speakers of Indonesian. This problem is usually solved by insertion of the schwa. For example Dutch *schroef* [ˈsxruf] in Indonesian *sekrup* [səˈkrup].

As modern Indonesian draws many of its words from foreign sources, there are many synonyms. As an example Indonesian has three words for book, i.e. *pustaka* from Sanskrit, *kitab* from Arabic, and *buku* from Dutch. These words have, as can be expected, slightly different meanings. A *pustaka* is often connected with ancient wisdom or sometimes with esoteric knowledge. A derived form, *perpustakaan* means a library. A *kitab* is usually a religious scripture or a book containing moral guidance. *Buku* is the most common word for book.

In addition, there are also direct borrowings from various languages in the world mostly; English and Japanese have been the language of greatest influence in modern times. In addition, Greenbury (2004) claims that Bahasa Indonesia is very limited, not very flexible and its initial vocabulary is very basic.

In recent years, to catch up with more modern language development, it has derived words from foreign languages, mainly English.

1.2.1.1 The Phonology

The following are phonemes of modern Indonesian.

Table 1.1 The Indonesian Modern Vowels

	front	central	back
close	: i		u :

Close-mid	e	ə	o
Open-mid	()		()
open	a		

Indonesian also has the diphthongs /ai/, /au/, and /oi/. In closed syllables, such as *air* (water), however, the two vowels are not pronounced as a diphthong.

Table 1.2 The Indonesian Consonants

	Labial	Apical	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m	n		ɲ	ŋ	
Plosive	p b	t d			k g	ʔ
Affricate			tʃ dʒ			
Fricative	(f)	s (z)	(ʃ)		(x)	h
Liquid		l r				
Approximant	w			j		

Note: The vowels between parentheses are allophones while the consonants in parentheses are *loan phonemes* and as such only occur in loanwords.

1.2.1.2 The Pronunciation

The pronunciation of Indonesian in some alphabets is different from English.

1. /k/, /p/, and /t/ are unaspirated, i.e. they are not followed by a noticeable puff of air as they often are in English words.
2. /t/ and /d/ are dental, rather than alveolar as in English.
3. When /k/ is at the end of a syllable it becomes a glottal stop, which sounds like it is cut off sharply e.g. *baik*, *bapak*. This is similar to a number of English dialects where final /t/ is glottalized ("got", "what"). Only a few Indonesian words have this sound in the middle, e.g. *bakso* (meatballs), and it may be represented by an apostrophe in Arabic derived words such as *Al Qur'an*.
4. The letter 'c' in a word is never pronounced as a 'k' or 's' e.g. kucing (meaning cat) is pronounced kushing.
5. Stress is placed on the penultimate (second-to-last) syllable of each base word. But if this syllable contains a schwa then the accent moves to the last syllable.

1.2.1.3 Word Formation

Indonesian is an agglutinative language and new words are generally formed via three methods. New words can be created through affixation (attaching affixes onto root words), formation of a compound word (composition of two or more separate words), or reduplication (repetition of words or portions of words).

1.2.1.4 Adjective

Unlike in English, adjectives in the Indonesian language follow nouns.

Table 1.3 The Use of Adjective in Sentences

Indonesian	Literal English word order	Normal English translation
<i>Ini buku merah</i>	This is a book red	This is a red book
<i>Ia adalah orang terkenal</i>	He is a person famous	He is a famous person
<i>Ini buku saya</i>	This is book my	This is my book

1.2.1.5 Compound Words

In Indonesian, new words can be formed by conjoining two or more base words. Compound words, when they exist freely in a sentence, are often written separately. Compound words are only attached to each other when they are bound by a confix or when they are already considered as stable words. For example, the word *rumah* which means *house* and *makan* which means *eat*, are compounded to form a new word *rumah makan* (restaurant). Similarly, *ambil alih* (take over) is formed using the root words *ambil* (take) and *alih* (shift), but will link together when a circumfix is attached to it, i.e. *pengambilalihan* (takeover). Certain stable words, such as *kakitangan* (personnel), and *kerjasama* (co-operation; corporation), are spelled as one word even though the words they consist of can also exist freely in sentences.

1.2.1.6 Demonstrative Pronouns

There are two kinds of demonstrative pronouns in the Indonesian language. *Ini* (this, these) is used for a noun which is generally near to the speaker. *Itu* (that, those) is used for a noun which is generally far from the speaker. There is no difference between singular form and the plural form. However, plural can be indicated through duplication of a noun followed by a demonstrative pronoun. Also, the word *yang* is often placed before

demonstrative pronouns to give emphasis and a sense of certainty, particularly when making references or enquiries about something/ someone.

1.2.1.7 Verbs

Verbs are not inflected for person or number, and they are not marked for tense; tense is instead denoted by time adverbs (such as "yesterday") or by other tense indicators (sometimes referred to as aspect particles), such as *belum* (not yet) or *sudah* (already). On the other hand, there is a complex system of verb affixes to render nuances of meaning and denote active-passive voices. Such affixes include prefixes, infixes, suffixes, and their combinations; all of which are often ignored in informal conversations.

1.2.1.8 Writing Systems

Indonesian is written using the Latin alphabet. It is more phonetically consistent than many languages—the correspondence between sounds and their written forms is generally regular.

Consonants are represented in a way similar to Italian, although *c* is always /tʃ/ (like English "tch"), *g* is always /g/ ("hard") and *j* represents /dʒ/ as it does in English. In addition, *ny* represents the palatal nasal /ɲ/, *ng* is used for the velar nasal /ŋ/ (which can occur word-initially), *sy* for /ʃ/ (English "sh") and *kh* for the voiceless velar fricative /x/. Both /e/ and /ə/ are represented with an *e*.

One common source of confusion for foreign readers, particularly when reading place names, is the spelling changes in the language that have occurred since Indonesian

independence. Old spellings are: *oe, tj, dj, j, nj, sj*. And *ch*. Then these spellings are changed into: *u, c, j, y, ny, sy, and kh*. The first of these changes (*oe* to *u*) occurred around the time of independence in 1947; all of the others were a part of an officially-mandated spelling reform in 1972.

Some of the old spellings, which were more closely derived from the Dutch language, do survive in proper names; for example, the name of a former president of the Indonesia is still written *Soeharto*, and the central Java city of Yogyakarta is sometimes written *Jogjakarta*.

CHAPTER 2

THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSLATION IN INDONESIA

The demand for translation is increasing significantly in Indonesia currently. It becomes one of the interesting and beneficial activities for professional and amateur translators. Catford (1965: vii) argues that translation impressed not only translators but also some linguists, philosophers, psycholinguists, language teachers, and even mathematicians and computer scientist as well. In addition Chakraborty (1976:5) states that:

Translation is an important activity with high cultural significance..... Thus translators are among the oldest profession. They first liquidated the void of the linguistic space translators are, then, the annihilators of the void created by linguistic time.

Translation activity in Indonesia has existed for such a long time. Some Arabic books which are related to Islam, for instance, had been translated into *Jawi* (the script for writing Malay and Indonesian with Arabic letters) during the government of Sultan Iskandar Muda in Aceh. Many of books were translated extensively. Almost all scholars of Islam participated cooperatively in the translation. Meanwhile, bible translation started in Indonesia since the 4th century when Christianity came to Indonesia. Bibles were translated by the missionaries who had been living in Indonesia for a long period, while the *Kitab* (religious book for Moslem) were translated by the local Moslem Scholars (Siagian, 1977).

In the 1980s translation activity in Indonesia did not develop well for certain reasons; the development of science and technology was slow. Small contact with the other countries and the development of the country seemed to be little inactive particularly during

the two decades after independence. During this era the translation of foreign texts into Bahasa Indonesia was relatively very limited, (Alisyahbana, 1984).

Even though the Indonesian government was deeply concerned about translation, its contribution to the international translation scene was relatively insignificant. Translation progress in Indonesia was quite inconsistent due to certain interrelated factors. At the same time, the education and culture department was making a great effort to empower translation activities in order to achieve satisfactory results by allocating huge funds. Several lecturers were appointed to translate scientific books with very high payment. According to Amran Halim (1983), the director of Indonesia Language Centre, the official body, translated books were unpublished for they needed to be edited and revised. Editing was an obstacle as the cost was very high.

The development of translation activities in Indonesia during 1980s period was very slow mainly due to lack of encouragement and motivation from the government. The governments do realize that translating foreign books like what Japan had done, can expand non English speaking people's knowledge in science and technology. In addition, Indonesia as a developing country needs to catch up with the development in the economy, communication and technology sector in order to be equal at the same level with other developed countries. Therefore, Indonesia should adapt science and technology from other countries by translating the foreign books or other publication.

Although during the 1980s the Indonesian language has made tremendous progress and has already been used in all aspects of modern culture life, but not many books have been written and published in the language and so modern Indonesian intellectuals still have to depend largely on foreign writing and publication. In addition, the government of Indonesia claims that Indonesian scientists are left behind because they are incapable of

reading the foreign books. Moreover, Soedjatmiko (1984) suggests that Indonesia's scientists collaborate with NGOs in order to support the activity of translating the foreign books and publication. It is in line with Alisyahbana's (1984) statement in his paper that:

“Masih tahun ini saya dihadapan parlimen berusaha meyakinkan parlimen akan perlunya kita melakukan terjemahan itu secepat mungkin dan seluas mungkin, tetapi saya sangat menyesal mendengar menteri P dan K enggan melakukannya dengan mengemukakan bahwa di Indonesia ada penerjemah-penerjemah yang pandai tetapi mereka terlalu sibuk sehingga usaha penerjemahan besar-besaran itu tidak dapat dilakukan.” (still in this year, in front of the parliament I tried to convince the parliament that we need to do translation as soon as possible and extensively, but I was upset hearing that the minister of education and culture is reluctant to do so by saying that in Indonesia there are some qualified translators but they are too busy therefore, the extensive translation can not be done).

Besides the limitation of translated books available in Indonesian market, the quality of those translated books were also questioned. Based on S. Belen (1983 cites in Alisyahbana 1984) that the quality of translated books in Indonesia was very low in standard. It was very difficult to find good quality translated books in the bookstore or stationery shop in Indonesia due to the fact that Indonesia lacks professional and qualified translators. Many literary texts particularly novels and poems that have been translated by non-men of letters were mistranslated, so their esthetic and literal value was not transferred into the target language. Indeed, those translations were mostly for commercial purposes.

Generally speaking, timing is one of the main obstacles in translating the books or publications as science develops rapidly and extensively. It happened often that before the translation of a book is completed, the revised edition version becomes available in the market; the translators therefore become unsure whether to proceed or stop, (Soemarwoto, 1984).

Simson (1984:30) cites “The advantages of translation study are as a means of communication, as the aid to eliminate misunderstanding due to cultural differences and to

prevent war among nations”. Realizing how important the study of translation is in order to increase the quality of translation in Indonesia, the educational department of Indonesia has been starting to include translation study at university level since 1970. *Universitas Nasional Indonesia* (Indonesian university), Fakultas Sastra (literature Faculty) was the first pioneer that tried to provide formal education for translation study. However, very few students were interested in it. Only a few students registered for the translation. In the mean time, IKIP ((institute of teacher training and education) and FKIP (faculty of teacher training and education) tried to include translation as one of the compulsory subjects for English department students. The curriculums for translation subject differed from one IKIP/FKIP to another. Some IKIPs or FKIPs emphasize more on theory of translation but some emphasize on the skill and some emphasize on both the skill and theory. However, FKIPs or IKIPs were unable to produce qualified and professional translators (Zuchridin, 1982). It is understandable as FKIP or IKIP’s main goal was not to train or educate translators.

Alfons Taryadi (2003), Chairman of Indonesian Translators' Association (HPI) states:

“In order to improve the quality of translation in Indonesia, the translators should motivate themselves to study continuously in line with the Translator's Code of Conduct. The translator should have professional excellence and intellectual-moral integrity. For this purpose, the translators' associations and centers of translation are expected to work together with any book associations and universities providing the translation teaching and editing to improve the quality of such learning facilities as seminar, discussion and training on translation and editing”.

To improve and increase the quality of translation in Indonesia, not only the translators or translators’ organization but also the government of the Republic of Indonesian should be proactively involved.