

**A TRANSLATION ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH MODAL VERBS
IN *THE FIRST PHONE CALL FROM HEAVEN* NOVEL INTO *TELEPON
PERTAMA DARI SURGA* BY JULANDA TANTANI**



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IN *THE FIRST PHONE CALL FROM HEAVEN* AND ITS TRANSLATION**

by

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Abstract

The research paper analyzes English modal verb in *The First Phone Call from Heaven* and its translation. The study aims (1) to clarify the translation variations of English modal verb in the novel *The First Phone Call from Heaven* and its translation and (2) to describe the accuracy of the translation in the novel.

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative research. The object of the study is the novel entitled *The First Phone Call from Heaven* and its translation. The data of this study is English modal verb found in *The First Phone Call from Heaven* novel. Data source used in this research are the documentation of the data research paper and the informants. The researcher uses document, and questionnaire, in collecting data. The data are analyzed by using comparing method.

Based on the analysis, there are 4 types of English modal verb. They are English modal verb translated into Indonesian modal verb consist of 280 data or 63,6%, 8 data or 1,8% English modal verb translated into adverb, 28 data or 4,1% English modal verb translated into adjective and 124 data or 28,1% deleted or omitted.

In their accuracy, from 440 English modal verb there are 93 data or 21,1% accurate, 344 data or 78,2% less accurate and 3 data or 0,7% not accurate. It can be concluded that from 440 data English modal verb translation variations are less accurate.

Keyword: *translation, English modal verb, translation variation, accuracy*

A. Introduction

Translation is the solution in understanding the books or other materials or even the conferences as the supporting sources for the development of technology and science which are very important for all the people in the world. However, many of those books and materials are published in foreign language, also, many meetings or conference are using foreign language which cannot be understood by the people who do not use that language as the means of communication in their daily life.

In this case, they need a bridge to bring them to reach a successful communication which does not consist of misunderstanding in it. The bridge is a translation process because by translating one language to another language people can get a successful communication. According to Catford, “translation is an operation performed on languages: a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another” (1978: 1). It can also be said that translation is a process of transference of a message from a source language (SL) into a target language (TL) which considers the SL’s message and the style of the SL’s language very much (Nababan, 1999: 19).

Catford (1965: 20) states that “Translation may be defined as follows: the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent material in another language (TL)”. It can be proved by the following examples taken from *The First Phone Call from Heaven* novel. In this research the researcher is interested in analyzing the translation of English modal verbs found in novel, for example:

SL : He **could** have borrowed his father’s car.

TL : *Dia semestinya bisa meminjam mobil ayahnya.*

From the examples above, English modal verb *could* is translated into *bisa* which has dynamic modality. *Bisa* is stated Indonesian modal verb, because *could* followed by the first verb *have*. In target language also explains the ability meaning as it is stated in the source language, and both represented equivalent meaning.

SL : “Give me his number, I’ll call him”

TL : “*Beri aku nomornya, aku akan meneleponnya*”

While, English modal verb *will* is translated by the translator into *akan*. Because *will* followed by the first verb *call*. The translation is appropriate since *will* in the source language has futurity meaning. That is variation of English modal verbs.

The aims of this study are (1) to clarify translation variations of English modal verb in the novel *The First Phone Call from Heven* and its translation and (2) to describe the accuracy of the translation in the novel. The analysis of English modal verb translation will focus on the translation variation and the accuracy of itself.

To prove the originality of this study, the writer will show some previous studies that have been done. It is conducted by Arsih (Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, 2008), entitled *A Translation Analysis of English Modal Verb in Alice in Wonderland film and its translation*. This research analyzes the data in term of translation variations of English modal verbs, analyzes the data to determine the dominant translation variations of English modal verbs, and analyze the meaning of English modal verbs. The result of the research show that 1) there are three variations of translation English modal verb. English modal verb is translate into adverb, adjective, modal verb 2) the dominant translation variation of source language (English) into the target language (Indonesian). (3) there are seven variation meanings of English modal verbs and their translation: ability meaning, possibility meaning, futurity meaning, certainty meaning, permission meaning, obligation meaning, and willingness meaning. Previous study has similarity with the research about translation variations of Modal verb. However, the data are different. Arsih takes the object from film, while the researcher takes the object from novel.

To measure this study, there are several theories relate to this study. Larson (1984: 3) explains that "Translation is basically a change of form. When we speak of the form of a language, we are referring to the actual words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, etc., which are spoken or written. These forms are referred to as the surface structure of a language. Another definition of translation was also

proposed by Catford, he stated about the definition of translation that says: “Translation is an operation performed on languages: a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in other” (Catford, 1965: 1). He also added: “Translation can be defined as follows: The replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL)” (Catford, 1965: 20). According to Nababan (1997: 20-33) that there are three types of translations. Those kinds of translations are word-forward Translation, literal translation, free translations are word-forward translation, literal translation, and free translation

Equivalence is very important in translating a language into other languages; it lies between the source and the target language. According to Catford, it is possible to generalize the condition for translation equivalence as follows: “Translation equivalence occurs when a SL and a TL text or items are relatable to (at least some of) the same features of substance” (Catford, 1965: 50).

Translation shifts is a changing of form when it is translated from the source language into target language. Catford, explained the definition and concept of translation shifts. He stated that: “By ‘shifts’ we mean departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from the SL to the TL” (Catford, 1965: 73). Further, Catford stated about the relationship between translation shifts and formal correspondence. He also divided translation shifts into two major types. He stated that two major types of shift occur; they are category shifts and level shifts (Catford, 1965: 73).

The qualified translation has 3 aspects, there are an accurate aspect, an acceptable aspect, and readable aspect (Nababan, 2012:44). According to Nababan (2012: 44) accuracy aspect is a translation aspect used to evaluate translation based on source language and target language text. A text can be called as a translation, if a text has a meaning or similarity message with the other text (source language). The level of translation accuracy can be defined score 3 meaning of the word, term of technique, phrase, clause, sentence or source language is changed into accurate target language. Score 2 almost all of the Meaning of the word, term of technique, phrase, clause, sentence or source language changed into accurate to target language. But, still has two meanings of translation or deletion that disturbed the totality of

message. Score 1 Meaning of the word, term of technique, phrase, clause, sentence or source language is changed into not accurate target language or even deleted.

Related to this object of the study, English modal verb, According to Kosur (2009: 1) states that “Modal verbs express modality, which is loosely defined as the grammatical expression of the subjective attitudes and opinions of the speaker including possibility, probability, necessity, obligation, permissibility, ability, desire, and contingency. In general, modal verbs expresses speaker’s attitude by using the language whether the statement which contain modal verbs is meant to give advice, ask, permission, state necessity and express obligation or probability. Moreover, the use of modal auxiliary verbs also indicates the level of stress in speaker’s attitude by the use of language expression. Based on the above statements, the writer can conclude that English modality, expression can be recognized from their verb which is called *modal verbs or modal*. In this research, the researcher uses modal verb terms, while in Indonesia modality, the researcher uses Alwi’s term (1992: 13), that is modality expression. The use of modal verb can express speaker’s attitude, so that the speaker’s is involved in this expression. In English modality, the researcher discusses modality expression which uses modal auxiliaries or modal verbs, that are primary modal verb which consist of can, may, must, shall, will and secondary modal verbs which consist of could, might, ought to, would, and should (Kosur, 2009: 3). In Indonesian modality, Alwi (1992:258) states that “in Indonesian, modality is included in semantic category since it is related to speaker’s attitude toward preposition or non actual- event”. Preposition means meaning unity as a content of expression that can be conveyed its truth (Alwi, 1992: 40).

B. Research Method

This study uses descriptive qualitative research method in purpose to clarify English modal verb translation variations and also to analysis the accuracy of English modal verb translation variations in the novel. The objects of study is *The First Phone Call from Heaven* novel and its translation. The data used in this study are English modal verb found in *The First Phone Call from Heaven* novel. In this study, the writer uses documentation, and questionnaire as the processing of method of

collecting data. Then, the writer compares the English and Indonesian novel to analyzing the data.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

From the analysis data, the writer gets 440 data English modal verb. 440 data English modal verb translation has their variations and accuracies. It can be explained below:

1. English modal verb translation Variation

They are divided into 3 types of English modal verbs, then it is elaborated as follows:

a. English Modal Verbs Translated into Indonesian Modal Verb

The researcher analyzes types of English modal verbs in the following classification:

002/TFP/002/TPS/009

SL: Suddenly Jack **couldn't** hear the other men.

TL: Mendadak Jack **tak bisa** mendengar suara orang-orang lainnya.

Base on the text above, *could* is modal verb because *could* in source language is followed by infinite "hear". *Could* here has ability meaning. To translate English modal verb *could* the translator uses the word *bisa*. *Bisa* in the target language is modal verb since it is included in dynamic modality. *Bisa* can be replaced by other expression such as *dapat*. *Bisa* has ability meaning, and the translation above represents equivalent meaning.

b. English Modal Verbs Translated into Indonesian Adverb

English modal verb which translated into Indonesian adverb *seharusnya* that can be seen as follows:

091/TFP/033/TPS/049

SL: He knew he **should** be sharing this with Doreen—maybe with others too.

TL: Dia tahu dia **seharusnya** membagi pengalaman ini dengan Doreen—
mungkin dengan orang—orang lainnya juga.

The translator translates English modal verb *should* into Indonesian adverb *seharusnya*. *Should* in the example above is stated English modal verb because *should* is followed by the first verb that is *be*. *Seharusnya* is stated Indonesian adverb because it explains that “He knew he should be sharing this with Doreen”. *Should* include “obligation” meaning. Both the source language (SL) and target language (TL) have equivalence meaning. Both of them belong to variation of English modal verb which is translated into Indonesian adverb.

c. English Modal Verb is Translated into Indonesian Adjective

The analyzes of English modal verb which is translated into Indonesian adjective *mungkin* can be seen as follows.

022/TFP/013/TPS/023

SL: You **might** think that after ten months in prison.

TL: Padahal kau **mungkin** mengira setelah sepuluh bulan di penjara.

Might in the example above is English modal verb. It is stated English modal verb. In the source language *might* is translated into adjective *mungkin* . It means this variation of translation belongs to the variation of English modal verb which is translated into adjective. *Might* in the example above is “possibility” meaning. Both source language (SL) and target language (TL) belong to thanking form, the translation of modal verb *might* into *mungkin* does not change the message contextually.

2. The Accuracy of English Modal Verbs

The classification of accuracy is divided into three classification. They are as follows:

a. Accurate Translation

A translation is judged to be accurate, if the meaning of the word, term of technique, phrase, clause, sentence or source language is changed into accurate target language. For example:

001/TFP/001/TPS/008

SL: I'll get back to you as soon as I **can**, thanks.

TL: Aku **akan** meneleponmu kembali secepat **mungkin** . Trims.

In the examples above, it can be seen that the translation of the source language and the target language are already accurate. The translator has delivered the message to the target language in the same way as that of in the source language. There is no message that is lost and there is no deviation in the message transferred.

b. Less Accurate

According to accuracy scale, the less accurate data means that almost all of the meaning of the word, term of technique, phrase, clause, sentence or source language changed into accurate to target language. But, still has two meanings of translation or deletion that disturbed the totality of message. For example:

005/TFP/003/TPS/010

SL: Warren wondered if he **should** call someone for help.

TL: Warren mengira-ngira dalam hati, apakah dia **harus** memanggil seseorang untuk membantu.

In the example above, the sentence is less accurate because in here the translator translated the sentence “Warren wondered if he **should** call someone for help” into “Warren mengira-ngira dalam hati, apakah dia **harus** memanggil seseorang untuk membantu.” In the target language “dalam hati” there are additional words in the sentence. So, this translation is less accurate.

c. Not Accurate

According to accurate scale, not accurate data means that the meaning of the word, term of technique, phrase, clause, sentence or source language is changed into not accurate target language or even deleted. For example:

048/TFP/021/TPS/032

SL: “I **must** insist!”

TL: “Saudara-Saudara!”

From the example above, there was no translation of the same meaning in the source language and the target language. So, the example above is called inaccurate translation. The rater gave score 1 means that this sentence especially English modal verb **must** not translated or deletion.

From the data analysis, the researcher provide the discussion in form of recapitulation of the data analysis. The recapitulations are shown as below:

Table 1

The Percentage of English Modal Verb Translation Variations

| No | Categories of sentence | Amount of Data | Percentages |
|-------|---|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | English modal verbs translated into modal verbs | 280 | 63.6% |
| 2 | English modal verbs translated into adverb | 8 | 1.8% |
| 3 | English modal verbs translated into adjective | 28 | 4.1% |
| 4 | English modal verbs deleted or omitted | 124 | 28.1% |
| Total | | 440 | 100 % |

Table 2

Accuracy of Translation

| No | Classification | Score | Among of data | percentages |
|----|----------------|-------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 | Accurate | 3 | 93 | 21.1% |
| 2 | Less Accurate | 2 | 344 | 78.2% |
| 3 | Not Accurate | 1 | 3 | 0.7% |
| | Total | | 440 | 100% |

D. Conclusion

Based on the result of the analyzed data, the writer comes to the conclusion as follows.

1. From 440 data, there are 4 types of modal verbs, namely English modal verbs translated into modal verbs, English modal verbs translated into adverb, English modal verbs translated into adjective, and English modal verbs deleted or omitted.
 - a. There are 280 data or 63.6% from 440 data of English modal verbs translated into Indonesian modal verbs.
 - b. There are 8 data or 1.8% from 440 data of English modal verbs translated into Indonesian adverb.
 - c. There are 28 data or 4.1% from 440 data of English modal verbs translated into Indonesian adjective.
 - d. There are 124 data or 28.1% from 440 data of English modal verbs deleted or omitted.
2. From 440 of accuracy translation, there are 3 types used by the translator in translating novel the *The First Phone Call from Heaven* into *Telepon Pertama dari Surga*, namely accurate, less accurate, and inaccurate.
 - a. There are 93 data or 21.1% of accurate translation used by the translator in transferring SL in TL.
 - b. There are 244 data or 78.2% of less accurate translation used by the translator in transferring SL in TL.
 - c. There are 3 data or 0.7% of inaccurate translation used by the translator in transferring SL in TL.

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