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**AN ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES IN MEDICAL NEWS TODAY  
ENTITLED “WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT MALARIA”*****Orvin Grendi Putri K.****Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta*[grendyhirata@gmail.com](mailto:grendyhirata@gmail.com)**ABSTRACT**

The aim of conducting this study is to find and analyze the translation techniques used in medical text in form of article entitled what to Know about Malaria. In examining the translation of the text, this study uses the translation techniques proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet. This is a descriptive qualitative study using document analysis that consists of finding, selecting, appraising (making sense of), and synthesizing data contained in documents (Bowen, 2009). The result of the study shows that the dominant technique used in translating the text is literal translation with the percentage 31.25% followed by borrowing which is 25%. Literal translation is mostly used since some parts of the text contain simple structures that is easier to be translated directly. Meanwhile, borrowing relates to the use of medical terms in the text. Some terms have longer description when they are translated into TT (Indonesian), so that borrowing is used to make it more efficient.

*Keywords: article, medical news, translation techniques*

**INTRODUCTION**

As one of the deadliest diseases in the world, malaria becomes a serious concern. It is a major global health problem with an estimated 3.9 billion people living at risk of malaria infection (Guntur et al., 2021). Based on the World Health Organization (WHO) data in the World Malaria Report (2020) Indonesia takes place as the second country in Southeast Asia region that has the highest number of malaria cases. In tropical country like Indonesia which has two seasons, the wet and the dry season, climate change may have influence of malaria cases due to changes in malaria vector ecology. Further, Elyazar et al. (2011) elaborate obstacles in malaria control in Indonesia. Malaria case detection is the basic challenge that affects the control. As an archipelago nation that consists of great number of islands, it's quite challenging to detect the active and passive case of malaria in Indonesia. Remote area outside Bali and Java has lack of education of malaria, health workers, health facilities, etc. Thus, to anticipate the increasing cases of malaria, there's training given by the Ministry of Education and Culture in collaboration with the local primary health center for the teachers. The training materials include malaria knowledge, detection, treatment, and prevention. Another problem of malaria case detection refers to migration surveillance. Elyazar et al. (2011) state that the mobility of people among Indonesia's thousand islands is difficult to control. This also impacts the transmission of malaria, so the detection becomes harder.

It's previously explained that the control can be done through malaria education. This is needed to build people awareness or knowledge on malaria, so they can do early action or prevention in their environment. In the era of technology, we can easily find information from various media in either spoken or written form. Since malaria is classified into global health problem, the information of malaria also appears in different languages. English as lingua franca is applied widely in the brochure, online newspaper, medical text or other media as massive campaign to overcome the problem. Thus, translation contributes important role to transfer the message from source language (SL) or source text (ST) into target language (TL) or target text (TT).

Translation as a process of transferring meaning or message involves activity of interpreting or analyzing a text, spoken language, sign, or gesture. The result of this activity produces the product of translation that give us advantages. According to Newmark (1987) the purpose of translation theory is to be of service to the translators. It connects the theory and practice. He stated that since the aim of translation is conveying information or convince the reader, a method of translation must be 'natural.' The level of naturalness refers to the relationship between translation theory and the use of language in reality. In other words, it binds translation theory to practice. The remainder of the translating theory is in essence psychological which connects the relationship between language and 'reality'.

However, translation is seen as a process or an activity that relies on the meaning based on dictionary (Restiana & Nugroho, 2021; Nugroho et al., 2017). Nida (1982) says that translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. This relates to the role of translators in analyzing or interpreting the meaning of ST into TT and their strategy in finding the best term or closest meaning to be used. In reproducing the meaning, translators are able to make good lexical and grammatical adjustments. In producing a good translation, especially a medical text, a translator must have ability to present the same or close information, so it's understandable or acceptable for the target readers. Translator must be able to use the right translation techniques to have a positive influence on the level of accuracy and acceptability of the translation (Restiana & Nugroho, 2021; Rongre & Saleh, 2018). During the process, translator may find difficulties due to the word choice, limitation of words both of ST and TT, different culture views, etc. Therefore, strategies or techniques are needed to be the references in producing a good translation

As mentioned earlier, translator may face difficulties in translation process due to the words choice, limitation of words both of ST or TT, different culture views, etc. Techniques describe the result obtained and can be used to classify different types of translation solutions (Kembaren, 2018; Molina dan Albir, 2002). There are many translation techniques offered by prominent figures. The study tends on Vinay and Darbelnet's translation techniques (1958) consisting of (1) literal translation that is the direct transfer of a SL text into a grammatically and idiomatically appropriate TL text in which the translators' task is limited to observing the adherence to the linguistic servitudes of the TL. Literal translation is limited to the words translation; it focuses on the forms or structure only without adding explicit aspect, it tends on word-for-word translation (2) borrowing is that when equivalence is not possible at the word level, we can borrow words from source language and use them in target language. Borrowing is taking word from another language directly. Borrowing may occur when there is limitation of words in TT or some terms are set to be patent. Sometimes, translators borrow the words from ST because the words in TT are longer than ST (3) calque that refers to foreign word or phrase translated and incorporated into another language. Calque is similar to literal translation. The difference is literal translation relates to sentence translation and calque relates to phrase translation (4) transposition that is the transformation of a ST word into another grammatical category in TT for equivalency in meaning. This technique belongs to a shift of word class; the verb for noun or noun for preposition, etc. (5) modulation that is the change in the point of view or image due to the difference between linguistic system and culture (6) equivalence that accounts for the same situation using a completely different phrase, e.g., the translation of proverbs or idiomatic expressions (7) adaptation that includes anything from the transcription of the original, to updating a translation, omission, expansion, exoticism or situational equivalence. Adaptation is shift in cultural environment, i.e., to express the message using a different situation, e.g. cricket for the English and baseball for the American (8) paraphrase that refers to restatement of a text. Translators use their own words or ideas to convey the

meaning or message (9) compensation that is a procedure by which translators add information, such as linguistic, cultural, and stylistic in one part of the TT which was lost in another part of the ST to avoid translation loss. An item of information or a stylistic effect from the ST that cannot be reproduced in the same place in the TT is introduced elsewhere in the TT (10) expansion or amplification that is the use of a greater number of words in the TT than in the ST. Amplification occurs when the TT uses more signifiers to cover syntactic or lexical gaps. (11) explication that tends on the specificity. Explication is to introduce information from the ST that is implicit from the context or the situation (12) under translation that is another term of simplification that is generalization of the ST in the TT because of loss of linguistics or cultural meaning and (13) omission that is a technique that reduces certain elements of the SL. It is also called elimination, omission or subtraction which suppressing a ST information in the TT.

Translating medical text on malaria aims to help the target readers gaining more knowledge or information of what they can do when they face malaria cases in their environment. In translation practice, translator may have choice to use machine as helpful tool. Kembaren (2018) defines machine translation (MT) is an action of fully automatic text translation. The translation is carried out entirely by the computer with no help of human translators. However, the result of using MT is not suitable unless followed by careful human editing. Although MT can easily do the translation, the result tend to be less effective to use because there is a shift in meaning that is not by with the message content from the source language to the target language (Restiana & Nugroho, 2021; Sipayung, 2021). Since the text contains medical terms, the result will be less accurate in target text. Using MT can lead to mistranslation that can lead to misdiagnosis, medication errors, and misdirection of disease prevention that can lead to death (Restiana & Nugroho, 2021; Dharmawan et al., 2019). The translation techniques on medical text become interesting study to conduct. Restina & Nugroho (2021) conducted the study on “Translation Techniques of Medical Terms Found in Covid-19 Guidebook.” The result of the study shows that the translation technique reaches 63,54% as the highest frequency and it’s established equivalence in all categories. The result also presents that the translators are very concerned about the use of grammatical structures in the source language. Since the grammatical structure in the source language is different from the target language, translators also tend to use a more common language taken from the dictionary but equivalent to the target language.

Rongre & Saleh (2018) studied “Word-Level Translation Techniques in Medical Terms from English into Indonesian.” The result of their study shows that the dominant technique used in the translation is borrowing which is 32.63% followed by calque 16.77% and description technique 8.38%. The total of their data is 334. They also did the quality assessment of the translation. The result is accuracy level of the translation showed a highly accurate 80.24% and assessment of acceptability 86.53%. Mostly the techniques used in translating medical terms give a positive influence for the accuracy and acceptability level of translation because the techniques used delivery the same information from the source language into the target language, which is accepted linguistically. Based on the research background above, this study formulates following research question: *What translation techniques are observed in Medical News Today Entitled “What to Know about Malaria?”*

## **METHOD**

This study used descriptive qualitative method. Creswell defines qualitative as a procedure or manner in solving the problem by describing or explaining the data which does not include the numbering calculation (Rongre & Saleh, 2018; Creswell, 2003). On the other hand, Taylor *et al.* (2016) state that qualitative researchers operate within theoretical

frameworks. The goal of qualitative research is to make sure the theory fits the data and not vice versa. The technique of this method is using document analysis. Bowen (2009) states that document analysis is a systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating documents—both printed and electronic (computer-based and Internet-transmitted) material. Documents have many forms such as background papers; books and brochures, summaries; radio and television program scripts, etc. The processes of document analysis consist of finding, selecting, appraising (making sense of), and synthesizing data contained in documents.

The data of the study were taken from medical text entitled *What to Know about Malaria* written by Peter Lam on November 19, 2018, on Medical News Today. To examine the data collection, the researcher used Vinay and Darbelnet's translation techniques. The data are presented in a table to show the dominant technique used in form of number and percentage. Then, the researcher starts analyzing the data by presenting the sentences based on the translation technique they refer to.

## FINDINGS

This section presents the results and the discussions of translation techniques used in a medical text entitled *What to Know about Malaria* written by Peter that published on Medical News Today. The article is about what malaria is, its causes, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and vaccination. The translation of the text is examined by using Vinay and Darbelnet's translation techniques (1958). There are 16 data collected in this study and the translation of the text used 8 translation techniques. The results are presented as follows:

Table 1: Translation techniques used in translating the text

No	Translation Techniques	Frequency	Percentage
1	Literal translation	5	31.25%
2	Borrowing	4	25%
3	Calque	1	6.25%
4	Transposition	2	12.5%
5	Modulation	1	6.25%
6	Adaptation	1	6.25%
7	Paraphrase	1	6.25%
8	Omission	1	6.25%
	Total	16	100%

### Literal Translation

There are 5 sentences used literal translation technique since the translator applied word-for-word translation. Each word of the ST grammatically has the exact meaning and form in the TT.

(1) **ST** (English) : There are several ways to keep malaria

**TT** (Indonesian) : Ada beberapa cara untuk mencegah malaria

(2) **ST**: Over [100](#) types of *Plasmodium* parasite can infect a variety of species.

**TT**: *Lebih dari 100 jenis parasit plasmodium dapat menularkan berbagai macam spesies.*

(3) **ST**: Five [types](#) of *Plasmodium* parasite can infect humans.

**TT**: Lima jenis parasit plasmodium dapat menginfeksi manusia

(4) **ST**: Doctors divide malaria symptoms into two categories: Uncomplicated and severe malaria.

**TT**: Dokter membagi gejala malaria dalam dua kategori : malaria ringan dan akut.

(5)**ST**: The host will have no symptoms for an average of 10.5 days, but the malaria parasite will begin multiplying during this time.

**TT**: Inang tidak akan mengalami gejala rata-rata sampai 10.5 hari, namun parasit malaria akan mulai berkembangbiak selama periode ini. Etc.

Since literal translation is based on the structure, it may help the translators to get the meaning easily. But, in literal translation there is no possibility in adding explicit ideas or thought of the translators. It limits the meaning itself. The translators can't explore more the sentence.

### **Borrowing**

There are some terms that are borrowed from the ST in the text *What to Know about Malaria*, such as:

(6) **ST**: *What to Know about Malaria*

**TT**: Apa yang Perlu Diketahui tentang *Malaria*

(7) **ST**: *Over 100 types of Plasmodium parasite can infect a variety of species.*

**TT**: *Lebih dari 100 jenis parasit plasmodium dapat menularkan berbagai macam spesies.*

(8) **ST**: *Artemisinin is derived from the plant Artemisia annua, better known as sweet wormwood.*

**TT**: *Artemisinin dihasilkan oleh tanaman Artemisia annua, lebih dikenal dengan nama Artemisia absinthiu*

(9) **ST**: *Malaria happens when a bite from the female Anopheles mosquito infects the body with Plasmodium.*

**TT**: *Malaria terjadi ketika gigitan nyamuk Anopheles betina menginfeksi tubuh dengan plasmodium, etc.*

The words *malaria, plasmodium, Artemisinin, and Anopheles* are the examples of borrowing words from ST, since those are the medical terms that are used universally. The translator used the terms as borrowing words because in TT those words have longer meaning or explanation, so to shorten the translation, the translator keeps the original terms as borrowing.

### **Calque**

Categorized as loan translation, there is calque translation in the text used by the translator.

(10) **ST**: *Artemisinin is derived from the plant Artemisia annua, better known as sweet wormwood*

**TT**: *Artemisinin dihasilkan oleh tanaman Artemisia annua, lebih dikenal dengan nama Artemisia absinthiu*

The word *wormwood* in the text doesn't have Indonesian term, so the translator loans another term that *Artemisia absinthiu*. The loan words in calque are not the same in borrowing translation. In calque, TT borrows the terms from another alternative term, not from the ST. As



we can see in the text, TT is not borrowing the word wormwood from ST, but it has another borrowed term.

### **Transposition**

*In the translated text, the translator used some transposition sentences, which change the form. For instances:*

(11) **ST:** *Doctors* divide malaria symptoms into two categories: Uncomplicated and severe malaria.

**TT:** *Dokter* membagi gejala malaria dalam dua kategori : malaria ringan dan akut

(12) **ST:** *The host* will have no *symptoms* for an average of 10.5 days, but the malaria parasite will begin multiplying during this time.

**TT:** *Inang* tidak akan mengalami *gejala* rata-rata sampai 10.5 hari, namun parasit malaria akan mulai berkembangbiak selama periode ini.

The word “*doctors*” (11) in ST is plural, and then in TT it becomes singular form. It is possible to write *para dokter*, the plural form in TT, but it’s more appropriate to just use *dokter*. The word *the host* (12) in ST as a noun phrase becomes noun in TT. In addition, the word *symptom* in ST as plural form becomes singular form in TT. In transposition, the changing is on the word order of the sentence. The difficulty in this technique is when translators are confused the word order in TT, whether it’s adjective or noun or noun phrase.

### **Modulation**

Modulation refers to the words that have implicit meaning which appear in a text. The translator used a modulation technique in the translation.

(13) **ST:** In some malaria-endemic areas, such as sub-Saharan Africa, the disease’s severity can cause mild immunity in a large proportion of the local population

**TT:** Di beberapa wilayah endemis malaria, seperti di sub-Sahara (negara-negara yang tidak dianggap di Afrika Utara), malaria akut dapat menyebabkan imunitas melemah bagi sebagian besar populasinya.

The word *Sub-Saharan Africa* belongs to modulation. As we know that Sub-sahara in Africa is idiom of the countries that are not counted in North Africa, this relates to the term “black land”. Modulation is applied to soften the effect of the sentence by using another implicit word.

### **Adaptation**

Adaptation is adjusting the words from ST into TT. It may have the same meaning, but it will have different form or word. The example of adaptation translation of the text is:

(14) **ST:** Artemisinin is derived from the plant *Artemisia annua*, better known as sweet wormwood

**TT:** Artemisinin dihasilkan oleh tanaman *Artemisia annua*, lebih dikenal dengan nama *Artemisia absinthiu*

The word *wormwood* in ST becomes *Artemisia absinthiu* in TT. Those two words have the same meaning; a plant that rapidly reduces the concentration of *Plasmodium* parasites

in the bloodstream, but they have different terms both in ST and TT. Adaptation adjusts the terms that are used by the people in certain region. In this process, the translators may find out the difficulty in adapting some terms from ST to TT due to different naming on something.

### Paraphrase

After reading the whole sentence, the translator tries to conclude and paraphrasing or restatement the translation. For instance:

(15) **ST:** Deep breathing and respiratory distress

**TT:** Gangguan pernapasan

Paraphrasing can be a problem if the translators do not have enough grammatical mastery both in ST and TT. They will paraphrase freely without knowing what the sentence or text is actually about.

### Omission

During the practice, the translator omitted some unnecessary words to avoid confused translation.

(16) **ST:** Abnormal bleeding and signs of anemia

**TT:** Gejala anemia

The translator omitted the words *abnormal bleeding and signs of anemia* from ST and shortened it to *sign of anemia*, which is in TT *gejala anemia*. Omission helps the translators to consider whether it's necessary or not to use the complement or supported sentence from ST to TT.

### DISCUSSION

Translation as a medium of transferring message or meaning from one to another language gives us the possibility of gaining wider or broader knowledge, since we get the chance to learn other cultures or texts by the translation products. Translating medical gives us advantages to know more about certain diseases like malaria. It presents us more knowledge or information, so that we have awareness of preventing malaria in our environment. However, the translator may find obstacles in translating medical text. Medical language is not only a technical vocabulary, it is also fraught with professional jargon (Trosborg, 1997; Hoof, 1959). The process of translating medical text pushes the translators to be able to convey the message or meaning by their understanding and skill. This is needed because translating medical text has a high risk (Restiana & Nugroho, 2021; Karwacka, 2015). When the translator mistranslates the medical terms, it can be fatal. Therefore, a translator must have a broad basic knowledge of how the body works and the development of disease and have good skills in choosing or using translation techniques (Restiana & Nugroho, 2021; Dharmawan et al., 2019). In relation to this issue, translation techniques are offered to complete the process or to help the translator find the closest message. This study finds out the translator applied Vinay and Darbelnet's translation techniques in translating *What to Know about Malaria* text.

The results of the study show that the translator used 8 translation techniques to complete the translation. Literal translation is the most applied technique followed by borrowing. In literal translation, the SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents, but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context (Newmark, 1988). Literal technique relies on one-to-one translation. Some parts of the text contain simple sentences that make the translator easily find the closest meaning in TT. Further,

borrowing technique was applied in 4 sentences of the text. Since the article is classified into medical text, borrowing seems effective to complete the process of translation. Borrowing is applied when there is limitation of words in TT, or some terms are set to be patent. Medical terms are categorized as patent terms that are used universally, therefore borrowing is applied in translating the text. Based on the findings above, a good translation relies on the knowledge of the translator on finding the right or appropriate message from ST to TT helped by the techniques to complete his/her work. The techniques have significant role to give choices or best ways for the translator in his/her practice.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results that present the translation techniques used in medical text *What to Know about Malaria*, it can be concluded that some parts of the text have simple forms or structures, so the translator applied literal technique in which he/she can translate the sentences directly. The translator focuses on word-for-word translation without adding explicit aspect. In addition, borrowing is applied in the translated text. Some medical terms are universally used, so borrowing gives alternative way for the translator to take word from another language directly. Besides, some words in ST have longer form than ST. Other translation techniques used in the text such as calque, modulation, transposition, etc. also contribute choices in the translation practice, so the translator can produce a good translation.

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