

**THE EFFECT OF USING MACHINE TRANSLATION
TOWARDS THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN TRANSLATING A
TEXT (A Study At Fifth Semester Students Of English
Department In STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa)**

THESIS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	ii
LIST OF TABLE	iv
ABSTRACT	v
CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION	1
A. Background Of Study	1
B. The Problem of Study	4
C. Purpose Of Study	4
D. Significance Of Study.....	5
E. Hyphotesis	5
F. Terminology	5
CHAPTER II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....	8
A. Review of The Previous Researches	8
B. Translation	10
1. Definition of Translation.....	10
2. Methods of Translation.....	13
3. The significance of translation.....	15
4. Kinds of translation.....	17
5. Translation process	18
6. The material taught in translation studies	21
C. Machine Translation.....	21
1. Definition of machine translation	21
2. The approaches of machine translation	24

CHAPTER III. METHODOLOGY	27
A. Location And Time Of The Research	27
B. Population And Sample	27
1. Population	27
2. Sample	28
C. Research Method And Variable	29
D. Steps of The Research.....	29
E. Technique of Collecting Data And Instrument.....	30
1. Instrument	30
2. Validity of Instrument.....	32
3. Reliability of Instrument.....	34
F. Technique of Data Analysis	42
CHAPTER IV. FINDING OF THE RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION....	45
A. Finding of The Research.....	45
1. Analysis of 1st Research Question	45
2. Analysis of 2nd Research Question.....	46
B. Discussion	51
CHAPTER V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION.....	53
A. Conclusion.....	53
B. Suggestion.....	54

REFERENCES

APPENDIX

LIST OF TABLE

Table 3.1 Validity table.....	33
Table 3.2 Computation for machine translation.....	35
Table 3.3 Computation for translation ability	38
Table 3.4 Coefficient Correlation Table.....	44
Table 4.1 Result of 1st Research Question	46
Table 4.2 Result of Variable X and Y.....	46

ABSTRACT

This study investigated the effects of the used in machine translation by the students towards their abilities in translating a text (translation project). The interest in doing this study came to the writer when there were some issues about students who used machine translation in doing their translation project. The population of this study is the fifth semester students of English Department in STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa. The sample was taken by simple random sampling technique. There were 194 students of the fifth semester and the writer took 66 students as the sample by using slovin formula. The technique of collecting data was by using questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted 21 question which has to be answered by the students, question number 1 – 10 were asking about students tendency in using machine translation and number 11 – 21 were asking about their translation abilities. Before the instrument was used, it had been applied a try out. Its main purpose was to find out validity reliability of the item in order to take the qualified instrument to be given to the sample. The technique of analyzing data that was used in this research was the formula of Pearson product moment. The result of this research shown that the used of machine translation affect the students' ability in translating a text. This result obtained from the computation that is 6,90. The critical value of the Pearson r with the 5% significant level is 2,293, it means the result is higher than its critical value. H_a hypothesis of this research is accepted and H_0 is rejected.

KEYWORDS: Translation, machine translation, translation ability

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background Of Study

Translation is one of the most important component that students have to master in english, because without translation students will never be able to understand the language. Translation is also needed to communicate with foreigners, in order to understand what we are saying. It also could be a translation related to job, i.e. as an interpreter (translator). If the students mastered other languages in addition to their mother tongue, then they probably can be a translator for others.

What is generally understood as translation involves the rendering of a source language (SL) text into the target language (TL) so as to ensure that (1) the surface meaning of the two will be approximately similar and (2) the structures of the SL will be preserved as closely as possible but not so closely that the TL structures will be seriously distorted.¹ According to Newmark “translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language”.² So the translation is a communication that uses language that is equivalent to using the meaning of the source language and also an activity of transferring the meaning of the source language into the target language.

Translation is not only about changing the meaning of a source language into the target language, but also translators must know and understand the

¹ Susan Bassnett, *Translation Studies 3rd ed*, (NY: Routledge, 2002), p. 12

² Peter New Mark, *Approaches to Translation*, (Oxford: Pergamon Press, 2001), P.7

structure each language, so that students can translate a source language (SL) text into the target language (TL) correctly. This thing do to help the listener or message receiver get the point of the sayer or message sender correctly and clearly in another language, then there is no any misunderstanding between the listener and the speaker. Eventhough they are talking by using different language.

Translating method is one of the studies which need to be learned by people who want to understand or learn thing in different language with their mother tongue. It becomes a need because they must transfer the meaning or the point that they want to learn before. The purpose of studying translating method is to help them to understand the studies they learn easier.

There is an alternative way to translate text besides using translating method manually which need to be learned and more times to do it. People can use the machine translation, they will find it easily offline or online with the internet connection. The machine translation may help people to translate a text easily and just write down or copy paste the text they want to translate, then the text translated will show up immediately.

The mechanization of translation has been one of humanity's oldest dreams. In the twentieth century it has become a reality, in the form of computer programs capable of translating a wide variety of texts from one natural language into another.³ Since the existance of machine translation, it is easy to translate a text easily even when they have no any knowledge about the language of the texts they translate.

³ W. John Hutchins and Harold L. Somers, *An Introduction to Machine Translation*, (London: Academic Press Limited, 1992), p. 1

In reality, machine translation is still a machine which needs human as the operator, who can differentiate and produce a good translation work. There are no 'translating machines' which, at the touch of a few buttons, can take any text in any language and produce a perfect translation in any other language without human intervention or assistance.⁴ Thus, people still need to learn about language and its things so does translation and its stuffs to help them have more knowledge in language and translation, then they will have a good translation and become a good translator.

Once, the writer of this research found some students of PBI STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa used machine translation to help them do their english tasks, eventhough they have learned translation study. they just do it although the lecture told them not to do so.

The students of PBI should not use any machine translation, it is not only because of the warning from their lectures, but also as english student they should have competence on it and did not use machine translation in doing their tasks since they knew the machine translation will not give a good translation as human do.

It might just because the machine translation are easy in used, people prefer use it to study translating method which need times to learn or it might just because the translating method is kind of complicated thing to learn about for them, including some students who has translating tasks from their lectures.

Since the writer found some students who used machine translation in doing their english tasks, then the writer curious if there are any effect of using

⁴ W. John Hutchins and Harold L. Somers, _____, p.1

machine translation to students' ability in translating a text, whether the students who used machine translation have better scores or worse since they use machine translation in doing their tasks to translate a text.

From the explanation above, there is another way to translate a text by using manual translating method which needs more time to learn before using it, it is translating by using machine translation which is more easy and more simple in use. Since the writer found some students of PBI STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa were using machine translation to do their tasks, then the writer is curious to find out the effect of using machine translation to their abilities in translating a text. According to the reason above, the writer of this research feels an interest to do a research entitled *The Effect Of Using Machine Translation Towards The Students' Ability In Translating A Text (A Study At Fifth Semester Students Of English Department In Stain Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa)* subject.

B. The Problem of Study

1. How far is the tendency of the students in using machine translation?
2. Do the machine translation give any effect to the students' abilities in translating?

C. Purpose of Study

1. To find out the tendency of the students in using machine translation.
2. To find out, if the machine translation gives any effect to the students' abilities in translating a text.

D. Significance of Study

1. To the lecturers

Help the lecturers to make sure if they really need to warn their students in using machine translation or they just have to let it be, even if they have to teach them how to use it and get a better translation work.

2. To the students

Knowing if they have to keep using machine translation in doing their tasks or leave it, since they know the effect of using it.

E. Hypothesis

Based on the subject of the research, the writer states the following hypothesis:

H_a : The usage of machine translation gives any effect to the students' ability in translating a text.

H_0 : The usage of machine translation doesn't give any effect to the students' ability in translating a text.

F. Terminology

To clarify what the writer wanted to achieve in this study, it is better to formulate the operational definitions as follows :

1. Machine translation

Arnold and friends defined machine translation as the attempt to automate all, or part of the process of translating from one human language to another⁵.

⁵ D.J. Arnold, Lorna Balkan, Siety Meijer, R. Lee Humphreys, and Louisa Sadler, *Machine Translation: An Introductory Guide* (UK: NCC Blackwell Ltd, 1994), p. 1

According to what they were defined, machine translation is one of the technology stuff which helps people or translator to translate a text by using computer or something else.

In addition, John Hutchins and Harold Somers stated, machine translation is the form of computer programs capable of translating a wide variety of texts from one natural language into another⁶. On this section, they stated that machine translation is only builded by computer program.

On this research, writer take the statement of Arnold and friends because they defined machine translation generally. It has been known, people will have machine translation even if they have no computer. Because, today they will find the machine translation on their gadget such as mobile phone or something.

2. Translating or Translation

According to Peter Newmark defined translation as rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text⁷. Peter Newmark gives more focus in translating a text when he defined it.

In addition, Jeremy Munday said that the process of translation between two different languages involves the translator changing an original written text (the source text or ST) in the original verbal language (the source language or SL) into a written text (the target text or TT) in a different verbal language (the target language or TL)⁸. It looks like Munday more focus on the translation process than the translation itself, but in fact Munday statement helps Newmark statement by telling the process and writer be more clearly understand what translation is about.

⁶ W. John Hutchins and Harold L. Somers, *An Introduction to Machine Translation*, (London: Academic Press Limited, 1992), p. 1

⁷ Peter Newmark, *A Textbook Of Translation* (NJ: Prentice Hall Inc, 1988), p. 5

⁸ Jeremy Munday, *Introducing Translation Theory: Theories and Applications* (NY: Routledge, 2008),p.5

3. Students' Ability

According to Hamzah and Nanda, "students are a group of people that places the central position in teaching-learning process."⁹ Next Allyn and Bacon said, "Ability is potential or power to do something physical or mental or special nature power to do something well."¹⁰ From the statement above, students' ability is a group of people basic (power and potential) which by it can bring them to the progress and safety in teaching-learning process. In this research, the students mean whoever registered in subject translation two of PBI STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa.

⁹ Hamzah Ahmad and Nanda Santoso, *Kamus Pintar Bahasa Indonesia*, (Surabaya: Fajar Mulya, 1996), p. 103

¹⁰ Allyn and Bacon, *Psychology the Science Of Behavior*, (London: Longman, 1964), p.2