

An Analysis of Modulation Technique in the Translation of Bumi Manusia Novel into This Earth of Mankind

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ABSTRACT

The translation is concerned with the equivalence between the source text and target text. Achieving the equivalence is challenging due to the differences in terms of grammar, culture, and pragmatics. One technique to meet the aspect of naturalness is by using modulation techniques. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the types of modulation used in translating the Indonesian novel “Bumi Manusia” into English “This Earth of Mankind” and compare the use of obligatory and optional in the application of modulation. The method used in this study was a qualitative one that applied modulation techniques in analyzing 80 data found in the novels. The results show that the type commonly found is active for passive with 38 cases (47.5%). The application of optional modulation is 68 times (85%) and obligatory modulation is 12 times (15%).

Keywords: types of modulation, obligatory modulation, optional modulation

INTRODUCTION

The aspect of naturalness tends to become a challenge in translating Source Language into Target Language, like translating Indonesian into English. One challenge deal with translating the cultural aspect. As stated by Rebecca (2016), cultural issues in translation occur when there is a problem in understanding the concepts, meaning and message between two cultural perspectives. This suggests that translating Indonesian texts into English ones whose cultures are different will create problems in achieving the aspect of naturalness. However, the problem may be solved by using a translation technique called modulation proposed by (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995). Thus, this paper discusses the technique used in translating a novel *Bumi Manusia* into *This Earth of Mankind*.

Several studies employing the modulation technique have been found in papers. The most frequent modulation techniques used in translating novels are Negated Contrary (Wulandari, 2014), Active for Passive (AFP) (Sofyansyah, 2017; Megawati, 2014). Modulation techniques have become preference in translating other text types to achieve

naturalness (Afifah et al., 2018; Mardiana, 2015; Niku, 2020). This implies that the investigation of modulation techniques used in the *Bumi Manusia* novel is not yet been conducted. Yet, this study may enhance translation techniques, especially modulation ones which may help new translators gain equivalency in their work.

Referring to what was discussed above, three questions listed below were formulated to answer in this study.

1. What type of modulation technique is used in the translation of *Bumi Manusia* into *This Earth of Mankind* novel?
2. Is the application of the modulation technique categorized as obligatory or optional?
3. Is the application of the modulation technique categorized as an appropriate or inappropriate translation?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Modulation

Modulation is one of the translation techniques that modify the semantics and point of view or perspective of the Source Language. Based on this concept, it can be inferred that, in some cases, differences of viewpoint or perspective may lead to the failure of the translated text, particularly in the delivery of the meaning and message of the Source Language (Vinay, J.P., & Darbelnet, 1995).

Van Hoof (2001), as cited in Putranti(2018), defined the modulation from a different point of view. He describes the modulation as a type of transposition but at the global level. This is to say that in modulation, the translators do not apply the grammatical categories, but categories of thought in seeing the different points of view or perspectives on the same situation.

Furthermore, there are two kinds of modulation: the first is obligatory modulation, and the second is free modulation (Vinay, J.P., & Darbelnet, 1995) or optional modulation, according to (Hatim & Munday, 2013). The obligatory modulation occurs when the translators find the word, phrase, or structure in Source Language has no equivalent terms in the Target Language so that the use of modulation technique is needed by creating such new terms (Rahmatillah, 2017). From this statement, it can be argued that the text in the Source Language cannot be translated literally into the Target language because it would make the translation sound awkward and unsuitable in the Target

Language. Meanwhile, optional modulation occurs due to nonlinguistic reasons, such as when the translators want to clarify the meaning or find the equivalent in the Target Language (Machali, 2000). Thus, when the translators translate the Source Language literally or use the modulation technique, the result is equally good and sounds natural in the Target Language.

This present study follows the definition and theory of modulation technique from Vinay & Darbelnet (1995, as cited in Hatim & Munday, 2013) which stated that the use of modulation is caused by the difference in perspective and point of view. Vinay and Darbelnet proposed ten types of modulation; abstract for concrete, explicative modulation (cause-effect), part for the whole, part for another part, reversal of terms, the negation of opposite, active to passive (vice-versa), intervals and limits, and change of symbol.

METHOD

This study applied a qualitative one in which the data were in the forms of words, phrases, and clauses collected from the novel *This Earth of Mankind* and the original version, *Bumi Manusia*. In analyzing the data, modulation techniques proposed by (Vinay, J.P., & Darbelnet, 1995) were employed. The analysis consisted of several steps illustrated in the figure below.

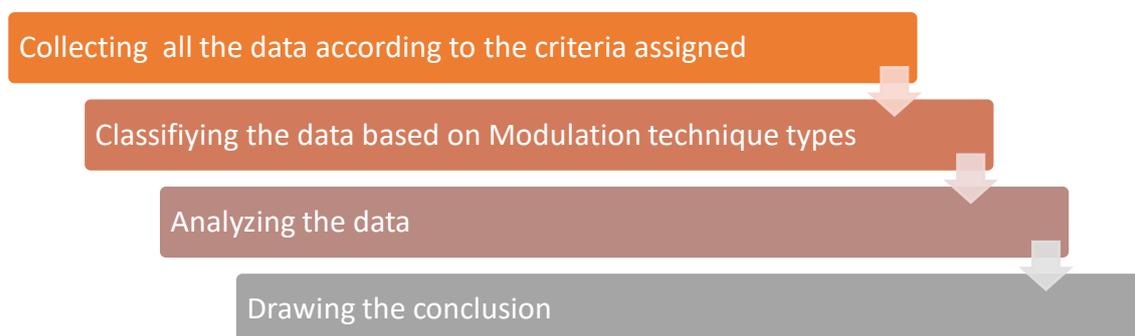


Figure 1. Steps of analysis

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

The Occurrence of Types of Modulation Technique as Found in The Texts

The occurrence of modulation technique types in the translation of the novel *Bumi Manusia* into *This Earth of Mankind* is presented in the table below.

Table 1: The Occurrences of Types of Modulation Technique as Found in The Texts

No.	Types of Modulation	Occurrence	Percentage (%)
1	Abstract for Concrete	2	2.5%
2	Explicative Modulation	5	6.3%
3	Part to Whole	1	1.3%
4	Part to Another Part	6	7.5%
5	Reversal of Term	1	1.3%
6	Negation of Opposite	18	22.5%
7	Active for Passive (vice versa)	38	47.5%
8	Space for Time	1	1.3%
9	Interval for Limit	0	0%
10	Change of Symbol	8	10.0%
Total		80	100%

The table above shows the total occurrence of types of modulation techniques, as found in the text reaches 80 cases. The type of modulation technique, which is mostly found, is active for passive (vice versa) with 38 cases (47.5%). Then, followed by the negation of opposite with 18 cases (22.5%), change of symbol with 8 cases (10%), part to another part with 6 cases (7.5%), explicative modulation with 5 cases (6.3%), and abstract for concrete with 2 cases (2.5%). Furthermore, part to whole, the reversal of terms, and space for a time have the same number of the case, which only has 1 case (1.3%). Besides, interval and limit are one of the types of modulation which have zero occurrences, in other words, there is no case belonging to this type.

The Occurrence of Obligatory and Optional Aspect in the Application of Modulation Technique

Modulation in translation consists of two kinds: obligatory modulation and free modulation or optional modulation. In the novel, *Bumi Manusia* by Pramoedya Ananta Tur, which is translated into English entitled *This Earth of Mankind* by Max Lane, the occurrence obligatory and optional is described in Table 2 below.

Table 2 The Occurrence of Obligatory and Optional Modulation in the Application of Modulation Technique

TYPES OF MODULATION	OBLIGATORY	OPTIONAL
Abstract for Concrete	1	1
Explicative Modulation	3	2
Part to Whole	1	0
Part to Another Part	3	3
Reversal of Terms	0	1
Negation of Opposite	2	16
Active for Passive (vice versa)	0	38
Space for Time	0	1
Interval and Limit	0	0
Change of Symbol	2	6
Total	12	68
Total Cases		80
	15%	85%

From the table above, it is known that from 80 cases found in the text, there are 12 cases (15%) that belong to obligatory modulation. Then, the data that belong to an optional modulation reach 68 cases (85%). The type of modulation technique that is mostly categorized as obligatory in the application of modulation technique is explicative modulation and part to another part with 3 cases. Furthermore, the type of modulation technique that is mostly categorized as optional is active for passive (vice versa) with 38 data, followed by the negation of opposite with 16 cases.

The Occurrence of Appropriate and Inappropriate in the Application of Modulation Translation

In the application of the modulation technique, the categories of the translation result are divided into two: appropriate and inappropriate translation, the occurrence obligatory and optional is described in Table 7 below.

Table 3 The Occurrence of Appropriate and Inappropriate in the Application of Modulation Technique

THE APPLICATION OF MODULATION	APPROPRIATE	INAPPROPRIATE
	75	5
TOTAL CASES	80	
PERCENTAGE	93.75%	6.25%

From the table above, it is known that from 80 cases found in the text, there are 75 cases (93.75%) that belong to appropriate translation. Then, the data that belong to an inappropriate translation only 5 cases (85%). It can be concluded that the translator succeeds in translating the novel. In the discussion, there is a comparison of the result of this study with other studies discussed in the literature review.

Types of Modulation

Modulation is one of the translation techniques that modify the semantics and point of view or perspective of the Source Language. Vinay, J.P., & Darbelnet (1995), as cited in Hatim & Munday (2013) proposed ten types of modulation abstract for concrete, explicative modulation (cause-effect), part for the whole, part for another part, a reversal of terms, the negation of opposite, active to passive (vice-versa), space for time, intervals and limits, and change of symbol. However, in this present study, there are only nine types of modulation found in the novel.

1. Abstract for Concrete

This type occurs when the general expression or word is translated into a particular idea.

SL: *“Ternyata mereka melawan, dan melawan benar, tidak kepalang tanggung.” (p.334)*

TL: *“But they fought back all right, really fought, with all their might, ignoring all obstacles.” (p.243)*

In this context, the translator made the SL more concrete by explaining in the TL become 'with all their might and ignoring all obstacles' which means that the characters who engaged in war could fight the enemy with their totality.

2. Explicative Modulation

Explicative modulation is used to make clear the implicit meaning because it is not stated clearly or plainly.

SL: “*Gus, kabarnya sekolahmu maju...*” (p.189)

TL: “Gus, they say you are doing very well at school...,” (p.135)

The translator made it more explicit in TL by translating it into 'you are doing very well at school'. From the expression in TL, it can be seen that what is being progressed is someone's achievement in school.

3. Part to Whole

Part to the whole is one of the types of modulation techniques that occurs when the specific word, phrase, or sentence is translated into a more general term.

SL: *Dan agen itu turun dahulu, mengurus barang-barangku seperti sebelumnya.* (p.178)

TL: And the police officer alighted first, looking after my bags as before. (p.127)

The translator did not choose to translate the word 'agent' literally become agent, but the translator tried to translate it into a more general term become "police officer" adjusting the situation of the story.

4. Part to Another Part

This type of modulation occurs when there is a specific part of the thing in Source Language (SL) that is translated into another Part in Target Language (TL).

SL: *Pada waktu-waktu menganggur sering aku pandangi wajahnya sambil mengandai-andai.* (p. 14)

TL: Whenever I had nothing to do. (p.14)

The underlined words show the time because it can be seen from the words 'pada Waktu-Waktu....!'. However, in this context, the word '*menganggur*' does not mean 'unemployed' but someone who does not have any activities to do or someone who does not have activity in spare time.

5. Reversal of Terms

The reversal of terms is a type of modulation that is also known as a changing of position to make the language, or the result of translation sounds natural.

SL: *Setan yang satu ini memang tak bias diajak bicara. (p.511)*

TL: There was no way to get this devil to be reasonable. (p.387)

There is a reversal of terms when Source Language is translated into Target Language. It can be seen that in SL, the object discussed (setan yang satu ini...) is mentioned first before the main problem 'tak bisa diajak bicara'. Then, in TL the perspective is changed because the translator put the main object 'devil' in the middle of the main problem discussed 'there is no way to get this devil to be reasonable.'

6. Negation of Opposite

This type occurs when the Source Language is translated into opposite meaning or expression in the Target Language. The changes in SL into TL can be in the form of negative to positive sentences or vice versa.

SL: *“Tak ada kesulitan dalam pelajaran” said Minke. (p.22)*

TL: “I was doing well in my studies” kata Minke. (p.18)

The word in SL represents the negative sentence because it is formed by the word 'tak' in SL. Moreover, the expression in SL can be translated literally into 'there is no difficulty in my study'. However, the perspective is changed when the translator translated it into opposite expressions (positive sentence) in TL become 'I was doing well in my studies. The expression in TL still has the same meaning and represents the same message.

7. Active for Passive (vice versa)

Active for passive type occurs when the translator changes the subject in an active sentence to become a recipient of the verb's action and constructs a conjugated form of to be plus past participle verb. On the other hand, when the subject in SL who acts as a recipient of the verb's action turns into a performer of the main verb in TL, it is categorized as passive for active type. Furthermore, Traffis (2017) stated that using an active voice can make our writing convey a strong and clear tone.

SL: Maka majikanku menjual aku dengan harga duapuluh dollar pada majikan Tionghoa, majikan kelima. (p.252)

TL: So, I was sold for twenty-five dollarsto a Chinese boss, my fifth boss. (p.184)

The underlined word in SL is categorized into an active sentence because the subject '*majikanku*' performs the verb's action '*menjual*'. Then, it is translated into a passive sentence because the subject 'I' become a recipient of the verb's action '*was sold*'.

SL: Diangkatnya aku seperti sebuah guling tua dan dibopongnya masuk. Diletakkannya tanpa daya diatas ranjang yang indah dan bersih. (p.124)

TL: He picked me up as if I were an old pillow, carried me in his arms into the room, and put me down on a beautiful, clean bed, powerless. (p.89)

The expression in SL is considered a passive sentence because the subject does the action of the main verb. Then the translator translated it into an active sentence. It can be seen that the subject in TL 'he' acts the main verbs '*picked*', '*carried*', '*put down*'.

8. Space for Time

Space for Times occurs when there is a word or a phrase indicating space which is usually preceded by the preposition of place is translated into a word or a phrase representing time.

SL: “...Kebetulan ia sedang pigi ke Hongkong...” (p.249)

TL: “...It happens he’s in Hong Kong at the moment.” (p.182)

SL are representing the time (*ia sedang pigi ke Hongkong*) and it is translated into TL that indicating the space (It happens he's in HongKong at the moment).

9. Change of Symbol

Vinay and Darbelnet (1995:254) stated that translators might have to use modulation to change symbols and so avoid an over translation which would otherwise result.

SL: Jauh pula, sebelas atau duabelas ribu mil laut dari tempatku. (p.14)

TL: And how far away she was, nearly twenty thousand kilometres from where I was. (p. 14)

In SL, the underlined word uses 'mil' as a unit to explain the distance. However, in TL it is translated into the different unit; 'kilometres'. It can be concluded that the change is not only the unit but also the number. The translator converted miles to a kilometre (1 mile = 1,609 kilometres).

The Relationship between Obligatory and Optional Modulation with Literal Translation

This part explains the comparison between the result of the literal translation and the data translated by Max Lane, which has been categorized into modulation technique in the analysis. Putranti (2018) stated that an accurate translation may still sound awkward when it is literally translated, and one of the causes is the difference of point of view. Thus, the comparison below will show whether the literal translation can be applied in data found in Source Language or not. Moreover, the reader will know that the application of modulation technique is obligatory or optional modulation.

- Obligatory

There are 12 cases (15%) categorized into obligatory modulation. One of the reasons is that the 12 cases found cannot be translated literally into Target Language. Machali (2000) studied that modulation is obligatory if the word, phrase, or structure in Source Language does not have its equivalent in Target Language. The example below shows the data with code 031/CH.7/ Explicative Modulation that is categorized into obligatory.

Example:

SL: *Pada waktu-waktu menganggur sering aku pandangi wajahnya sambil mengandai-andai. (p. 14)*

TL: (Modulation Translation) Whenever I had nothing to do, I would gaze at her face while supposing how it would be to court her. (p.14) **(Literal Translation)** When I was unemployed, I often looked at her face while supposing how it would be to court her.

From the example above, it is known that the word '*menganggur*' in SL does not mean someone who does not have a job. Thus, when it is translated literally into TL becomes 'unemployed' it makes the result of translation sounds awkward and causes an ambiguity. It can be seen from the context that the word '*menganggur*' here is not about

someone who does not have a job, but that word means someone's spare time. To sum up, the obligatory modulation is needed to make the translation sounds natural.

- Optional

There are two kinds of modulation, namely, obligatory modulation and free modulation (Vinay, J.P., & Darbelnet, 1995) or optional modulation, according to (Hatim & Munday, 2013). Optional modulation itself is done due to nonlinguistic reason, for example, to clarify the meaning or to find the equivalents that feel natural in the Target Language. Furthermore, in this present study, the 68 cases (85%) are categorized into optional because the Source Language from the data found can be translated both using modulation and literal because the result is equally good and sounds natural in the TL. The example below shows the data with code 069/CH.16/ Passive for Active

Example:

SL: *Pembantu-pembantunya dijatuhi hukuman antara tiga sampai lima tahun. (p.422)*

TL: (Modulation Translation) His helpers received sentences between three and five years each. (p.320) **(Literal Translation)** His servants were sentenced to between three and five years.

The Source Language from the example above is considered as a passive sentence because the subject 'pembantu-pembantunya' acts as a recipient of the main verb 'dijatuhi'. The expression in SL is categorized into optional because when it is translated using modulation technique into an active sentence or using literal while keeping the structure as a passive, it does not change the aspects of referential meaning the things that are affected are only aspects of situational meaning and aspects of organizational meaning.

An Appropriate and Inappropriate Translation

The categories of translation results can be divided into two, appropriate and inappropriate translation. The translation can be claimed an appropriate or a good translation when it does not sound like a translation, natural and acceptable in the target language. On the other hand, an inappropriate translation occurs when there is a distortion of meaning, unnatural unacceptable in the target language.

- Appropriate Translation

In the data found, there are 75 cases (93.75%) that are categorized as an appropriate translation. Machali (2000) stated that when there is no distortion of meaning, proper use of the terms, and the translation sounds natural in the Target Language, the translation can be categorized into an appropriate translation. The example below shows the data with code 036/CH.7/ Change of Symbol/ App that is categorized as an appropriate translation.

SL: “*Mengapa teori itu tidak lahir dan dilaksanakan tigaratus tahun yang lalu?” (p.217)*

TL: “Why didn’t you come up with this theory three centuries ago?” (p.157)

The underlined words in the Target Language are categorized as an appropriate translation because there is only a change of symbol from ‘*Tiga ratus tahun*’ into ‘*three centuries.*’ Moreover, the translation sounds natural in the Target Language because the use of the term is proper and there is no distortion of meaning and the message.

- Inappropriate Translation

In the data, there are 5 cases (6.25%) that are categorized as inappropriate translation. Machali (2000) explained that inappropriate translation occurs when it sounds awkward. Moreover, the misuse of the terms can distort meaning, and consequently will become inappropriate. The example below shows the data with code 066/CH.16/Change of Symbol/ In-app that is categorized into inappropriate translation.

SL: *Dan aku bilang padanya: Majikanku Nyai dan Noni; orang yang mereka sukai, aku sukai.* (p.394)

TL: And I said to him: My employers are Nyai and Noni; their friends are my friends. (p.298)

The underlined words in the Target Language are inappropriate due to the wrong interpretation, from ‘*orang yang mereka sukai, Aku sukai*’ into ‘*their friends are my friends*, leading to distortion of meaning, In addition, the word ‘*friends*’ cannot be defined as the person we like.

The comparison between this study and the others covers three aspects: research aims, subject under investigation, and the result of the analysis. In the research aims, almost all of them share similar primary objectives to this present study, namely analyzing the use of modulation techniques and their types. Furthermore, three studies have other

purposes, such as a study by Bessie (n.d.), who examined the linguistic factor that triggers the modulation translation procedure. Then, Wulandari (2014) identified the degree of meaning equivalence of the expression translated using the modulation technique found in the novels, and Putranti (2018) tried to discover how the modulation technique used can obtain the naturalness in Target Language. Moreover, in the subject under investigation, some have different subjects to analyze, such as booklet, poetry (quatrains), and Indonesian-English translation novels.

In the result of the analysis, studies by Bessie (n.d.) and Delzendehrooy & Karimnia (2013) show that in the procedure of modulation translation, the semantic and point of view are the main factor. Meanwhile, Wulandari (2014) found that the modulation translation applied in the novel analyzed to make the accuracy is quite high because most of the data belong to an optimum and near-optimum equivalence. However, the study by Afifah et al. (2018) found that transposition and modulation caused a non-equivalence voice in the Target Language. Moreover, this present study and study by Putranti (2018) shows that when the literal translation cannot be applied in translating the text, especially the text which needs to change prospectively, the modulation can be a solution. To sum up, this present study and those studies have a different focus on analyzing the modulation technique, such as analyzing the linguistic factor and the types of modulation techniques.

CONCLUSION

In this study, there are only nine types of modulation techniques found with the total of the data reaching 80 cases. The type of modulation technique that is mostly found is passive for active (vice versa) with 38 cases (47.5%), followed by the negation of opposite with 18 cases (22.5%). Then, change of symbol with 8 cases (10%), part to another part with 6 cases (7.5%), explicative modulation with 5 cases (6.3%), and abstract for concrete with 2 cases (2.5%). Furthermore, part to whole, reversal of terms, and space for time are the type which has the same number of occurrences, namely 1 case (1.3%). The last, interval and limit are one of the types of modulation which have zero occurrences; in other words, there is no data that belong to this type.

Furthermore, the present study also discussed the obligatory and optional aspects in the application of the modulation technique in the data found. In determining these two aspects, Source Language is translated literally into Target Language and compared with

data categorized as modulation translation. From the comparison, we will know that the data belong to obligatory or optional modulation. There are 68 cases (85%) that belong to optional modulation, and 12 cases (15%) belonging to obligatory modulation. The types of modulation techniques which most categorized as obligatory modulation are explicative modulation and part to another part. Meanwhile, the type of modulation which most categorized as optional modulation is passive for active (vice versa). Then, the translator is quite successful in translating the novel because there are 75 cases (93.75%) that are categorized as appropriate translation and there are only 5 cases (6.25%) that are categorized as inappropriate translation.

This study in particular focuses on analyzing the types of modulation techniques in a translation of *Bumi Manusia* into *This Earth of Mankind* novel and identifying whether the application of modulation technique in the data found is obligatory or optional.

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