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# The Translation of Compound Nouns With Reference to the Novel Entitled Bumi by Tere Liye

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## Abstract

Compound noun is one of the classifications of compound words. A compound noun is a noun made by putting two or more words together to act as one noun. To translate the meaning of certain compound noun will be a challenge for a translator since several compound nouns have meanings that have nothing to do with the meanings of the individual words involved. Therefore, this study entitled “The Translation of Compound Nouns with Reference to the Novel entitled BUMI by Tere Liye” were conduct to solve the problems of how the translation equivalence and the translation techniques used in translating compound nouns. The data source of this study were collected directly from the novel entitled Bumi by Tere Liye and its English translation Earth translated by Gill Westaway using documentation method. This study were analyze by using descriptive qualitative method. The result showed that both formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence influencing the process of translating compound nouns to attain the quality of a translation. And for the translation techniques, among the seven classifications of translation techniques only five translation techniques were used in translating compound nouns in the data source, namely, calque, literal translation, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation. There is no borrowing and transposition used in the data source.

**Keywords:** Translation Equivalence, Translation Techniques, Compound Nouns

## Introduction

Translation is 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 (Larson, 1998:3). The translation consists of transferring the meaning of the source language into the receptor language. Translation then consists of studying the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context. By any means translation was the act or process of translating something into a different language. Therefore, the translator or the person who translates must know the morphology and syntax of the language, so the result of the translation will be acceptable, clear and natural.

In translating texts translator might face some challenges in transferring the meaning from source text (ST) to target text (TT). These are common challenges in translation, first, translating the structure of language, every language has its own structure with its own agreed upon rules (Chomsky, 1957). A simple sentence in English has a subject, verb, and object—in that order. For example, “he plays volleyball.” But not every language shares this

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structure. This case leads the translators to frequently add, remove, and rearrange source words to effectively communicate in the target language. Second, some words in language have multiple meanings in translation. The same word may mean multiple things depending on where it's placed and how it's used in a sentence. This phenomenon typically follows one of two patterns, like as homonyms and heteronyms. And also there is an issue in translating compound nouns. However, the definition of compound words should be discuss first. Compound is a unit consisting of two or more bases (Quirk, 1973:444). They constitute an anomaly among grammatical constructions because they are "words" but at the same time exhibit a type or internal syntax.

Compound nouns are one of the classifications of compound words (McCarthy, 2000). A compound noun is a noun made by putting two or more words together to act as one noun. As in the notion by McCarthy (2000:62) quoted that "compound noun really comes into its own as a word forming process in English". There is a combination of other lexical categories to create compound nouns. Compound nouns are often constructed from two parts of speech. The most common are, Verb + Noun (VN), Noun + Noun (NN), Adjective + Noun (AN), and Preposition + Noun (PN).

Based on the explanation above, this study will focus on the translation of compound nouns. Translating compound nouns is not an easy job, the particular reason for circumstance that compound nouns is a complex lexeme consists of two or more base lexemes. In translating compound nouns translator need to conceive the meaning of it. Since certain compound nouns have meanings that have nothing to do with the meanings of the individual words involved. That could be tricky when transferring the

meaning of certain compound nouns. Compound nouns often have a different meaning when they combined. For example, "hotdogs" is a compound noun consist of two words "hot" an adjective and "dogs" a noun, when "hot" and "dogs" combined together, they give a different meaning—which is a dish consisting of a grilled or steamed sausage served in the slit of a partially sliced bun—not related with "hot" and "dogs" in literal translation. Therefore, this topic is pointed as the topic discussion in purposed of to make the readers comprehend about the topic discussion and express the meaning more clearly. In this case, the topic is the translation of compound nouns. The data source will be taken from bilingual novel, originally wrote in Bahasa Indonesia entitled Bumi by Tere Liye and its English translation Earth translated by Gill Westaway.

**Research Method**

This study used a descriptive qualitative method. The purpose of this study were to analyze the translation equivalence and the translation technique applied in translating compound nouns. The data in t his study were collected directly from a bilingual novel entitled Bumi by Tere Liye and its translation Earth translated by Will Westa way. This study used several theories to analyze the data, namely, the theory of translation equivalence by Nida and Taber (1982) and the theory proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (2000) about translation techniques. Supported by the theory proposed by McCarthy (2002) to analyze the word formation process of compound nouns found in the data source.

**Theoretical Framework**

In translation the textual material from Source Language (SL) have to be an optimally equivalent to the textual material in Target Language (TL). The concept of equivalence in translation

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popularized by Nida and Taber (1982), they proposed a theory about Translation Equivalence. Nida and Taber (1982) divided translation equivalence into two parts, namely, formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence. Formal equivalence is word-for-word translation (translating the meanings of words and phrases in a more literal way), keeping literal fidelity. Whereas, dynamic equivalence is sense-for-sense translation (translating the meanings of phrases or whole sentences) with readability in mind.

Translation technique is a way to substitute a text in one language for a text in another without changing the notion or message within it (Vinay and Darbelnet, 2000). Several arrangements need to be observing in translation process which requires the syntactic, the semantic, and the pragmatic understanding and analytic processing of the source language. Vinay and Darbelnet posited that there were seven main processes, or procedures, at work during any given translation, namely, borrowing, calque, literal translation, transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation (Vinay and Darbelnet, 2000). Borrowing is the idea of taking the word from the source language (SL) and maintaining it in the target language (TL). Calque is when an expression from the source text (ST) is transferred literally into the target text (TT). Literal translation is the idea of translating word for word in a way that does not alter the meaning and considered acceptable in the TT. Transposition is changing word class without changing meaning. Modulation refers to rendering the TT from a different point of view to that of the ST. Equivalence is something almost inherently cultural. Last but not least, adaptation is similar to equivalence in the way that the translator seeks to render the SL into the TL whilst ensuring it is just as relevant and meaningful as the original was.

Compound noun is a unit consisting of two or more bases. Compound nouns are particularly interesting linguistic constructions for several reasons. They constitute an anomaly among grammatical constructions because they are “words” but at the same time exhibit a type or internal syntax (McCarthy, 2002). Compound nouns can be combined with other lexical categories to create still larger compounds. This actively demonstrates that compound noun is a formed when two words are combined to make a new word. According to McCarthy (2002:69), there are several word formation processes in creating compound nouns, namely Verb + Noun (VN), Noun + Noun (NN), Adjective + Noun (AN), and Preposition + Noun (PN).

**Result and Discussion**

This chapter contains the analysis of the translation equivalence in translating compound nouns found in a bilingual novel entitled *Bumi* by Tere Liye and its English translation *Earth* translated by Gill Westaway. The result showed that both formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence were used in the translation process. Followed by the analysis about the translation techniques in translating compound nouns found in the data source. It contains calque, literal translation, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation as the technique in translating the source language (SL) into the target language (TL).

**Translation Equivalence and Translation Techniques in Translating Compound Nouns**

**1. Formal Equivalence**

**Data 1**

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SL	TL
Alangkah lamanya anak itu mengambil <b>tas sekolah</b> .  (Tere Liye, 2014:14)	Let's see how long will it take that kid to get her <b>school bag</b> .  (Gill Westaway, 2019:13)

The data 1 is classified as compound noun. The word *tas sekolah* is formed from a noun + noun lexical combination, the word *tas* as noun and *sekolah* as a noun. In the TL is translated into compound noun, *school bag* with a noun + noun word formation process. The translation of compound noun *tas sekolah* in SL into *school bag* in TL classified as formal equivalence. The author translated the data 2 literally without changing any lexical structure in the SL. The goal is to stay as close to the original text as possible. However, the author did not creating any awkward sounding because *tas sekolah* have the closest translation equivalent which is *school bag* in English.

Data 1 used literal translation as the translation technique to obtain the message in the SL. The translator directly transfers the compound noun *tas sekolah* into *school bag* in the TL.

Data 2

SL	TL
Tidak ada yang mengajakmu bicara, <b>Makhluk Tanah!</b>  (Tere Liye, 2014:165)	No one invited you to speak, <b>Earthling!</b>  (Gill Westaway, 2019:140)

From the above data the compound word *Makhluk Tanah* classified as compound noun that

consists of two words, *makhluk* as noun and *tanah* as noun. In the TL, it is translated into *Earthling* which is a noun. Compound noun *makhluk tanah* in the SL was translated into *earthling* in TL. It shows that in data 2 used formal equivalence to attain the meaning. *Makhluk tanah* and *earthling* mean human being or a person devoted to the world; a worldling. The author used formal equivalence to translate the data 2 because a TL item (*earthling*) is represents the closest equivalent of a SL word (*makhluk tanah*).

The technique of translating the compound noun in the data 2 is adaptation. The translator creates a new situation to indicate a situational equivalence in transferring the meaning. The actual meaning in the source text of the compound noun *makhluk tanah* is human being and the meaning of *earthling* is one, especially a human, that inhabits the planet Earth or a person devoted to the world; a world ling. This is the reason translator translated *makhluk tanah* into *earthling* in the TL to create a similar sense in the source text.

Data 3

SL	TL
Akan ada banyak pekerjaan bagi Tog, termasuk memulihkan <b>Komite Kota</b> .  (Tere Liye, 2014:436)	There would be a lot of work for Tog, including the restoration of the <b>City Committee</b> .  (Gill Westaway, 2019:364)

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From the above data the compound word Komite Kota from SL classified as compound noun. The word formation process in data 3 is noun + noun consist of two words, “komite” as a noun and “kota” as a noun. Translated into noun phrase in the TL, City Committee. The data 1 was translated using formal equivalence into city committee in the TL. There is no changing in lexical or syntax structure in the target text. The author translated the compound noun word-for-word from the SL into the TL. Therefore, the translation equivalence in data 1 is considered as formal equivalence.

The technique used in translating the compound noun in this data is calque. The compound noun komite kota is borrowed, but then translated literally each of its elements. The data 1 considered as a lexical calque because the translator translated the compound noun, komite kota, lexically to make a new mode by expressing the syntactic structure of the TL.

2. Dynamic Equivalence

Data 4

SL	TL
Waktu usiaku dua tahun, aku suka sekali bermain <b>petak umpet</b> . (Tere Liye, 2014:6)	When I was two, I used to love playing <b>hide and seek</b> . (Gill Westaway, 2019:5)

Petak umpet is classified as compound noun in the SL and translated into hide and seek in the TL. The compound noun petak umpet is formed from the word petak as noun and umpet as verb, which means

the word formation process in data 4 is noun + verb. The above data, the compound noun petak umpet in the SL was translated into hide and seek in the TL. The translation equivalence used in the data 4 is dynamic equivalence because it contains contextual understanding in both languages. The author wants to seek for the quality of a translation to make the receptor language essentially like that of the original receptors. Both Bahasa Indonesia and English have their own style to utter a children's game in which one or more players hide and the other or others have to look for them.

The technique in translating compound noun petak umpet used equivalence technique. The translator use completely different stylistic and structural method to convey the notion in the TL. This technique as something that carried a cultural aspect. The compound noun in the data 4 cannot be translated literally because each language have their own style to translate the word petak umpet. In English, petak umpet is translated into hide and seek. Data 5

SL	TL
Lebih cepat daripada <b>bola mata</b> mengikuti. (Tere Liye, 2014:169)	So quickly that my <b>eye</b> could not follow it. (Gill Westaway, 2019:144)

For the data 5, bola mata is considered as compound noun consists of two words, bola as a noun and mata as a noun. It translated into eye which is a noun in the TL. Compound noun bola mata in the SL was translated into eye in the TL is considered as dynamic equivalence. The original translation of “bola mata” in English is “eyeball” which means the

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author omitted the word “bola” in the TL. In this case, the author wants to translate the meaning of the original text to make it more natural in the target text that will trigger the same impact on the TT audience as the original wording did upon the ST audience. In the data 5, the author is highlighted the contextual consistency in transferring the meaning so the message is preserved and the translation is faithful.

Modulation technique is used to obtain the message from the SL to the TL, the particular reason for circumstance is the translator change the point of view in the TL to convey the meaning of the SL text. The compound noun bola mata if translated using literal translation technique become eyeball but it will sound awkward in the TL text, even if, the word eyeball is grammatically correct. That is the reason translator using modulation technique to attain non-awkward sounding translation, despite being grammatically, syntactically, and lexically correct.

**Conclusion**

This research raised a topic about translation of compound nouns found in the novel entitled Bumi by Tere Liye and its English translation Earth translated by Gill Westaway as the data source. Based on the analysis in the previous chapter, the result showed that both formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence influencing the process of translating compound nouns to attain the quality of a translation. And for the translation techniques, among the seven classification of translation techniques only five translation techniques were used in translating compound nouns in the data source, namely, calque, literal translation, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation. There is no borrowing and transposition used in the data source.

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