Analysis of Google Translate Results in The Lyrics Of "Rewrite the Stars" by Anne-Marie and James Arthur

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Abstract

There are numerous language varieties in the world, necessitating translation for comprehension. Google Translate serves as a free online translation tool available in various languages. It can be utilized for translating text, documents, websites, including song lyrics, with extensive coverage and unlimited access. However, Google Translate often produces inaccurate meanings. This research aims to identify errors generated by Google Translate in translating the lyrics of "Rewrite the Stars" by Anne-Marie and James Arthur. The researcher employs a qualitative descriptive research method, using the lyrics obtained from Google and translated into Indonesian using Google Translate. The analysis of Google Translate errors in the lyrics is based on Tono et al.'s (2014) theory. The study reveals a total of 15 translation errors in the lyrics, classified into four categories: three omissions, four additions, six selection errors, and two arrangement errors. The majority of translation errors result from meaning discrepancies. Therefore, it is crucial to verify Google Translate results before using them.

Keywords: Google Translate, Lyrics, Translation

Introduction

Language consists of a set of sound symbols trusted by society because they carry meaning (Sihabudin, 2022). Language is used by humans to interact, communicate, and convey information. It serves as a primary tool for passing on knowledge, experiences, and culture from one generation to the next. With the numerous language variations worldwide, translation becomes necessary to connect people speaking different languages (Sulistyo & Felayati, 2023). Translation must be approached with care to avoid loss or alteration of meaning. Errors in translation can occur due to a lack of understanding of the source language's meaning. A competent translator must be proficient in both the source and target languages to achieve accurate,

reasonable, and acceptable translations (Izmayanti, 2023). Language learning can occur through formal education, informal means, or self-study.

One medium for learning foreign languages, including English, is through song lyrics. English lyrics often feature artistic and nuanced language, using metaphors, wordplay, and idiomatic expressions. English is rich in idioms, conveying metaphorical meanings rather than literal ones. Direct translation of these idioms can lead to confusion or loss of intended meaning in another language, requiring specific skills and understanding during translation.

With the current accessibility to films, books, songs, and entertainment from other countries, translation processes are essential to convey meanings from different languages. The rapid demand for translation has led to the widespread use of online translation tools worldwide (Almutawa & Izwaini, 2015, as cited in Sabtan, 2020).

In the era of globalization, technological advancements have led to the availability of online automatic translation tools like Google Translate. Google Translate can translate simple written words, documents, images, audio, websites, and pronunciation. It provides users with a general overview of the text's content. With its extensive reach and unlimited access, this tool facilitates searching for difficult words or phrases with just a phone and internet connection. Google Translate claims to understand the meaning of a sentence or phrase in less than a second. It has evolved from a word-for-word translator (statistical machine learning) to a full-sentence translator (neural machine learning) and has become a website and application translating into 103 languages (https://translate.google.com/).

Human memory cannot store an extensive vocabulary, and memory can weaken over time. Machine translation aids in effective translation despite these limitations. Digital translation tools significantly ease the translation process. However, like any other machine translation, Google Translate can produce meaning errors, requiring updates to achieve optimal results.

Based on these considerations, the researcher identified a new research object: the lyrics of the song "Rewrite the Stars" to be translated using Google Translate. This study aims to identify the errors generated and analyze them to provide insights for readers, reducing the potential for errors when using Google Translate. The researcher limits the scope to identifying errors in translations using the Google Translate machine.

Review of Related Literature

1. Translation

Fundamentally, text translation is an activity undertaken to transfer the meaning of a text from one language to another according to the author's intention (Newmark, 2018). The world is home to

numerous language varieties (Rao, 2019), necessitating the role of competent translators in its dissemination. Translators don't merely convert one language to another without any guidance. When translating a text, they not only do a direct translation but also need to understand how to translate the text into the target language accurately (Rachmawati, 2020). For example, English has a grammatical structure different from Indonesian. Therefore, competent translators must understand both the source and target languages well (Izmayanti, 2023).

2. Google Translate

a. Definition

Google Translate is a free online automatic translation engine built and improved by Google Inc. (Lawa et al., 2022). This translation tool has various functions, such as translating written words, websites, documents, image translations, voice translations, and pronunciation guidance.

b. Benefits of Google Translate

According to Maulida (2017), the benefits of using Google Translate include:

(1) As an Online Translator Tool

Google Translate as an online translator has many functions, including translating written words, websites, documents, image translations, and voice translations.

(2) As an Online Dictionary

This tool is beneficial in lightening the workload, eliminating the need to carry thick and heavy dictionaries for translation. With just a smartphone and internet connection, users can access it anywhere and anytime. The online dictionary function provides several translation options in the target language.

(3) As an Online Thesaurus

This function displays word choices with meanings similar to the translation from the source language, also known as synonyms. It helps users ensure the accuracy of the target language compared to the source language.

(4) As a Spelling Checker

In foreign language writing, learners may face challenges such as typos. By checking with Google Translate, users receive suggestions for correct spelling.

(5) As a Learning Tool for Pronunciation of Foreign Languages

This translation tool can be used as a medium for learning the pronunciation of words in a foreign language.

c. Advantages and Disadvantages of Google Translate

One common issue faced by almost every language translator is the misunderstanding of the meaning of the source language (Rao, 2019). Google Translate can help reduce the potential for errors in translation. This translation tool has many advantages, such as overcoming language barriers in communication by making the translation process easier and faster. Difficult-to-find vocabulary in dictionaries can be searched in Google Translate, which provides meanings in various languages in less than a second, eliminating the need to spend money on dictionaries. Besides being an online dictionary, this translation engine can also be used to learn the pronunciation of foreign languages.

However, Google Translate has its drawbacks. It struggles to translate idioms effectively, lacks understanding of language nuances and culture, and may misinterpret ambiguous words in writing. Google Translate also uses a word-for-word translation method, which can result in meaning discrepancies, and its translation quality may not fully meet user expectations (Maulida, 2017). In conclusion, Google Translate does not always produce accurate meanings.

3. Types of Translation Errors

Quality translation is accurate, reasonable, and acceptable, appearing natural and not as if it is a translated result. Therefore, translators are required to convey the message as closely as possible from the source language to the target language (Nababan, 2012, as cited in Afriani, 2023). Early English language learners often encounter errors in the translation process. Tono et al. (2014) categorizes these errors into four types:

1. Omission In language use, the omission of a word function often occurs, changing the meaning and causing errors in sentence structure completeness.

2. Addition This type of error involves unnecessary additions of words, resulting in excess meaning or meaning discrepancy.

3. Misformation This error involves the misuse or selection of forms in the structure or morpheme.

4. Misordering Correct word arrangement is essential in language. Choosing the right words but arranging them in reverse, randomly, or out of order constitutes a misordering error.

Methodology

The research method employed by the researcher to analyze the results of Google Translate in the lyrics of "Rewrite the Stars" by Anne-Marie and James Arthur is qualitative descriptive. The researcher aims to analyze the accuracy of Google Translate in translating complex and intricate words found in song lyrics. Song lyrics are known for their aesthetic writing, rhythm, and richness of meaning, requiring attention to textual nuances in translation (Nurani, 2021). The researcher chose this method considering the research object, which is song lyrics that demand emphasis on meaning in translation.

According to Moleong (2018), qualitative research is a method with the goal of producing descriptive data in the form of writings to understand the behavior, perceptions, motivations, or actions of participants. The data collected in this research are qualitative, utilizing qualitative data collection tools. According to John W. Creswell in the book "Research Design" (2018), qualitative research is a technique to explore, describe, and understand meanings associated with specific groups of people or individuals regarding social or humanitarian issues. This aligns with Sugiyono's (2019) assertion that qualitative research focuses more on understanding meanings than on generalization.

The research method is divided into four stages:

1. Data collection stage: The researcher searches for the lyrics of the song "Rewrite the Stars" by Anne-Marie and James Arthur on Google to understand the translation based on Google Translate's capabilities.

2. Data analysis stage: This stage involves presenting a qualitative method that produces descriptive data, consisting of Google Translate's translation results for the song "Rewrite the Stars" by Anne-Marie and James Arthur, accompanied by explanations of grammar errors that occurred.

3. Presentation of research results: The results will be presented descriptively, including them in a table categorizing errors based on their types.

4. Data correction stage: This stage involves adding the correct translation results to the table for comparison with translation errors.

Findings and Discussion

The translation from English to Indonesian generated by Google Translate for the lyrics of "Rewrite the Stars" by Anne-Marie and James Arthur resulted in several errors, as shown in the table below.

Table 1. Analysis Results

No	Source Language	Google Translate	Error mistakes	Correction
1	*It's not a secret I try to hide*	Ini bukan rahasia yang saya coba sembunyikan	*Misordering error*	Itu bukanlah rahasia yang coba kusembunyikan
2	*So don't keep sayin' our hands are tied*	Jadi jangan mengatakan bahwa tangan kita terikat	*Misformation error*	Jadi jangan terus berkata kita tidak bisa melakukannya
3	*You claim it's not in the cards*	Anda bilang itu tidak ada dalam kartu	*Misformation error*	Kau bilang bahwa kita tidak berjodoh
4	*And fate is pulling you miles away*	Dan takdir menarikmu bermil-mil jauhnya.	*Addition error*	Dan takdirlah yang membuatmu jauh
5	*And out of reach from me*	Dan di luar jangkauan saya	*Addition error*	Dan semakin jauh dariku
6	*What if we rewrite the stars?*	Bagaimana jika kita menulis ulang bintang-bintang?	*Misformation error*	Bagaimana jika kita mengubah takdir?
7	*You'd be the one I was meant to find*	Kaulah orang yang seharusnya kutemukan	*Omission error*	Kau akan menjadi satu-satunya orang yang aku cari
8	*No one can say what we get to be*	Tidak ada yang bisa mengatakan kita akan menjadi apa	*Omission error*	Tidak ada yang bisa menentukan kita akan seperti apa
9	*So why don't we rewrite the stars?*	Jadi kenapa kita tidak menulis ulang bintang-bintangnya?	*Misformation error*	Jadi kenapa tidak kita ubah saja takdirnya?
10	*But there are mountains*	Tapi ada gunung-gunung	*Misformation error*	Tapi ada yang menghalangi
11	*You're gonna wake up and see*	kamu akan bangun dan melihat	*Omission error*	kamu akan terbangun dan sadar
12	*That it was hopeless after all*	Bahwa hal itu tidak ada harapan lagi	*Addition error*	Bahwa tidak ada harapan sama sekali
13	*Say you were made to be mine*	Katakanlah kamu diciptakan untuk menjadi milikku	*Addition error*	Katakan jika kau tercipta untukku
14	*So just give me all of you*	Jadi berikan saja kalian semua padaku	*Misordering error*	Jadi berikan aku segalanya yang kau bisa
15	*We're bound to break and my hands are tied*	Kami pasti akan hancur dan tanganku terikat	*Misformation error*	Kita pasti akan putus dan aku tak bisa melakukannya

In the data analysis table above, translation errors were found in the use of the Google Translate application to translate the lyrics of the song "Rewrite the Stars" by Anne-Marie and James Arthur. These translation errors are classified into four categories: omission errors, addition errors, misformation errors, and misordering errors (Tono et al., 2014). Omission errors resulted in three

errors, addition errors resulted in four errors, misformation errors resulted in six errors, and misordering errors resulted in two errors.

Errors often occur due to random word arrangement, idioms, and the selection of words that do not match the target language. English lyrics are rich in idioms, so the word-for-word translation used by Google Translate produces imperfect and often incorrect meanings. As a target language, Indonesian has linguistic rules different from English that Google Translate is not aware of, making the resulting translation difficult to understand.

For example, the translation of the lyrics "What if we rewrite the stars" by Google Translate is rendered as "Bagaimana jika kita menulis ulang bintang-bintang," which should be translated as "Bagaimana jika kita mengubah takdir?" The difference in meaning is significant. Google Translate's shortcomings are evident when translating complex words, resulting in meanings inconsistent with the source language. This is evident in 14 other sentences translated using Google Translate.

However, sentences not included in the table already have accurate meanings. Thus, it can be said that Google Translate can be used by anyone for simple word or sentence translations. Despite its advantages in translating various languages, Google Translate also has limitations and sometimes produces inaccurate meanings. It is advisable to review the translation results when using this tool to reduce the risk of errors.

Discussion

Song lyrics are an artistic expression rich in elements such as melody, harmony, rhythm, and lyrics. Many English songs rely on rhyme and rhythm to convey emotions and musical beauty. Translating these aspects while maintaining the original meaning is not easy and may require significant changes to the words. English lyrics often feature wordplay and double meanings, where a word or phrase has more than one meaning. Reproducing linguistic nuances into another language is quite complex and can result in the loss of accuracy in meaning. Therefore, successful translation requires not only linguistic skills but also an understanding of cultural nuances and artistic intent (Nurani, 2021).

The translation results of the song "Rewrite the Stars" in the table show that Google Translate can independently translate a text quickly. Google Translate is an online translation engine and a manifestation of technological advancement. The availability of online translation has caught the attention of professional translators and other communities, sparking discussions about potential impacts on their needs. Since the early 2000s, researchers worldwide have discussed translator communities adopting machine translation to assist their work (Bhattacharyya & Jha, 2016).

This translation engine can be used to translate simple written words, documents, images, audio, websites, and provide pronunciation. Google Translate can understand the general content of a text, providing users with an initial overview (Lawa et al., 2022). Unlike humans, its brain memory is not extensive enough to store a vast vocabulary. Humans often have to erase some of their memories to make room for new information, and human memory can weaken. With the help of machine translation, humans can still translate effectively.

Google Translate's ability makes the translation process easy without requiring special skills, making it accessible to anyone. Users only need to input the text they want to translate into the Google Translate website or app, and within seconds, the machine will translate it into the desired language. The use of machine translation makes translation practical and less time-consuming compared to using traditional dictionaries.

Despite the benefits of using Google Translate, this tool has limitations and can produce inaccurate meanings. It is advisable to review the translation results while using this tool to reduce the risk of errors.

Conclusion

Based on the researcher's analysis, it can be concluded that English texts translated into Indonesian using Google Translate are accurate when using word-for-word translation. Google Translate is highly beneficial for humans, especially in translation, as it can understand the general content of a text, providing users with an initial overview. Unlike humans, whose brain memory is not extensive enough to store a vast vocabulary, machine translation remains effective.

Google Translate has evolved from a word-by-word translator (statistical machine learning) to a complete sentence translator (neural machine learning). This translation engine can produce reasonably accurate meanings in some situations, but errors with inaccurate results are still found in the translation of complex sentences or terms. Thus, it is more appropriate to use it as a pre-translation tool, and users still need to refine the results. This translation engine can serve as a reference for translation, giving a general overview of the text (Lawa et al., 2022). However, humans remain the best translators, and as good as the machine is, it is still a machine. It cannot fully understand the nuances of the text or know the author's specific needs in the target language.

In the analysis of the translation of the song "Rewrite the Stars" by Anne-Marie and James Arthur using Google Translate, a number of translation errors were identified. The researcher classified these errors into four categories: omission errors, addition errors, misformation errors, and misordering errors. Omission errors occurred three times, addition errors occurred four times, misformation errors occurred six times, and misordering errors occurred twice. The meanings

produced by these translations did not align with the intended message of the songwriters. The most common errors were caused by the selection of diction used to translate complex terms.

The researcher concludes that Google Translate cannot replace the role of humans as translators. This translation engine is claimed to still produce inaccurate and unreliable translations. When using machine translation assistance, the researcher suggests double-checking the translation results before using them to reduce the risk of errors, especially when using Google Translate for academic learning.

The researcher hopes that the creators of machine translation will continue to improve the quality of translation results for optimal use. The better the quality of translation produced by a machine translation engine, the easier access to translation when needed. However, users are advised to use Google Translate wisely, not relying entirely on translation results, as advanced as the machine may be. The machine cannot fully understand the nuances of the text and accurately know the author's needs in the target language.

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