Translation Strategies in *Tempo* English Magazine

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**ABSTRACT**

This research aims at identifying and examining the translation strategies applied in *Tempo* English magazine, the English edition of *Tempo* magazine. The data were gathered from 10 selected articles of the source magazine, *Tempo*, and its translated magazine, *Tempo* English, both of which belonged to the edition of April 30 – May 6, 2018. The analysis and categorization were based on the news translation theory proposed by Bielsa and Bassnett and supported by Joan Cutting’s context theory as well. The result of this research shows that the translators of *Tempo* English magazine used all of the news translation strategies in translating the Indonesian news articles to English. There were 199 data found in the research with 77 data of the Addition strategy, 68 data of the Elimination, 25 data of the strategy of Summarizing Information, 15 data of the Change in the Order of Paragraphs, and the other 14 data using the Change of Title and Lead. The research analysis concludes that in the strategy of the Change in the Order of Paragraphs, *Tempo* English magazine tended to apply the change of order at the phrase and sentence level rather than at the paragraph level.

**Keywords:** Translation, News Translation, *Tempo*, *Tempo* English.

**INTRODUCTION**

Translation has become an essential help that bridges knowledge from one language to another. In Western history, the practice of translation was predominantly marked by Cicero’s Roman translation of classical Greek oratory and St. Jerome’s Latin Bible translations of the Christian New Testament (translated from Old Latin) and the Christian Old Testament (translated from Hebrew and Greek) (Munday, 2009, p. 1-2). Nowadays, following the rapid globalization of the twenty-first century, translation is used not only to spread religious and academic matters, but also aims at disseminating information or news of certain country, with certain language(s) and culture, to people all over the world, making the information available for global readers. This phenomenon has induced news industry to regard news translation as a necessity. As a result, the number of news media that equips its news article with translation has increased.

*Tempo* English has been contributing to transfer Indonesia’s recent updates to the expatriates living in Indonesia and the global community in general through its use of the English language (Global Editors Network, 2016). The English-language magazine requires translation from Indonesian, articles written in *Tempo*, to English in the process of content making. Consequently, the in-charge translators need to employ several translation strategies in order to break through the
language and cultural barrier between Indonesian and English. The strategies must help the translators to preserve the similar nuance, tone, and meaning of the original text without changing the focus of the news itself or even damaging the transmission of the news.

This research investigates the strategies that the translators of Tempo English use in disseminating the news from Indonesian (ST) to English (TT). The Indonesian to English research is selected following the fact that in Indonesia the majority of news translation studies investigate the data from English (ST) to Indonesian (TT). In brief, the objectives of this research are a) to identify the translation strategies used by the translators of Tempo English magazine in translating news articles from Indonesian to English, and b) to investigate how the translators of Tempo English magazine apply the translation strategies in translating the news articles from Indonesian to English.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There have been several studies aimed at discovering news translation strategies. Handoyo (2016) examines the translation techniques on BBC News Indonesia website and the quality it represents. Handoyo used 15 news articles published on December 25th, 2013 as the data source and narrowed the data sample into 5 articles that represented about five news categories each; sport, politics, economics, science, and health. The strategies were classified based on the theory of translation strategies proposed by Molina and Hurtado Albir (2002) while the quality was measured according to Nababan, Tsuji and Nakamura’s scoring standards. Based on the finding, reduction and omission become the most frequent strategies used by the translators. While in determining the quality, Handoyo acknowledged that in general news translation in BBC News Indonesia is considered moderate quality.

Another study by Dewi (2014) examines the news translation strategies applied in news articles about US government’s initial rescue of the US banks, originally published on CNNMoney.com and later translated by Kompas on October 14, 2008. Unlike Handoyo (2016), Dewi (2014) classified the strategies based on Ji Hae Kang’s theory (2007) and proposed a hypothesis that the translators applied free translation. In conclusion, the finding shows that free translation is applied alongside the method of domestication, foreignization, and borrowing in order to adjust the text to the ideology and expectation of target readers.

The third research is Akhiroh (2013). She investigated the translation quality of all the headline news in the International section in Seputar Indonesia daily and collected the data from document analysis, interviews with journalists or editorial staffs and observation towards the translation process. According to the finding, the most frequent strategies are deletion and addition that cause the target text (TT) to be less accurate. However, it does not affect the quality of the text, which can be considered “good enough” (Akhiroh, 2013).

The next study is Mariska (2017). This study investigates the oblique translation method applied in the English to Indonesian National Geographic magazine. Using only three articles as the data source, Mariska discovered 92 data with 25 data of transposition, 40 data of modulation, 14 data identified as equivalence and 13 data of adaptation. By the result, it occurs that due to the difference of English to France demonstration used in Vinay and Darbelnet’s theory, not all the translation procedures can be found in the English to Indonesian analysis.

The fifth paper is a 2015 undergraduate paper by Theodora Amy Christy entitled “The Translation of English Actives into Indonesian in News Texts”. Unlike the four others, this paper focuses on the analysis only to the scope of English active voice translation in Indonesian. The writer aims at discovering whether English actives are translated into Indonenesian passive or rendered literally into active. The data were obtained from non-scientific news uploaded on DetikNews website throughout January 2015. The result shows that most of English active voices in DetikNews are translated into Indonesian actives as well. In conclusion, the five papers above share the same purpose of identifying translation strategies applied in journalistic writings.
Four of the studies obtained the data from both digital and printed daily news platforms, while Mariska’s was magazine kind. Each paper used different theory, including Molina and Albir’s, Ji Hae Kang’s and Vinay and Darbelnet’s. Handoyo and Akhiroh complemented their research with the analysis of the target text (TT) quality. As Handoyo determined the value of the texts according to Nababan, Tsuji and Nakamura’s scoring standards only, Akhiroh considered the assessment from people in field, such as journalists and editorial staffs, aside from the document analysis. The majority of the studies examined the translation strategies in all forms, while Christy’s narrowed its analysis only to the grammatical form, which was the English actives. The writer could not find any studies that apply the theory of news translation by Bielsa and Bassnett (2009) at the time of writing. Furthermore, all of the above studies examine the Indonesian translation of English news, while this paper observes the opposite.

The primary data of the research are from Tempo and Tempo English magazine, the newsweekly magazines published in Indonesia. Tempo is one of the leading magazines that provides Indonesian readers with the in-depth analytical investigation related to Indonesia’s current issues of politics, law, socio-culture, and economic condition. Meanwhile, Tempo English is the English version of Tempo magazine, whose news is selected and later translated into English. The magazines that were used in this paper were the printed version, bought on May 3, 2018, from Gramedia and Periplus bookstore. Both magazines were published on April 30, 2018 and lasted until May 6, 2018. This paper only considered 10 selected articles of interpretative news present in both versions of the magazine.

In collecting the data, Bielsa and Bassnett’s theory of news translation in their book Translation in Global News (2009) was studied first. Second, the ten selected articles from Tempo and Tempo English magazine were read thoroughly. Third, the selection and identification of the data, which are in the form of words, phrases, sentences and even
paragraphs, began. The last step, the selected data were tabulated. In order to ease the process of data collection, a particular code was added to each data found. Each element in the made-up code identifies the data's news translation strategy, its language version, the source article, and the page number consecutively.

After putting the data in a table based on its strategy of news translation, the analysis began. The classification and analysis of the data were based on Bielsa and Bassnett's news translation theory. In addition, the context theory explained by Joan Cutting (2002) was included throughout the process of analyzing the data. Dictionaries such as Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia Online and Cambridge Online Dictionary along with other books related to news reporting, news translation, and contextual and co-textual analysis were involved during the data analysis. Lastly, after elaborating the selected data of each strategy, the analysis result was reported.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research identifies 199 data from 10 articles present in both Tempo and Tempo English magazines. The most applied strategy is Addition with a total of 39% and the least applied strategies are Change in the Order of Paragraphs and Change of Title and Lead with 8% and 7% frequency respectively. In addition, this research shows no example of paragraphs restructure, as supposedly present in the strategy of Change in the Order of Paragraphs, instead the data are all in the form of phrases and sentences.

**Change of Title and Lead**

**SL:** Setelah Janji tak Jadi Bestari (1)  
(A/ID/VIII/64)

Presiden Jokowi mengambil alih pembersihan Citarum. [...] (2) Jadi komoditas politik.

**TL:** Joining Hands to Clean Citarum (1)  
(A/ENG/VIII/40)

President Joko Widodo has taken over the cleaning up of Citarum River. **Pure intentions** (2) or political maneuvering?

Context: The revitalization project of Citarum river, the longest river in West Java known for its dirt and trash, had not yet turned into reality ever since the plan was started in 2016. The project was originally proposed by West Java governor at that time, Ahmad Heryawan, in favor of his gubernatorial campaign promise in 2013. According to him, the stagnancy of the project could only be solved if the central government led the coordination of all institutions associated with Citarum. As President Joko Widodo took over the project, some people began to question whether his decision was actually a part of the indirect campaign for 2019 presidential election.

In the source language, Tempo's journalists wrote ‘Setelah Janji tak Jadi Bestari’ as the title of the news, or if translated literally to English becomes ‘when the promise has never been bestari’. According to the news context, the word janji (promise) refers to Ahmad Heryawan’s promise of transforming Citarum’s toxic water into drinkable water by 2018. Additionally, the term bestari was derived from the revitalization project's name called Citarum Bestari. It is an abbreviation of Indonesian adjectives of bersih, sehat, indah, and lestari, or in English referred to clean, healthy, beautiful, and sustainable. Bestari in this article’s title pertains to the expectation of turning Citarum into such adjectives, which, at some point, used by Tempo to denote sarcasm about the opposite reality of the expectation. Therefore, the title ‘Setelah Janji tak Jadi Bestari’ is Tempo’s way to tell its readers that the governor’s promise of making Citarum river clean was not yet fulfilled.

Even so, Tempo English translators chose to translate such phrase into ‘Joining Hands to Clean Citarum’. This translation is clearly distinct from its source text and undergoes an extreme change in terms of focus and meaning. The SL concentrates on the main idea of the article, which is the unfulfilled promise of the West Java governor. Meanwhile, the TL focuses on the collaboration of all institutions associated with Citarum in the effort to run the project. The translation points out more on the
solution that the government chose in overcoming the problem stated in the source title.

Furthermore, the abbreviation of *bestari* is not common both in the SL and TL. Therefore, in order to avoid the sense of “foreignness” in TL reality, the translators shifted the focus of the title. If the translators preserve the abbreviation or decide to translate it literally, then they need to provide the readers with further explanation so that the readers can get the actual idea of the title. In fact, the additional explanation will instead make the title become too wordy, and consequently less appealing. In addition, the phrase ‘Joining Hands to Clean Citarum’ denotes the Citarum river in its body as a way to signify that the news is specifically talking about Citarum river, a river located in the SL reality.

Apart from the title change, this example also demonstrates a change of lead as marked by the addition of following phrase.

**Lead in the SL:** […] (2) Jadi komoditas politik.

**Lead in the TL:** Pure intentions (2) or political maneuvering?

Instead of translating the phrase likewise into a declarative statement, *Tempo English* translators managed to add an interrogative question of *pure intention* as a means to broaden the context of the main issue in the article. The addition can also be seen as the expression of cynicism toward Jokowi’s decision. *Tempo English* translators attempted to emphasize the cynicism by changing the declarative statement into skeptical question as such. As mentioned earlier, the president’s takeover of Citarum revitalization led some political observers to assume that it was actually one of his indirect campaigns for the 2019 election.

**Elimination of Unnecessary Information**

**SL:** …sejumlah orang dekat Jokowi menyebutkan “Ki Lurah” sebenarnya paling sreg bila lawannya Prabowo. *Ki Lurah* adalah sebutan pengganti untuk Jokowi dalam percakapan para petinggi partai koalisi. Alasannya, elektabilitas Prabowo dinilai sudah mentok. (B/ID/I/32)

**TL:** …some people close to Jokowi said that he actually prefers to run against Prabowo. […] This is because it is believed that Prabowo’s electability has topped out. (B/ENG/I/18)

Context: The above excerpts discuss Jokowi’s strategy in dealing with the 2019 presidential election. The strategy included the matters about coalition and opposition parties, the possible vice-presidential running candidates, and the potential names of opponents for the presidential candidates against Jokowi.

In the SL, *Tempo’s* journalists used the term “Ki Lurah” to refer to Jokowi as the main subject of the article. *Ki Lurah* itself occurred several times in the Indonesian article, even written in the article’s title. According to the article, *Ki Lurah* became the reference to Jokowi in the conversation among the coalition parties’ officials. As a matter of fact, the term *Ki Lurah* in the Indonesian traditional puppet culture is originally associated with *Ki Lurah Semar*, one of the notable figures in the Indonesian traditional puppet story. Philosophically speaking, *Ki Lurah* is a popular name for a leader of a village who directly communicates with and is involved closely within the society. It is also figuratively defined as a great leader who is set to be a role model for his/her people (Herawati, 2012, p. 69).

The use of such term in this article is presumably because *Tempo’s* journalists wanted to emphasize their main subject, which is Jokowi the “Ki Lurah”. Alternatively, *Tempo’s* journalists intentionally wrote this as a way to imply the journalists’ sarcasm and skepticism toward Jokowi’s being referred to *Ki Lurah*. The bold line in the above excerpt narrated the explanation of the person that the journalists referred to, even though it did not include the basic definition of *Ki Lurah* itself. This explanation is actually one of *Tempo* journalists’ ways to add context within the article, considering the possibility of those who are not familiar with the puppet culture and may get lost in defining and referring the term *Ki Lurah*.

When translated into English, *Tempo English* translators chose to delete the whole mention of the term *Ki Lurah* throughout the article. Starting from the title, the translators replaced it with the word “incumbent” which had a slightly similar meaning with what *Ki Lurah* meant in terms of holding a position as a leader. Moreover, the translators turned the word into a more general one and less-
related to any culture, such as referring Jokowi straightforwardly as Jokowi; the current Indonesia’s president who would run one more time to compete for the presidential position. As the word itself was omitted totally, then there was no point at providing the context of Ki Lurah’s reference in the target language.

The journalists’ motivation of omitting the word Ki Lurah in the English article is possibly because such particular term is quite difficult to be rendered to the target language. It contains an intense relation with a certain culture, in this case, Indonesian’s. Compared to the target language, there is no equivalent word that can explain or allude best to the term Ki Lurah as in the source language. The term might cause the sense of foreignness in the target reality and, as a result, the target readers would not obtain the same level of understanding with the one that the source readers had. Moreover, concerning the target-oriented-ness of news translation, therefore using Jokowi as the keyword instead of Ki Lurah helps the target readers to acknowledge the core subject of the article better for the target readers are more familiar with the name of Jokowi rather than Ki Lurah. In fact, the term Ki Lurah is actually meant only for internal use among the officials within Jokowi’s coalition parties so that it is no wonder that the readers, even the native, will have to look for the definition of the term first in order to understand.

Addition of Important Background Information

SL: …tinggal dua partai yang belum mendukung Jokowi, yakni Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa […] (1) dan Partai Amanat Nasional […] (2). (C/ID/II/34-b)

TL: …only two parties have not yet supported Jokowi’s nomination, namely the National Awakening Party (PKB) (1) and the National Mandate Party (PAN) (2). (C/ENG/II/20-b)

Context: The focus of the news is on the competition among Jokowi’s coalition parties in proposing their representatives to be the potential partner for vice president. The articles bring information about certain parties that had decided whether to be in the coalition or opposition. The excerpts report that among the mentioned parties, there were two parties that had not decided which side to take yet. The parties were the National Awakening Party (PKB) and the National Mandate Party (PAN).

Based on the comparison of both source and target language, the major difference in the text comes from the addition of initialism of the party. This particular way of translating occurred 23 times throughout the edition, ranging from the initialism of reputable political parties, formal institutions, notable figures, to common abbreviations in Indonesia. This strategy becomes the most frequent strategy among Bielsa and Bassnett’s entire modifications used by Tempo English translators, particularly in this edition. Through the pattern, it can be concluded that the initialisms are all derived from the initial letters of the Indonesian name. The majority of the initialisms are not included in the source texts, but added in the target texts.

In the above example, Tempo’s journalists only mentioned the name of the parties without inserting the initialism. In terms of source readers’ familiarity, the journalists might assume that the source readers, who are Indonesians, were all familiar with the parties’ names because the parties were in Indonesian language and considered big and popular enough in Indonesia. Consequently, even though the initialisms were not written down, the source readers would still be able to refer to the parties intended by the journalists.

On the other hand, initialism of the parties appeared in the target language. For instance, the party’s name in the source language was Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa. It was translated into the National Awakening Party in English. In the context of the source language, the party was also known as PKB, an initialism of the party’s name. Instead of changing the party’s initialism into NAP, for example, Tempo English translators managed to maintain the sense of the source language. This is one of the examples of adding cultural context, by providing the target text with background knowledge of the source language. In addition, rendering the initialism based on the initial letters of the translation can erase the original identity of the party, or generally shift the reference of the term itself.

Despite the role of the initialism was solely as the complement of the parties’ names, the addition
of initialism in the target language is a way to familiarize certain existing terms in the source language to the target readers' reception. By adding this, the target readers are able to acknowledge the widely-known terms in various occasions as well as refer to which party, institution, figure or abbreviation meant by the news.

Change in the Order of Paragraphs


TL: Meanwhile, Nirwana Group’s textile factory installation has broken down, causing its waste to directly flow into the Cikacembang river. The temperature of the factory’s wastewater was measured at 32.8 degrees Celsius. “We’ll fix it soon,” said Alex Ferdinan Santoso, CEO of the supplier of famous clothing brands. (D/ENG/V1/38)

Context: The articles investigate the issue of Citarum’s untreated wastewater including the surrounding factories that may contribute to polluting the river as well. The above excerpts specifically show one of the instances of surrounding factories involved in the waste issue.

Through the example, it can be seen that the change of order occurred in the reorder of the explanatory phrase of ‘pemasok pakaian merek-merek terkenal itu’, or in English translated into ‘the supplier of famous clothing brands’. In the source language, the phrase was located in the middle of the sentence as a reference to Nirvana Group, one of the factories involved in the issue. It specified the role of the factory in the textile industry, of which Nirvana Group aimed to supply its products to certain famous clothing brands. Therefore, the journalists did not exclude the phrase from the target text.

In the translation, the phrase was relocated to the end of the next sentence, after the informant’s statement. The role of the phrase in the source text, as mentioned before, was to refer to Nirvana Group. In the target text, the reference was substituted with a more straightforward and general word, factory. If the phrase ‘the supplier of famous clothing brands’ was literally translated as illustrated below, it would be too wordy and less clear.

[Actual Target Text] The temperature of the factory’s wastewater was measured at 32.8 degrees Celsius.

[Illustrative Target Text] The temperature of the supplier of famous clothing brands’ wastewater was measured at 32.8 degrees Celsius.

Moreover, the translators’ choice in replacing the phrase with factory did not affect the context. As in the previous sentence, it was mentioned that the factory’s name was Nirwana, therefore it was clear that factory referred to Nirwana. In the new order, the phrase ‘the supplier of famous clothing brands’ replaced the position of Nirvana or the factory’s name in the source text.


[Target Text] “We’ll fix it soon,” said Alex Ferdinan Santoso, CEO of the supplier of famous clothing brands.

As seen above, the role of Nirwana in the source text as the identifier for the CEO was replaced by the presence of ‘the supplier of famous clothing brands’ in the target text. However, it is better not to eliminate the mention of Nirwana or the factory’s name in the sentence since ‘the supplier of famous clothing brands’ was meant only to inform the additional details of the factory. It did not aim to replace or become the reference of the factory.

Summarizing Information

Back in 2013, the New York City-based Blacksmith Institute declared Citarum the world’s most toxic river, with trash and wastewater from 1,700 factories. (E/ENG/VI/34-b)

Context: In line with the previous example, these articles likewise talk about Tempo’s investigation regarding Citarum’s untreated wastewater. In this section, Tempo particularly described that Citarum river was considered as the world’s most toxic river for containing trash and untreated liquid waste produced by approximately 1,700 factories in the surrounding area.

This is a very clear example of a summary of information. The bold lines show the comparison between the source text and the target text. It can be seen that there were two sentences in the source text that were being extracted into only a phrase in the target text. Despite major summarizing practice, the target text did not lose its detailed information needed, which was the information about Citarum containing trash and wastewater sourced from 1,700 factories.

For instance, the first sentence of ‘sampah memenuhinya dengan limbah cair bersekutu dengan air di dalamnya’ actually portrayed Citarum’s water condition that contained trash and liquid waste all along the river. In the target text, it was only summarized into ‘trash and wastewater’. The second sentence ‘sumbernya dari 1.700 pabrik yang membuang limbah ke sungai ini’ drove the readers to comprehend that the source of the trash and wastewater was from the 1,700 factories that disposed their untreated waste into Citarum. This sentence was extracted into a phrase ‘from 1,700 factories’ in the target text. In short, the highlight of the information remained while the modifying clause was eliminated.

Tempo English translators might consider the sentence in the source text too wordy and not necessary so that the text was synthesized into a phrase. Moreover, through this strategy, it can be concluded that the translators tried to make the target text more concise and compact.

Based on the findings, Tempo English translators applies all of the news translation strategies proposed by Bielsa and Bassnett in its editions of April 30 to May 6, 2018. There are 199 data found from 10 news articles, with Addition as the most frequent strategy used of all (39%) and followed by Elimination with 34%. The results show that there is uneven distribution among the strategies in which Addition and Elimination vary from 77 data to 68 data while other strategies, such as Summarizing Information, Change in the Order of Paragraphs, and Change of Title and Lead, range around 14 to 25 data only. This phenomenon concludes that the most applicable strategies in translating news articles of Tempo to Tempo English magazine are by omitting the unnecessary information as well as by adding certain explication details in the translation.

The Addition strategy becomes the most frequently used strategy following the repeated addition of parties’ initialisms, province details, and background information related to the topic of the articles. It appears mostly in the form of a phrase, but addition of word and sentence also occurs. In this strategy, context theory plays a significant role in assisting the contextual analysis of the data. The second most applied strategy, Elimination, tends to undergo certain patterns of omission, such as deletion of days, PT, small-scope location of village or sub-district, and institution’s names, ranging from words to sentences. 34 out of 68 Elimination data were found in the article code VI following the repeated presence of those certain patterns. The writer also finds that the translators of Tempo English tend to use more straightforward, concise, and less figurative language in rendering the source text into the target text. It can be seen through the data of Change of Title and Lead and Summary of Information strategies. Most cases involve the alteration of diction and major synthesis of information.

In the Change in the Order of Paragraphs, the writer could not find any example. Instead, all of the data found in the magazine were in the form of phrases and sentences. The translators usually restructure the phrases in a sentence, reordering it based on the translator’s will. This phenomenon happens for several reasons. First, it is related to the Tempo English translators’ style itself. Second, since
the person(s) who translate the news along with the journalists who write the articles belong to the same editorial team, therefore, it can be concluded that, each of them has a similar vision upon the value of the content they produce. In other words, there are certain agreed standards over the procedure of translation among the translators and the journalists themselves. Consequently, the agreed standards generate minimal changes over the content-writing between Tempo and Tempo English magazine. This proves Bielsa and Bassnett’s statement that the process of writing, editing, and translating news articles cannot be produced separately.

In short, using news translation strategy to determine the modification and the analysis of this research brings the writer to conclude that translation in news articles greatly depends on the context of the articles as well as on the target readers’ understanding. The strategies deal with textual analysis along with the contextual cases at the word, phrase, and even paragraph level. As a result, the translators need to understand the whole context of the article, along with the in-depth knowledge of both source and target language, in order to be able to deliver the text to the target readers without missing the important information.

REFERENCES


