DOES A TOOL FOR TRANSLATION REALLY MATTER?

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Abstract
The research is mainly aimed to investigate the difference in learners' achievement in translating text by using two different translation tools, namely, electronic dictionaries (hereafter ED group) and printed dictionaries (hereafter PD group). The focus of this research is however to see the effect of using two different tools towards the learners' achievement in translating text. A total of 94 undergraduate students of STKIP Muhammadiyah Aceh Barat Daya participated in this experiment. They are required to translate English texts from a well-known newspaper (the Jakarta Post) comprising of 118 to 130 words to be translated in 60 minutes. The result shows that there is significant difference in students' translation achievement between those who translated the text by using electronic dictionary and those who used printed dictionary which means the translation tools strongly affect the students' ability to translate. This research indicated that the use of printed dictionary is highly recommended for students to translate English text into Indonesian.

Keywords: *Electronic dictionary, printed dictionary, translation.*

INTRODUCTION

The vast advancement of technology has significantly affected the development of educational world, particularly in learning activities in classrooms. The use of projectors or videos for instance, has given authentic nuances for the explanation of a topic discussed in classrooms especially in teaching English in a foreign language context in which the availability of authentic materials such as readings and real life conversations which reflect the native like context is still essential. The moving images will assist the teacher in communicating the idea through an engaging, interesting examples and delivery of the learning subjects which will facilitates the thinking and problem solving skill. As one of learning tools, electronic dictionaries have been used by the English department students due to their reasonable sizes, the easiness to take anywhere, and the absence of a certain space to store them.

The increase in communication technology and hand phones has also contributed the latest innovation for electronic dictionaries. There is a plethora of smart phones that comprise applications functioning as dictionaries. These applications obviously have been connected to the internet system which enriches the meaning alternatives of the searched word.

Due to numerous benefits of the use of electronic dictionaries, it is inevitable to see majority of English Department Students of STKIP Muhammadiyah Southwest Aceh utilize this kind of dictionary in their study. However, there are still some of the students who keep using printed dictionaries to conduct translating activities. As both dictionaries have different features, it is however intriguing to

comprehend whether the type of dictionaries the students utilize in translating will significantly influence their ability in translating texts.

Translation is one of the most pertinent elements in communicating a language; especially by those whose English are not their native language. Translation can be defined as a language transfer activity into another language (Simatupang, 2000). The translated words from their original language need to have proper translations both semantically and culturally into the target language. Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) indicated that translation is an activity aiming at finding the equivalence-oriented translation to recreate similar circumstance as its origin through various expressions. A good translation will contribute into an effective and efficient communication.

To translate a language well, it requires not only the knowledge of grammar and culture of both the source and target languages, but also the sufficiency of vocabulary mastery in order to get the accurate synonym. The synonyms chosen should suit the messages intended to be conveyed by the speaker correctly.

Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia online (n.d.) defines a dictionary as a reference book consisting of words and expression which are usually arranged in alphabetical order along with explanation of their meanings. In its development, a dictionary has evolved in term of its form, not only in printed version but also in digital or electronic ones. It is undeniable that the use of dictionary as a tool for a foreign language learner has been a common thing, particularly in understanding the reading context (Hosenfeld, 1997; Adamson, 1990), however the use of dictionaries is also considered as a strategy that has negative impact toward the development of its language users (Paribakht & Wesche, 1993).

Utilizing electronic dictionaries in translation process has been a great phenomenon in Asian countries such as in Taiwan, Hongkong, and China (Jian, *et al.,* 2009), including in Indonesia. In relation to their research, it was found that practicality becomes the main reason of the researched university students to prefer using electronic dictionaries. In addition, its popularity has made the dictionaries the ubiquitous device sold in either electronic or book stores. Its portability compared to the printed dictionary has also supported the students' fondness to use it. Besides, the time consumed in searching a word is faster in comparison to a printed dictionary. These are in line with a survey conducted in England where one-fifth of the students using printed dictionaries did not manage to find the meaning of the intended word (Nesi & Haill, 2002, in Jian, *et al.,* 2009). Another research conducted in several universities in Japan (Loucky, 2002) also disclosed a similar result where the use of electronic dictionaries has provided a faster and more efficient access to find the meaning of new vocabularies.

In terms of translation quality, electronic dictionaries are believed to generate a better result (Prahastya, 2004). This confirmed a research conducted by Kučiš, Seljan and Klasnić (2009) which focusing on the quality discrepancy of translation product by using two different tools namely printed dictionary which was called as "traditional reference works" in their research, and electronic dictionary in which online dictionary was a part of it. The study shows that the use of electronic dictionary could improve the quality and consistency level of translation result in comparison to the use of traditional dictionaries. Additionally, Kučiš, et.al., highlighted that it could also increase its user's productivity as the electronic dictionary user could search more words at the same amount of time compared to the printed dictionary user. Furthermore, utilizing electronic dictionaries enabled the students or its users to find more synonyms, more varied, and more accurate words meaning than by utilizing printed dictionaries (Prahasty, 2014).

However, the use of electronic dictionaries could not fully guarantee the students would be able to choose the appropriate lexicon to represent the translated word (Asmarani & Santoso, 2014). This was because it still needs the comprehension of cultural context from the source language into the target language to completely understand the word. Additionally, Asmaran and Santoso also found that grammatical error was still becoming an issue in translating text by using electronic dictionaries. Therefore, to effectively use of electronic dictionary, the students should have a better understanding towards language and cultural aspect of the language both target language and source language.

Despite the benefits that the electronic dictionary has, there are still few students of English Department of STKIP Muhammadiyah Southwest Aceh who like to use printed dictionaries which are considered impractical. Although there are no criteria of kinds of dictionary to be used by the students that the STKIP lecture made, it is interesting to know the influences of the dictionary used

towards the students' performance in translating a text. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to answer the following questions:

1. Is the type of dictionary being used by the English department students of STKIP Muhammadiyah Southwest Aceh influence their ability in translating English text?

2. To what extend is the difference of ability of the English department students of STKIP Muhammadiyah Southwest Aceh in translating text based on the type of dictionary being used?

METHODOLOGY

This is a quantitative survey research that employed a test to obtain its data through a non-experimental research. The developed null hypothesis developed in this research was that there was no difference in students' translation skill based on the type of dictionary being used in translating English text. The research was conducted in Sekolah Tinggi Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan (STKIP) Muhammadiyah Aceh Barat Daya, located in Padang Meurante Village, Susoh Subdistrict, and Southwest Aceh district. The participants of this research were selected from students of English Department of STKIP Muhammadiyah Southwest Aceh for the 2013/2014 Academic Year based on these two criteria; first, they have taken Translation II subject, and secondly they use dictionary (either electronic dictionary or printed dictionary) during their study.

Based on those criteria, there were 94 students who were eligible as the participants of this research comprising of 11 males and 83 female students. Due to a great imbalance of gender variable, it was therefore considered this research would not be analyzed based on this variable.

The research participants had homogeneous characteristics as following 1) having age range from 18-20 year old; 2) originating from same cultural background, namely Acehnese; and 3) non-English speaker students, but speakers of Acehnese, Aneuk Jamee language, and few were Indonesian language. English was being used for academic purpose only.

A Translation test was utilized as the instrument of data collection in this research consisting of two parts, the first part was asking about demographic data of the students such as name, sex and their semester; whereas the second one was the English text to be translated. The text was adopted from the online article of the Jakarta Post, titled Tourist number in RI rise 7.24% in August, written by Osman (2014). It was scored by two examiners, the researchers by using scale holistic method.

Since the classroom cannot accommodate all participants at once, the tests however were administered in four separate times depending on the students' classes as the students had been divided into four classes or units. Each unit had different set of text which was then prevented the being disclosed to units that had later period test. There were 60 minutes being allocated for the participants to translate the texts given. The students were asked to translate the English text provided into Indonesian language within the times allocated. There was only one translation tool to be used either electronic dictionary or printed dictionary. All participants answered the tests and returned the answer sheets. Therefore, there were no missing data in this study.

Paired sample t-test was employed to analyze the collected data. According to Hinton, *et al.* (2005), the paired sample t-test is very appropriate for related samples or same research participants. Furthermore, the normal distribution could not be calculated if the sample is bigger than 30 people. To calculate the data, SPSS program was utilized.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data collected were then analyzed by using SPPS 22 software. From the calculation, it was found out the mean and standard deviation of both samples as described on Table 1 below.

Table 1. Analysis of mean.

No.	Groups of participants	Mean	Sample size (N)	Standard Deviation (SD)	Std. Error Mean
1	PD Group	63.62	94	19.447	2.006
2	ED Group	53.40	94	23.166	2.389

To find out the correlation between the devices or tools being used by the students for translation activities and their translation ability, Paired Sample Correlation formula was then used (Hinton, Brownlow, McMurray & Cozens, 2005). The reason of choosing this formula was because

the samples were the same or paired. The correlation calculation finding could be seen in Table 2 below:

Table 2. Analysis of correlation.

No.	Group of Participants	Sample Size (N)	Correlation	Sig.
1	PD group and ED group	94	.139	.180

Table 2 shows that the level of significance in the correlation PD group and ED group during the process of translating English text into Indonesian language, where r value is 0.139, and p value is 0.180, which are bigger than p>0.05. Therefore, it could be concluded that the type of dictionary being used could significantly influence the students' ability in translating an English text. In brief, the difference of mean from both groups (PD group and ED group) could be seen in table 3 below:

Table 3. Analysis of t, df, and sig. (2 ways).

No.	Groups	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of Diff.				
					lower	upper			
1	PD group and ED group	10.213	28.093	2.898	4.459	15.967	3.525	93	.001

Based on the analysis of data by using t-test, it was then found out that the mean value of the group using printed dictionary for translation is 63.62, whereas another group (electronic dictionary group) has mean value 53.40. Mean differences of both group is 10.213. This difference proves that the result rejects the null hypothesis assumed earlier for this research as the difference value is greater than the standard error value. Therefore, it could be concluded that the translation tools being used by students in their translation activity influence their ability in doing translation as both group obtain different ability proven by the discrepancy of their Mean value.

CONCLUSION

Although the difference between the groups' ability is statistically significant as p value is greater than 0.05, however the data analysis also revealed that the difference is subtle which could be concluded that difference in students' ability to translate English text into Bahasa Indonesia did not merely depend on the type of tools being utilized by the English Department students of STKIP Muhammadiyah Abdya. Nonetheless, a slight difference in their translation skill needs to be elaborated more. Therefore, further research should be carried out to explore factors determining students' success in performing translation by utilizing both tools.

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