ACTIVE VOICE CHANGES IN TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH TO INDONESIAN AND VICE VERSA

(ORIGINAL UNIVERSITY: Universitas Serambi Mekah, Banda Aceh)

Mohammad Rizqi
Balai Bahasa Jawa Barat
Jalan Sumbawa Nomor 11 Bandung 40113
Telepon: (022) 4205468
Posel: qqlennon@gmail.com

Tanggal naskah masuk: 17 Oktober 2016
Tanggal revisi terakhir: 1 November 2016

Abstract

The writing aims to analyze voice changes from English into Indonesian based on contrastive analysis in translation of English into Indonesian. Voice is a grammatical category of verbs that is related to what thing or person is acting and what thing or person is being acted upon (Crystal, 1997). The method used in this research is qualitative descriptive method. To acquire the data, the writer uses a group of students from the Serambi Mekah University of English Department of Banda Aceh as the subject of the study, consisting of eight lower semester students (semester 1 and 3) and twelve higher semester students (semester 5 and above). They were given eight sentences in English and were asked to translate them into the most natural way that they can think of in Indonesian. The use of students from lower and higher semester is intended to...
find the similarity of profile in terms of their voice preference in translating the given English sentences into Indonesian. The result shows that there is similar profile between the lower and higher semester students in terms of their voice preference in translating the given English sentences into Indonesian. In the majority of translations from English, a change occurs from syntactic active to passive in Indonesian, and therefore a change in transitivity structures occurs.

**Key words:** contrastive analysis, voice changes, transitivity

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Background

There are many linguists have researched about translation of active passive construction in English and Indonesian. Generally they used novels as data. The research of the translation of Indonesian passive voice into English with reference to “Bawang Merah dan Bawang Putih” and its translation “Miss Onion and Miss Garlic” (2011) written by Ni Wayan Sadiyani discussed the style of the translator translated Indonesian passive construction into English. Meanwhile, Djuria Suprato (2013) researched a translation of English passive construction into Indonesian and the novel of Sydney Sheldon as data. The results showed that the passive voice which was translated into passive voice usually has an agent, both known and unknown. The active voice is a communicative expression, therefore a translator should not maintain a passive construction in a target language but it should have an appropriate meaning. The sentence construction is not a major pattern, sentence meaning is.

No two languages are ever sufficiently similar to be considered as representing the same social reality (Sapir, 1929). The worlds in which different societies live are distinct worlds, not merely the same worlds with different labels attached. Furthermore he declared that no language can exists unless it is steeped in the context of culture, and no culture can exists which does not have at its center, the structural of natural language, as described as language is the heart within the body of culture.

Nida’s (1964) model of the translation process illustrates the stages involved in translation process as follows.

---

**Diagram 1** Nida’s model of translation process

It is important to bear in mind that the translation process also involves the process of decoding and recoding, in which Jakobson (1959) outlined the principles as follows:

- a translator must accept the untranslatability of the SL (Source Language) phrase in the TL (Target Language) on the linguistic level.
- a translator must accept the lack of similar cultural convention in the TL.
- a translator must consider the range of TL phrases available, having regard to the presentation of class, status, age, sex of the speaker, his relationship to the listener(s), and the context of their meeting in the SL.
- a translator must consider the significance of the phrase in its particular context, i.e. as a moment of high tension in the dramatic text.
- a translator must replace in the TL the invariant core of the SL phrase in its two referential systems (the particular system of the text and the system of culture out of which the text has sprung).

Furthermore, in the process of interlingual translation, one idiom is substituted for another Bassnett (1991). The substitution is made not on the basis of the linguistic elements in the phrase but on the function of the idiom where the SL phrase
serves the same purpose in the TL culture. In his definition of translation equivalence, Popovic (1976) distinguished four types of equivalence:

1) Linguistic equivalence, where there is homogeneity on the linguistic level of both SL and TL texts, i.e. word for word translation.

2) Paradigmatic equivalence, where there is equivalence of ‘the elements of paradigmatic expressive axis’, i.e. the elements of grammar, which Popovic saw as being of a higher category than lexical equivalence.

3) Stylistic (syntactic) equivalence, where there is ‘functional equivalence of elements in both original and translation aiming at an expressive identity with an invariant of identical meaning’.

4) Textual (syntagmatic) equivalence, where there is equivalence of the syntagmatic structuring of a text, i.e. equivalence of form and shape.

Voice changes in the translation process are based on the accepted principle that sameness cannot exist between two languages, in which the processes of loss and gain occurred. It means that in the translation process from the SL to the TL some elements are omitted and some other are also added to enrich or to clarify the SL text as a direct result of the translation process. Moreover, what is often seen as ‘lost’ from the SL context may be replaced in the TL context. Methven (2006) indicates that in the usage of voice constructions from SL to TL can be distinguished according to five categories between the SL and TL: frequency, dynamicity, agency, semantic prosody, and genre distinctions. To know how the voice changes it needs a research. That is what forms the backgrounds of this study.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

In this research, the writer tries to analyze and describe the voice change from English into Indonesian and vice versa. Considering that, there are two issues discussed in this research:

(1) How the translators translate the voice of English sentence into Indonesian sentence?
(2) Is there any similar profile between the lower and higher semester students in term of their voice preference in translating the given English sentences into Indonesian?

1.3 Objectives

The main purpose of the study is

(1) to find how the translators translate the voice of English sentence into Indonesian sentence.
(2) to seek the similarity of profile between the lower and higher semester students in term of their voice preference in translating the given English sentences into Indonesian.

The paper is intended to give contribution for those who are interested in studying voice change from English into Indonesian and vice versa.

1.4 Methods

The research is a qualitative research, therefore, the writer believes that a quality research of the researcher is the central of the study (Biklen and Bogdan, 2007:36). We can conclude that in this type of research the researcher plays a dominant role in deciding which data is going to take. Hence, the subjectivity of the researcher determines the quality of data interpretation.

To acquire the data, the writer uses a group of students from the Serambi Mekah University of English Department. They were chosen as the subject of the study, consisting of eight lower semester students (semester 1 and 3) and twelve higher semester students (semester 5 and above). They were given eight sentences in English and were asked to translate them into the most natural way that they can think of in Indonesian. The use of students from lower and higher semester is intended to find the similarity of profile in term of their voice preference in translating the given English sentences into Indonesian.

By applying this method, the writer intend to analyze the voice changes from English into
Indonesian based on contrastive analysis of English and Indonesian in translation (Sneddon, 2012).

The writer took the data of English sentences from “Active Grammar” Book (2001) written by Geoff Barton.

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1 Voice

Voice is a grammatical category of verbs that is related to what thing or person is acting and what thing or person is being acted upon (Crystal, 1997). The person or thing we want to talk about is usually expressed as the subject of the clause. If the focus of the sentence is on the actor, it is put as the subject of the verb and an active verb is used. A verb is said to be in the active voice when it is used to talk about what people and things do. On the other hand, verbs in the passive voice describe what is done to things (Swan, 1995). According to Swan, not all verbs can be expressed in the passive voice, for example die, arrive and have are all inherently active. This is related to whether the verb is transitive or intransitive as only transitive verbs can be expressed in passive voice.

Transitivity and Argument Structures

“Transitivity is a linguistic system in which… categories characterize different kinds of events and process, different kinds of participants in these events and the varying circumstances of place and time within which events occur. These variations in structure of the clause are said to relate to different world views and to relay different ideological slants” (Hatim and Mason, 1997:225).

According to Fromkin et. al (1991), a verb is said to be transitive when it takes a noun phrase (NP) for a complement (direct object); an intransitive verb is one that does not take a complement. The grammatical dependents of the verb are called arguments (O’Grady et. al, 1987) and the number of arguments a verb can have is known as the valency (Holmer, 1996). We can therefore say that intransitive verbs have one argument (the subject) and a valency of one; and transitive verbs have a valency of two – arguments of the subject and the object. The term thematic role determines the role played by a particular entity in a given event (O’Grady et. al 1987). Thematic roles relevant to this study are the Agent – the doer, the Theme – the entity undergoing action, and the Goal – end point of movement.

The object of an active verb corresponds to the subject of a passive verb (Swan, ibid.), therefore transitive verbs can have a passive voice and intransitive verbs cannot as the latter do not have an object to become the subject of the passive sentence. This is therefore why verbs like die cannot be passive.

According to Hatim and Mason (ibid.) transitivity, can classify processes into action, material and event processes, therefore usage of the passive for example can change how a process is depicted – relaying notions of power, control and responsibility, and therefore possible intentionality and ideology involved. For example, it is widely accepted that the passive in English can be “exploited in impersonal constructions to avoid explicit blame” (ibid.). It is also noted that transitivity in English is used to generate ‘ideational meanings’, for example the passive can be used to make a notion more salient throughout a text while at the same time diverting attention away from ‘true agency’ – presenting events from a ‘static view’. ‘Transitivity pattern’ through the text can also be used cohesively, for example allowing a series of actors to be identified with each other.

2.2 English Passive Constructions

English passives are grammatically marked by a copular verb followed by the past participle of a verb. A copular verb is one that joins an adjective or noun compliment to a subject, for example be, seem, become etc. The unmarked passive form in English is be+ past participle, but other copular verbs can be used such as become and get, however other copular verbs tend be limited by their semantics (Methven, 2006).
Passive constructions in English allow the speaker to avoid mentioning the actor. This is sometimes necessary or desired because the actor is not known, is obvious, or is not important, or because the action is something that can be done by anyone (Sneddon, 2012: 262).

The main function of the passive constructions in English is to avoid specifying the agent and to give an impression of objectivity (Baker, 1992:106). Larson (1998:246) argues that passive construction is also used to focus on the affected, resultant, benefactive, etc. Because passive voice sentences necessarily add words and change the normal doer-action-receiver of action direction, they may make the reader work harder to understand the intended meaning.

The use of passive voice is to emphasize a process in scientific or technical writing, for example:

1. Next, the magnets were calibrated to align with the laser beam.

The use of passive voice is to place attention on the object, rather than the subject, for example:

2. The new parking garage would be completed sometime next month.

(Examples: (3) Pak Dewa baru mengangkat seorang wakil (Active) (4) Seorang wakil baru diangkat oleh Pak Dewa (Passive))

2.3 Indonesian Passive Constructions

What distinguishes how Indonesian is used differently from English is the voice of their sentences. Indonesians tend to write and talk in passive voice, putting the subject at the end of the sentence. Active verbs in Indonesian are usually preceded by prefix “me-”, while passive verbs are usually preceded with prefix “di-”. Passive constructions are far more common in Indonesian than in English. Consequently, some Indonesian passive sentences can only be translated into natural English by an active construction (Sneddon, 2012: 263).

In line with Sneddon, et al., (1996:345-347) figure out that passivization in Indonesian can be done in two ways: (1) using verb attached by prefix di- and (2) with verb without prefix di-. They then add that S symbolizes Subject, P symbolizes predicate, and O symbolizes object, so passivizing active sentences can be done firstly by: (a) exchanging S with O; (b) replacing prefix meng- with di- in the verb; and (c) adding the word oleh in front of the actor.

Examples:

3. Pak Dewa baru mengangkat seorang wakil (Active)
4. Seorang wakil baru diangkat oleh Pak Dewa (Passive)

In examples (3) and (4) above, we can identify that the form oleh is optional but when the predicate is not directly followed by the actor, oleh is obligatory. Indonesian passes construction which has the sense of being unintentionally done has different elements. Prefix ter- is commonly used to show the passive form. Examples:

5. Tangannya tersayat pisau.
6. Penumpang itu terlempar keluar.
7. Pintu gudang itu terbuka.
8. Petinju itu terpental keluar ring.

The Indonesian passive voice has two different forms, here called ‘passive type one’ and ‘passive type two’. The terms ‘passive type one’ and ‘passive type two’ are used by Dardjowidjojo (1978). The choice of passive type is determined by the actor. When an active clause is transformed into a passive, two things must be considered in deciding if the passive is to be passive type one or type two: is the actor the first, second or third person, or is the actor a pronoun (including a pronoun substitute) or is it a noun?

2.4 Contrastive Analysis of English and Indonesian Passives in Translation

English passive voice is usually used when the actor does not need to be mentioned or if there is no way of knowing the actor, to give prominence to the patient, because of politeness, and even for textual convenience (cohesion), whereas in Indonesian the passive is used to
express politeness and to reduce the sense of deliberation (Sneddon, 2012:262).

Culturally, modesty is the virtue in Indonesia. Indonesians tend to avoid making blunt negative statements, such as “Adikmu menabrak kucing sepulang sekolah” (Your brother ran over a cat after school). To hide the subject “adikmu” (your brother) and emphasize the object “kucing” (cat), Indonesians prefer to say, “Kucingnya di tabrak adikmu sepulang sekolah” (The cat was run over by your brother after school).

In everyday conversations, active voice expressions, such as “Tolong lihat ponselnya” (Please check your phone) and “Silahkan nikmati hidangannya” are less commonly spoken than their passive counterparts “Tolong ponselnya dilihat” (Please your phone be checked) and “Silahkan hidangannya dinikmati” (Please the refreshment be enjoyed). Hassal (1999) gives some good examples on how Indonesians use passive construction, especially when they’re trying to make their commands or requests sound more polite by adding “tolong” (please):

9) “Mbak, tolong kamarnya dibersihkan nanti ya”
Miss, please the room be cleaned later, yes
“Miss, please clean the room later, ok/allright!”;
10) “Pak, tolong dikasih tahu ya kalau sudah sampai di Jalan Kartini”
Sir, please I be told, all right, when we get to Jalan Kartini
“Sir, please tell me when we get to Jalan Kartini, ok!”;
11) “Pintunya ditutup ya”
The door be closed, yes
“Close the door, please.

From the text of passive construction in Indonesian and their corresponding translation equivalents in English, as shown in sentences above, it can be identified that there are forms of passive voices in the SL, namely passive voice with prefix di- in dibersihkan, dikasih tahu, and ditutup. They are translated into active voices in English become ‘clean’, ‘tell’, and ‘close’. To gain naturalness, passive constructions will need to be translated into active constructions or vice versa. Such phenomenon often occurs in Indonesian-English translation. This is because the Indonesian language has specific characteristics in its word order. Often a passive voice is the natural construction in Indonesian where a passive translation into English will sound highly artificial or clumsy. Thus, some passive constructions in Indonesian will sound more appropriate and natural if they are translated into active constructions in English, and vice versa. In addition, the conversion of Indonesian passive constructions into active in English can add a sense of politeness and respect to a statement or question and convenience when the subject is unknown, unimportant or implied by context. For example, when the Indonesian people would like to help others, they usually say, “Bisa dibantu?” (Literal translation: “Can be helped?”). Idiomatically, it is translated into, “Can I help you?” In English, the speaker is mentioned by “I” whereas in the Indonesian, it is not necessarily stated but the subject is implied.

It was quite possible for passive voice construction in SL to be translated into active voice in the TL as this translation process was conceived to be the most appropriate way of preserving or retaining the meanings of the original texts. From the examples above it can be conceived and sensed that passive voices in Indonesian will sound more natural if they are translated into active voices in English.

Thus, if we agree that the main focus of translation process is transferring the full meaning of the SL into the TL, then the translation of passive voices in Indonesian into active voices in English, is a matter of emphasis in the degree of naturalness, acceptability, stylistic, and cultural contexts whereby the conveyed meaning can be most impartially and appropriately transferred. The process of translating Indonesian passive voices into active voices in English should therefore be conceived and understood in the light of making translation process and procedure running more effective and efficient.
3. Discussion and Findings

In this section the writer puts forward result and discussion. The analysis is performed by showing the voice changes from English into Indonesian.

3.1 Students’ Translations of English Sentences and Their Choice of Voice

A study was conducted to see the students’ voice preferences in translating English sentences into Indonesian. A group of students from the English Department of Serambi Mekah was chosen as the subject of the study, consisting of eight lower semester students (semester 1 and 3) and twelve higher semester students (semester 5 and above). They were given eight sentences in English and asked to translate them into the most natural way that they can think of in Indonesian. The eight sentences along with their usual Indonesian translations are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Num</th>
<th>English Sentence</th>
<th>Indonesian Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>He broke his leg when skiing</td>
<td>Kakinya patah ketika bermain ski (His leg was broken when skiing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>She cut her finger yesterday</td>
<td>Jarinya teriris kemarin (Her finger was cut yesterday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>The role that science plays in society</td>
<td>Peran yang dimainkan ilmu sains dalam masyarakat (the role that is played by science in society)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>These clothes wash well</td>
<td>Baju-baju ini dicuci dengan baik (These clothes are washed well)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Have you checked my research proposal?</td>
<td>Apakah proposal penelitian saya sudah diperiksa? (Has my research proposal been checked?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Have you read and understood all the terms and conditions?</td>
<td>Apakah semua syarat dan ketentuan sudah dibaca dan dipahami? (Have all the terms and conditions been read and understood?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Please enjoy the refreshment</td>
<td>Silahkan dinikmati hidangannya (Please the refreshment be enjoyed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Please follow up my complaint</td>
<td>Tolong keluhan saya ditindaklanjuti (Please my complaint be followed up)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In sentence 12 and 13, passive voice is used to avoid the sense that the action (of breaking and cutting) is deliberate. If these verbs translated literally maintaining the active voice construction, the listener would get the sense that the action is deliberate and the meaning may lead to a very negative implication.

Sentences number 14 and 15 are examples of the use of notional passive. Although they are in active voice, their meanings are in passive voice. It is not unexpected that the Indonesian translation would also result in passive voice.

Sentences number 16 and 17 are translated into passive construction in Indonesian to make it sound more indirect and thus, more polite. It is considered impolite, especially when you are speaking to someone that you barely know or someone of higher social status, to ask whether he/she has done something for your favor or whether he/she understands you. One strategy is by changing the voice of the sentence into passive to make the utterance sound more acceptable.

Sentences number 18 and 19 express offer and request. When expressing offer, request, and commands in Indonesian, it is considered more appropriate when using passive as it shifts the focus of the utterance from the doer of the action to the receiver to the action, making the offers,
request or commands sound more indirect and polite.

3.2 Analysis of Voice Changes

In translating the eight sentences above, the students had the freedom of using active or passive voice that they think sounds the most appropriate and natural to them. Here are the results of the student's translations, in term of voice preference.

The findings of the study surprisingly indicate that despite the fact that the suspected active English sentences are usually translated into passive voice in Indonesian, it was found that the students of the English department possess different preferences in translating the English sentences into active or passive voice. Furthermore, it was also found that there is similar profile between the lower and higher semester students in term of their voice preference in translating the given English sentences into Indonesian.

The ten students of lower and upper semester translated the first and second English sentence into active Indonesian sentence as follows:

(12) He broke his leg when skiing
(12a) Dia mematahkan kakinya waktu bermain ski
(13) She cut her finger yesterday
(13a) Dia mengiris jarinya kemarin

From the sentence 12 above the students translated the SL active voice construction ‘he broke his leg when skiing’ into active voice construction (12a) dia mematahkan kakinya waktu bermain ski in TL, and translated the (13) SL active voice construction ‘she cut her finger yesterday’ into active voice construction (13a) dia mengiris jarinya kemarin.

The students’ preference of using active voice resulted in awkward sense of the meaning of the sentence and it is suspected that they chose to maintain the active voice construction due to their ignorance of the meaning of the sentence in the target language.

The most essential concern of translation process is expressing the full original meaning of the SL. Viewed from the translation above; the translation of English active constructions into active constructions in Indonesian clearly indicates that the translation is adopting literal translation procedure. Larson (1998) and Bell (1991) argue that literal translation procedure basically relies on word-for-word, phrase-for-phrase, and clause-for-clause or even sentence-for-sentence translation equivalence. Venuti (2000) states that literal translation is word-for-word or phrase-for-phrase translation which follows, closely the form of the source language. The translator certainly expects that the adoption of literal translation could optimally and most equivalently function as a direct transfer of active constructions in English into Indonesian. Larson further (1998) states that only when a form is being used in its primary meaning or function is there a one-to-one correlation between form and meaning which characterizes literal translation. Some passive constructions in Indonesian will sound more appropriate and natural if they are translated into active constructions in English, and vice versa. Thus, passive voice is used to avoid the sense that the action (of breaking and cutting) is deliberate. If these verbs translated literally maintaining the active voice construction, the listener would get the sense that the action is deliberate and the meaning may lead to a very negative implication. The acceptable passive translation are:

(12b) Kakinya patah waktu bermain ski
(13b) Jarinya teriris kemarin

The other ten students have translated the acceptable passive translation of (12b) and (13b).

In translating English active voice into Indonesian on number 14 and 15, the students do not seem to face any difficulty in comprehending the meanings of the notional passives in despite of their active constructions and were able to successfully translate them into passive constructions in Indonesian. Most of students translated the active English sentences are as follows:

(14) The role that science plays in society
From the sentence above (14) the students translated the SL active voice construction ‘the role that science plays in society’ into passive voice construction (14a) **Peran yang dimainkan oleh ilmu sains di masyarakat** in TL, and translated the (15) SL active voice construction ‘these clothes wash well’ into passive voice construction (15a) **Baju ini dicuci dengan baik**.

Sneddon, (2000), states that the change of the structure from one form to another is uncommon. To gain naturalness, active constructions will need to be translated into passive constructions or vice versa. Such phenomenon often occurs in Indonesian-English translation. This is because the Indonesian language has specific characteristics in its word order. Often a passive voice is the natural construction in Indonesian where a passive translation into English will sound highly artificial or clumsy. Thus, some active constructions in English will sound more appropriate and natural if they are translated into passive constructions in Indonesian, and vice versa. In addition, the conversion of English active constructions into passive in Indonesian can add a sense of politeness and respect to a statement or question and convenience when the subject is unknown, unimportant or implied by context.

The translation of these sentences in active constructions in Indonesian, for example like “**Peranan yang ilmu sains mainkan dalam masyarakat**” and “**Baju-baju ini mencuci dengan baik**” seems to be unacceptable or unusual. However there are three students who translated the sentence “**The role that science plays in society**” into a noun phrase “**Peran ilmu sains dalam masyarakat.**”

The most appropriate and as natural as possible sentences are as follows:

(14b) **Peran ilmu sains dalam masyarakat**

(15b) **Baju ini dicuci dengan baik.**

The fifth and sixth sentences express commands and in Indonesian, ideally they should be constructed in passive voice if the speaker wishes to be polite. The sentences and its translations are as follows.

(16) Have you checked my research proposal?

(16a) **Apakah proposal penelitian saya sudah diperiksa?**

(17) Have you read and understood all the terms and conditions?

(17a) **Apakah semua syarat dan ketentuan sudah dibaca dan dipahami?**

From the sentence above (16) the students translated the SL active voice construction ‘have you checked my research proposal’ into passive voice construction (16a) **Apakah proposal penelitian saya sudah diperiksa** in TL, and translated the (17) SL active voice construction ‘have you read and understood all the terms and conditions’ into passive voice construction (17a) **apakah semua syarat dan ketentuan sudah dibaca dan dipahami.**

Sentence (16) and (17) are translated into passive construction in Indonesian to make it sound more indirect and thus, more polite. It is considered impolite, especially when you are speaking to someone that you barely know or someone of higher social status, to ask whether he/she has done something for your favor or whether he/she understands you. One strategy is by changing the voice of the sentence into passive to make the utterance sound more acceptable.

In addition, the conversion of Indonesian passive constructions into active in English can add a sense of politeness and respect to a statement or question and convenience when the subject is unknown, unimportant or implied by context.

The researcher has no doubt that the translator of the investigated text has already discovered the meaning of SL and then used the forms of TL which express this meaning in a natural way. They are competent and knowledgeable in the communication situation and cultural contexts and features of the SL.

In most English sentences with an action verb, the subject performs the action denoted by
the verb. Because the subject does or ‘acts upon’ the verb in such sentences, the sentences are said to be in the active voice; because the subject is being ‘acted upon’ by the object of the sentence, the sentence is hence said to be passive voice. In other words, one could change the normal word order of many active sentences, those with direct object, so that the subject is no longer active but is being acted upon by the verb – or passive.

The last two sentences express request and offers. They are as follows.

(18) Please enjoy the refreshment
(18a) Selamat menikmati hidangannya
(19) Please follow up my complaint
(19a) Tolong keluhan saya ditindaklanjuti

A good translator usually has the option, then, of focusing on finding formal equivalents which ‘preserve’ the content-free semantic sense of the text at the expense of its context-sensitive communicative value or finding functional equivalents which ‘preserve’ the context-sensitive communicative value at the expense of its context-free semantic sense. The choice is between translating word-for-word known as literal translation for meaning known as free translation (Bell, 1991). However, finding lexical equivalents for objects and events which are not known in the receptor culture are most troublesome, and therefore, there is no word or phrase in the receptor language which is easily available for the translation. This is on account of the fact that the students have to consider not only the two languages but also the two cultures. Because of the distinct difference in cultural features there will some concepts in the source language which do not have lexical equivalents in the receptor language. The student’s task is even more difficult if the concept to be translated refers to something which is not known in the receptor culture. If this the case, they have to look for an appropriate way to refer to something which is already part of the experience of the receptor language audience, or they are likely looking for a way to express a concept to the speakers of the target language, such as by paraphrasing.

The sentence of (18) above further shows that it is an active voice, it expresses an imperative sentence of offers. the structure with a marker “please” is one of imperative sentence. The function of verb ‘enjoy’ on please enjoy the refreshment is verb that explain an activity followed by an object ‘the refreshment’. The verb has a role of action. Semantically the sentence of (18) classify as polite command. The use of “please” on the first sentence shows that the speaker want to emphasize from the beginning that he/she want to be polite. Therefore, ideally the translation in Indonesian should be constructed in passive voice. Thus, the ideal translation in Indonesian is as follows.

(18b) Silakan dinikmati hidangannya

The sentence of (19) please follow up my complaint shows that it expresses an imperative sentence of request. Same with the sentence of (18) the structure of sentence of (19) use a marker “please” as one of imperative sentence. The function of verb has kind of monotransitive extensive dynamic with a role of action. Monotransitive extensive dynamic means the verb explain an activity without being followed by subject compliment but it is followed by one object. Semantically, the structure of imperative sentence preceded by word ‘please’ shows that this imperative sentence classified as polite request imperative. Therefore it should be constructed in passive voice in Indonesian. the proper translation for sentence please follow up my complaint is as follows.

(19b) Tolong ditindaklanjuti keluhan saya

4. Closing
4.1 Conclusion

The findings of the study surprisingly indicate that despite the fact that the suspected active English sentences are usually translated into passive voice in Indonesian, it was found that the students of the English department possess different preferences in translating the English sentences into active or passive voice. Furthermore, it was also found that there is similar
profile between the lower and higher semester students in term of their voice preference in translating the given English sentences into Indonesian.

This paper has shown the changes in the translation of English sentences to Indonesian and explored the possibility of the causes. The changes between active and passive voice in translation have also been illustrated. In the majority of translations from English, a change occurs from syntactic active to passive in Indonesian, and therefore a change in transitivity structures occurs.

4.2 Suggestion

The researchers are suggested to undertake further research in the sphere of translation, dealing with the translation of English voice constructions into Indonesian as many problems in translating English active into Indonesian are still left unsolved. They are scientifically challenging and worth more meticulous and profound studies the results of which, whatsoever, would render invaluable enrichment to the existing research findings.

The result of on translation studies should be selectively publicized so that people and students who are interested in and concerned with translation studies will have easier access to read it. So far the results of translation studies are simply documented in the library.

References


