

Translation Shift in the English Version of Musabaqah Tafsir Quran

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Abstract— This study identify the translation shift in the English version of the recitation of the holy book in Musabaqah Tafsir Quran. Qualitative research design was applied in this study. The data of the study were English text of English version of the Arabic version of the Holy Quran that was translated from Arabic into English by the participants of Musabaqah Tafsir Quran in National level of MTQ 2014 in Kepulauan Riau. The results showed that all kinds of caegory of shift occur in the English version of Musabaqah Tafsir Quran, they are: structure shift, class shift, unit shift, and intra-system shift. In addition, there were some data categorized into double kinds of shift.

Keywords— *shift; tafsir quran; translation*

I. INTRODUCTION

Quran was revealed to the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in Arabic language. The text of Quran is authentic, it means no changes occur, but the interpretation of the text always changes according to context, time and space [7]. Quran translation should not be looked at as a replacement of the original text of the Quran and the translation cannot reproduce the same effect on the reader, because the words of God cannot reproduce by the word of man [10]. Nowadays Quran was translated into many languages because almost all languages spoken by Muslims have translation of the Quran with them. In Indonesia, the translation of Quran also happen in the competition namely Musabaqah Tafsir Quran as a branch of Musabaqah Tilawatil Quran.

In Musabaqah Tafsir Quran, the participant of commentator (*mufassir*) have to read Quran well (*murattalan*) and translate it into English or Bahasa Indonesia, depend on which branch he join, then he comment and explore the meaning and the main point of the verses that he read, and he will be asked by the examiner. The translation in this case is the spoken translation done by the participants. Translation here is one of the important aspects to determine which is the best *mufassir* (the commentator of Quran) as the winner of the competition.

II. THEORY OF TRANSLATION SHIFT

Shift or translation shift represent some changes occurring in a translation process. The available translations of the Quran have been studied and analyzed through several models of translation shift [9]. The term shift goes back to those linguistic changes a translator has to make during the translation process. Shift as deviations between actual equivalence and a hypothetical maximal norm of adequate translation [2]. The problem is that when translators are translating the Quran many small changes (shift) may occur. This procedure is achieved when the translator could not find the meaning in the source language. Shift departs from formal correspondence in translation that means any grammatical category in the target language which can be said to occupy the same position in the system of the target language [3].

Widely, the category shift is divided into four kinds:

- A. *Structure Shift (SS)*, is the changing of words sequence in a sentence.
- B. *Class Shifts (CS)*, occurs when the translation equivalent of a source language item is a member of a different class from the original item. Simply, it is a shift from one part of speech (Noun, Verb, Pronoun, Adverb, Adjective, Conjunction, Preposition, and Determiner) to another.
- C. *Unit Shift (US)*, is the changes of rank; that is, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the source language is a unit at a different rank in the target language. Rank here refers to the hierarchical linguistic unit of Discourse, Sentence, Clause, Phrase, Word, Morpheme, Phoneme.
- D. *Intra-System Shifts (ISS)*, refers to the shifts that occurs internally, within the system, that is for those cases where the source and the target language possess systems which approximately correspond formally as to their constitution, but when translation involves selection of a non-corresponding term in the target language system.

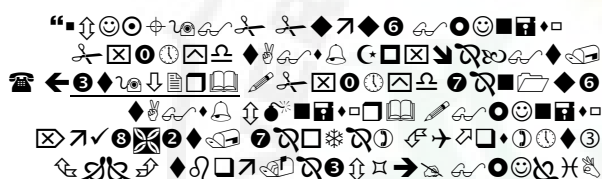
Some shifts occur when the *mufasssir* translating the verses from Arabic into English. It can be seen in the performance of *mufasssir* number 330 when he translated the verse:



As “Allah will provide for them a boiled water and also a painful torment because they used to disbelieve.”

The word ‘لهم’ in SL is a word, but it translated as Allah will provide for them as a sentence that consist of subject and predicate. In this case, the shift occur is unit shift and the way of changing is word to sentence or change of different rank (upward).

It becomes more interesting when we take the example happened in other verse, when the *mufasssir* number 332 translated the verse:



“And when he saw the sun Rise up he said: this is my Lord, this is greater. When it set he said: O my people, I am free of I associate Allah.

Here The word أكبر in Arabic is in form of superlative adjective (*ism tafdhil*) that means super, but it was translated in TL as greater in comparative adjective that means more than something. This is because in SL the degree of adjective divided only into two namely *ism shifat* and *ism tafdhil*, but in TL there are three kinds of adjective degree namely positive degree, comparative degree, and superlative degree. The shift of superlative adjective into comparative adjective belongs to Intra system shift.

III. METHODS AND ANALYSIS

Qualitative research design was applied in this study. It is also known as descriptive research. Descriptive means the data collected are in the form of words rather than numbers [4]. The data analysis was taken by listing the words, phrases, and clauses from the verses translated into English by the participants of Musabaqah Tafsir Quran, and writer found about 130 data. Based on Catford’s theory, the data were classified into four: structure shift, unit shift, class shift, and intra system shift [3].

A. Structure Shift

In Musabaqah Tafsir Quran, structure shift can be seen in these example:

Data 2

SL : أنزل
Latin Equivalent : anzala
TL : it has been revealed

The word أنزل in the scale أفعال is the verb in active form of past time (*fi’l madhi ma’ruf*) which is known with the prefix ‘أ’ at the beginning of the bond morpheme ‘فعل’ and. It was translated into passive form of present perfect tense in TL as it has been revealed with the pattern S + has + been + v3. This changed of active to passive form belongs to structure shift.

Data 24

SL : أوتوا
Latin Equivalent: ūtū
TL : they satisfy

The word أوتوا in SL is in passive form of past tense (*fi’l madhi majhul*) in the scale (*wazn*) ‘أفعل’ which is known with the movement (*syakl*) *dhammah* in the beginning of the letter of the verb, the dead *syakl* (*sukun*) at the second, the down *syakl* (*kasrah*) at the third, which means they were given. It was translated into active form of present tense as they satisfy in TL with the pattern S + v1. The shift of passive to active form belongs to structure shift.

Data 42

SL : لكاذبون
Latin Equivalent: lakâdzibûna
TL : the liar

The word لكاذبون is the regular plural of male (*jamak muzakkhar salim*) in SL, it is known by the letter و (*wau*) ن (*nun*) in the last word. It was translated in TL as the liar, the singular word. So, this shift of plural to singular belongs to structure shift.

The percentage of structure shift can be seen in the following table:

TABLE I. STRUCTURE SHIFT

Numb.	Table of Structure Shift		
	The Ways of Structure Shift	Total	Percentages
1	Active to Passive	5	19.2
2	Passive to Active	6	23
3	Plural to Singular	13	50
4	Singular to Plural	2	7.6
Total		26	100

B. Class Shift

In the English version of the recitation of the holy book in Musabaqah Tafsir Quran, writer found that from 130 data there are 20 data belongs to class shift.

Data 4

SL : أعينهم
Latin Equivalent: a’yunahum
TL : their eyes

The word أعينهم is the noun in SL, it was translated become their eyes in TL as a determiner of possessive adjective with the pattern pre modifier + the head. In Arabic the word and possessive adjective can be collaborated in one word (*dhomir*

muttashil), but in TL it must be separated into two words. This shift of noun to determiner belongs to class shift.

Data 29

SL : صادقين
Latin Equivalent: *shâdiqîna*
TL : truthful

The word صادقين in the data above is the regular plural of male (*jamak muzakkar salim*) in SL, it is known by the letter و (*wau*) ن (*nun*) in the last word, but in this case the rule for *jamak muzakkar salim* if it was as an object (*maf'ul bih*) or as *majrur* the pattern of the letter و (*wau*) ن (*nun*) in the last word must be changed into ي (*ya'*) and ن (*nun*). It was translated and shifted in TL as truthful in adjective form with the pattern noun with suffix ful (noun + ful). This shift from noun to adjective belongs to class shift. The percentage of class shift can be seen in the following table:

TABLE II. TABLE CLASS SHIFT

Numb.	Table of Class Shift		
	The Ways of Class Shift	Total	Percentages
1	Noun to Determiner	9	45
2	Noun to Adjective	3	15
3	Adjective to Determiner	1	5
4	Verb to Adjective	1	5
5	Verb to determiner	2	10
6	Verb to Noun	1	5
7	Noun to Verb	2	10
8	Noun to Preposition	1	5
Total		20	100

C. Unit Shift

In this research the most common shift occur in translation is this kind of shift. The writer found that from 130 data there are 80 data belongs to unit shift. Here the example:

Data 23

SL : فرحوا
Latin Equivalent : *farihû*
TL : they have the satisfying

The word فرحوا actually it consists of two units namely subject pronoun 'they' (هم) for the third plural person that is hidden (*mustatir*) and known by the letter و (*wau*) and ا (*alif*) at the end of the word, and the past verb or *fi'l madhi ma'ruf* (فرح). It was translated into TL they have the satisfying as a sentence that consists of Subject + Predicate. The shift of different rank from word to sentence or smallest to biggest (upward) belongs to unit shift.

Data 67

SL : العالمين

Latin Equivalent : *al-'âlamîna*

TL : the mankind and the jin

The word العالمين in SL is the plural male noun that is known by the letter ya (ي) and nun (ن) at the end of the noun, it was translated into TL the mankind and the jin as a phrase. The shift of different rank from word to phrase or smallest to biggest (upward) belongs to unit shift. The percentage of unit shift can be seen in the following table:

TABLE III. TABLE UNIT SHIFT

Numb.	Table of Unit Shift		
	The Ways of Unit Shift	Total	Percentages
1	Word to Sentence	54	67.5
2	Word to Phrase	24	30
3	Phrase to Word	1	1.25
4	Word to Morpheme	1	1.25
Total		80	100

D. Intra System Shift

The writer found that from 130 data there only 14 data belongs to Intra system shift.

Data 56

SL : رأيت
Latin Equivalent: *ra'a'ita*
TL : you see

The word رأيت from the data above in SL is simple past tense (*fi'l madhi*) with the hidden subject pronoun 'you' (انت) that is known by the letter taa' (ت) at the end of the verb. It was translated into simple present tense as you see with the pattern S + v1. This is the shift of different system of two languages in concept of tense belongs to Intra system shift.

Data 96

SL : تركتم
Latin Equivalent: *taraktum*
TL : you will leave

The verb تركتم in SL is simple past tense (*fi'l madhi*) that is known by the letter ta (ت) and mim (م) or انتم as the hidden subject pronoun at the end of the verb. It was translated into simple present tense as you will leave with the pattern S + will + v1. This is the shift of different system of two languages in concept of tense belongs to Intra system shift.

The intra system shift can be seen in the following table:

TABLE IV. TABLE INTRA SYSTEM SHIFT

Numb.	Table of Intra System Shift		
	The Ways of Intra System Shift	Total	Percentages
1	Simple Past Tense to Simple Present Tense	4	28.5

Numb.	Table of Intra System Shift		
	The Ways of Intra System Shift	Total	Percentages
2	Simple Past Tense to Present Perfect Tense	6	42.8
3	Simple Past Tense to Simple Future Tense	2	14.2
4	Simple Present Tense to Simple Past Tense	1	7.1
5	Adjective (Superlative) to Adjective (Comparative)	1	7.1
Total		14	100

E. Double Kinds of Shift

In some data, writer found that there were data belong to double kinds of shift. It mean the data belongs to two kinds of different shift. For example:

Data 31

SL : **خسر**
 Latin Equivalent: *khasira*
 TL : **they are looser**

The word **خسر** in SL actually consists of two words namely past verb (*fi'l madhi ma'ruf*) and the hidden subject of the third singular person (هو). But it was translated into TL **they are looser** as a sentence that consists of Subject + Predicate. The shift of different rank from word to sentence or smallest to biggest (upward) belongs to unit shift. It also belong to class shift, because the word **خسر** is *fi'l madhi ma'ruf* (past verb), and it was translated into they are **looser** as a noun. The changed of this different class from verb to noun belongs to class shift.

From explanation above, it was found the percentage of all kinds of shift in Musabaqah Tafsir Quran, these are:

TABLE V. TABLE KINDS OF SHIFT

Numb.	Table of Kinds of Shift		
	Category Shift	Total	Percentages
1	Structure shift	26	28.5
2	Class shift	20	42.8
3	Unit shift	80	14.2
4	Intra system shift	14	7.1
5	Double kinds of Shift	12	7.1
Total		142	100

Based on the table displayed above, it could be concluded that the Unit Shift was the highest kinds found in the Recitation of Holy Book in Musabaqah Tilawatil Quran. The comparison of calculation the total data are: Unit Shift was about 80 data (53 %), and the second kind was Structure Shift, it was about 26 data (17 %), meanwhile Class Shift was about 20 data (13 %) and Intra system Shift was about 14 (9 %), and the last Double kinds of shift was about 12 data (8 %). It can be said that Unit Shift was the dominant one used in the Recitation of Holy Book in Musabaqah Tilawatil Quran.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The shift or transposition is the departure from formal correspondence in the process of going from SL to TL. So, it was only the change of forms, not far from the natural equivalent [3]. It means the formal correspondence is any grammatical category in the target language which can be said to occupy the same position in the system of the target language [6]. In this study was found that there were four kinds of category shift used by the participants in that competition, namely structure shift, class shift, unit shift, and intra-system shift where the most dominant shift used in this study is unit shift, and the additional the double kinds of shift as the new finding.

When this research was compared with another research, this finding is so contradictive with the finding of Zulfikar [14] in his thesis which the dominant one is structure shift, and also with the finding of Hijjo and Kadhim [6] in their journal that found the dominant one is intra-system shift. It was happened because Zulfikar's journal was discussed English into Bahasa Indonesia and and Hijjo and Kadhim's journal was discussed English into Arabic, and this study discussed Arabic into English. Arabic is the complete language which we can found that the subject almost being inside each verbs or it can be said that almost each verb has the hidden subject pronoun (*dhamir mustatir*) or object pronoun and it include in one word, it means one word if it translated into English or another TL it must be shift upward that belongs to unit shift.

V. CONCLUSION

There were five kinds of category shifts used in the English version of the recitation of the Holy Book in Musabaqah Tafsir Quran, they are: Structure Shift, Class Shift, Unit Shift, Intra-system Shift, and the additional double kinds of shift, and the dominant one is Unit Shift.

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