

An Analysis of Noun Phrase in the Translation Poem “Me” by Burton Raffel

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ABSTRACT

One of the important elements in building a sentence is a noun phrase. In constructing a noun phrase, it must have at least one word that functions as a head. A noun phrase has different structure based on the modification of the head. Two types of head modification in Noun Phrase they are: pre-modification and post-modification. This article is aimed at finding out and analyzing the type of noun phrase and the dominant construction of Noun phrase based on Transformation Generative Grammar Theory introduced by Noam Chomsky. The source of the data of this study is taken from the one of the famous translation poem entitled “Me” written by Burton Raffel. The method of this study is qualitative design and content analysis as a type of this method. The analysis of the data is by referring to the context of syntax by using tree diagram in the theory of phrase structure rules then presenting phrase structure rules and phrase marker. Based on the analysis, this study found that there are three structural constructions of noun phrase found in the translation poem “Me” of Burton Raffel and the dominant construction lies within determiner + noun construction.

Keywords: Noun Phrase, Poem, Modifier

INTRODUCTION

People nowadays have several ways to entertain themselves. One of the most common ways is through literary works such as poem, short story, novel, and drama. Throughout the developments of technology, one of the literary works that is still enthused by many people is poetry, for example.

Translating literary works require the preservation of aesthetic, taste, and meaning when the works are transferred from source language to target language. One of those literary works is poetry. Dharwadker (2008:139) stated that “ Only a poem can translate a poem”, which means that a poem must be translated also as a poem. Therefore, translating poetry can always become an interesting subject to discuss.

To adjust the appropriate meaning of the target language, the most ordinary way to translate sentences in foreign language is translating word by word or translating per phrase, but not every word in a certain language can be translated into another language. So the translator should know well about translation shift (Bambang Panca Syahputra, 1 : 2015).

Translation is an operation performed on language: a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another (Catford, 1965: 1). Translation is a type of intercultural communication which enables a widening of the audience of a particular text across language boundaries. Comparing translations of the same original into various languages allows us to observe the different ways of dealing with a particular translation problem in the respective target cultures for example the translator with Malay descendant understood the text easily, and to some extent translated the target text accurately but for other translators whose culture is not Malay, failed to translate the text accurately (Dewi Kesuma, 113 : 2017)

This paper analyses the Indonesian to English translation of a famous poem of Indonesia, entitled “Aku”. The poem was written in 1943 by a famous Indonesian poet named Chairil Anwar. In this time Indonesia was still under the colonization of Japan. It is possible that the writing style of this poem was influenced by the social condition at that time. His works incorporated the themes of individualism, death, and existentialism. The poem ‘Aku’ made him famous and he was well known as “Si Binatang jalang (The Wild Beast). Besides, his poem are also known internationally among people around the world.

In 1993 An American Poet, Burton Raffel, translated and compiled Chairil Anwar’s writing (Raffel, 1993). This poem was also popular among Indonesian students because in Indoensian language class , this poem has always been introduced to students as learning material even since they were in the elementary school.

This poem reflects a story about someone who wants to show his existence and struggle against the oppressing situation in the world. Since it was written during the Japan colonization, it is possible that this poem wanted to address and depict the struggle of Indonesian against its colonist for achieving independence.

Studies on noun phrase have attracted some scholars. Pratama (2012) observed noun phrase in Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Purloined Letter”. He found that the use of post-modification of the noun phrase was used by the author to avoid overwriting for the limited space in fulfilling the condition of the short story writing rules. Yudit (2005) identified how the noun phrases reveal Hemingway’s style from his works. Yudit identified the noun phrases from two of the famous author’s works, Ernest Hemmingway, short stories “Hills like White Elephants” and “Indian Camp”.

Noun phrase comes in different forms and structures depending on its function in a sentence. Every noun phrase has the head that is modified and the central element in the phrase. Looking at structure of the noun phrase, it is distinguished into two kinds of noun phrase: simple (e.g. *jewel*, *corn*, and *trouble*) and complex noun phrase (e.g. *the colorful balloon*). According to Maestre (1998: 3) the term simple is used because of the head of noun phrase is not modified by other phrases, whereas the term complex is used because the head is modified by other phrases as the pre-modifiers and post-modifiers. This study also applies the theory of noun phrase constituents proposed by Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, and Svartvik. Noun phrase constituents are distinguished in the following. into determiner, pre-modifier, head, and post-modifier.

METHOD

The type of this research is qualitative research. Fauziati (2009:241) states that qualitative research uses no statistical analysis. It is also often associated with hypothesis generating and developing an understanding. Knowing that the research uses no statistical analysis, the subject and object of the research are described through word to solve the problem.

The object of the study is noun phrase in the original poem ‘Aku’ by Chairil Anwar and its translation by Burton Raffel. The data of the research are noun phrase that is found in the stanza of the poem ‘Me’ by Burton Raffel. Method of collecting data is using documentation. The method of collecting data are reading the transaltion poem of Burton Raffel and its indonesian manuscript, underlying the English sentence containing translation noun phrase in the poem, writing every sentence which contains translation of noun phrase in source language and target language on the papers, coding and classifying each data which contains noun phrases in Aku poem into translation poem by Burton, identifying the types of noun phrases and their translation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After reading and analyzing the stanza that found in translation poem “Me” written by Burton Raffel , the writer found that there are three distinctive types structure in constructing the noun phrase, as determiner, pre-modifier and modifier , they can be shown in the table below :

Table 1. The Types of Noun Phrases in Burton Raffel Poem “Me”

No.	Structure	Number	Percentage
1.	Determiner + Head	4	66,67%
2.	Determiner + Pre-modifier + Head	1	16,66%
3.	Modifier + Modifier + Head	1	16,66%
Total		6	100%

Table 1 shows that there are several different structures of noun phrases found in Burton Raffel translation poem “Me”. From the data collected in the analysis, there is a total number 6 of noun phrases found in the utterances. Each of the structure has different percentages of occurrence in the utterances throughout the poem. The table also shows that are the dominant structures with the most significant percentage such as determiner + Head.

In translating noun phrase, the researcher also finds 6 data of noun phrase that belong to translational shift. The data finding divides two part of translation shift, level shift of noun phrase and structural shift of noun phrase. The level shift is parted into 3 types, noun phrase which are translated into noun, noun phrase which are translated into verb and the noun phrase which are translated into adverb . While the structural shift is divides into 3 parts too, noun phrase which are translated into verb phrase and noun phrase which are translated into adverb phrase .

The third analysis identifies the distribution of the noun phrases in terms of their function in a clause based on Huddleston and Pullum (2005: 82) mention that based on the function, there are four main functions of noun phrases namely subject, object, predicative complement, and prepositional complement. According to the data collected, the noun phrases found in the stanza has the main function such as the object, complement, predicative complement and subject in a stanza for example: in the first stanza the word ‘ my time ‘ functions as subject ; the word ‘a wild beast’ functions as complement; the words ‘my wounds and my pain’ function as predicative complement from the verb carrying forward, etc.

Catford in Fawcett (1997:54) describes equivalence as a 'key term' and tells us that "The central problem of translation practice is that of finding TL [target-language] translation equivalents. A central problem of translation theory is that of defining the nature and conditions of translation equivalence". Based on the knowledge that target language should be equivalent with the source language in the translation process.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the whole stanza in the translation poem “Me” By Burton Raffel, the writer can make some conclusions. From the schema of the tree diagram, it can be seen that the most dominant of Noun Phrase in this poem is the Noun Phrase that is formed by Determiner + Pronoun /Noun. According to the analysis, the noun phrases found in the stanza of Burton Raffel are distinguished into 3 types of structure. Each of the structure has the significance in terms of occurrence. The structure types can be classified into: (1) Determiner + Head, (2) Determiner + Pre-modifier + Head and (3) Modifier + Modifier + Head.

The second analysis identifies the distribution of the noun phrases in terms of their function in a clause. According to the data collected, the noun phrases found in the stanza has the main function such as the object, complement, predicative complement and subject in a stanza.

The use of noun phrase in utterances can also have significant function especially to the character of the person who uses the noun phrase. In the third analysis, the noun phrases have

significance over Burton Raffel character . The noun phrases are used by Burton to describe things and person. They are also used to make direct utterances by Burton Raffel. The last analysis , the noun phrases have 3 level shift such as noun phrase which is translated into noun, noun phrase which is translated into verb and noun phrase which is translated into adverb.

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