

Students' Perception on the Use of Google Translate for Academic Assignment Purpose

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Abstract: Translation is a process to transfer the meaning of the source language to the equivalent of target-language text. The process of transition itself is divided into manual translation and machine translation. One of the most commonly known examples of machine translation is Google Translate. Depending on how students percept Google Translate, it will affect their attitude and action toward it. University of Muhammadiyah Banjarmasin (UMB) first semester students' were selected as the sources of data for this study. This study aims to investigate UMB students' perception of Google Translate. The data obtained from research can be taken into consideration in designing various English classes. The quantitative descriptive method was used as the research method for this study. The data collection was conducted twice before and after information sharing where students received information on how to properly use Google Translate. This process was divided into two sections to further enhance the data needed for this study. Information sharing was necessary to investigate those who had yet to know Google Translate. The necessary data for this research were from those who were aware of Google Translate. While both data were calculated, the data after information sharing was the only necessary data for this study. In conclusion, students of the University of Muhammadiyah Banjarmasin, have an overall positive attitude towards Google Translate. They consider Google Translate as a reliable translating tool and have been relying on it for translating English material. While Google has its flaws, they still consider it as a convenient translating tool. The researchers suggest that students need to familiarize themselves with machine translation, especially Google Translate. Doing that will help them understand the strength and weaknesses of machine translation and help them translate more accurately.

Keywords: *google translate, machine translation, perception, translation*

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

In recent years, English has begun to become a commonly used language in various media. A national level publication has even started to publish their journal in English. Students who intend to study the journal need a certain level of English comprehension in order to fully grasp the content of the papers. In the process, we are looking for the meaning or the equivalent in our mother tongue in order to understand the content better. This process is commonly known as translation.

Translation is a process to transfer the meaning of source language to the equivalent of target language text. The goal of translation is to translate a text that the reader of the target language

is able to understand and relate to. For translation to be considered successful, it must be determined by the extent to which the average reader of the target language will be able to understand the translation correctly with very close likeness. (Nida & Taber, 1982). The process of translation can be done either manually by humans, or automatically by assistance of a computer. This computer assisted translation is also commonly known as machine translation.

Machine translation or MT is a method of translation assisted by computers which is considered as a sub-field of computational linguistics. (Lin & Chien, 2009). Machine translation on the basic level performs mechanical substitution of words in one language to another, although, basic level translation rarely produces good translation because it lacks the context of whole phrases. One of the example of machine translation is Google Translate which can be used even for those who are not familiar with languages in the original content

Google translate is one of software or programs that is considered as machine translation. It is a multilingual machine translation developed by Google, which is used for translating texts and documents. (Turovsky, 2016). Google translate can be utilized in many ways for students to help them with their English class. For instance, students may input English texts in their given academic assignment to help them understand meaning in the text. It is significantly faster to input text compared to translating manually using a dictionary by finding word by word. Google translate can also help students in learning correct pronunciation with the 'Listen' function to hear how the English word is pronounced. Depending on how familiar students are with google translate and its function, their perception toward google translate may vary.

The goal of this research is to find University Muhammadiyah Banjarmasin (UMB) first semester students' perception of Google Translate for academic purposes. They are taken as a source of data because the first semester students are required to take English class. Google Translate as one of the most popular translating machines is often chosen by students to help them with translation. In a sense, Google Translate can be considered a necessary tool for English learners. Following that line of reasoning, investigating how students perceive Google Translate may help in designing English class.

Perception, the process of processing and interpreting objects will affect students' attitude towards that object. In this case, Google Translate is the object of perception and depending on how they perceive it, will affect the process of their English learning. Positive attitude toward Google Translate can be taken as consideration for class designers to integrate Google Translate to English classes. By integrating the translation machine into class, students will learn to utilize it in a way that benefits their study. On the contrary, if students consider Google Translate to have too many flaws to use for academic purposes, then the information collected from research can be used to improve the design of Google Translate in translation academic texts.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Translation

Translation is a process to transfer the meaning of source language to the equivalent of target language text. The goal of translation is to translate a text that the reader of the target language is able to understand and relate to. For translation to be considered successful, it must be determined by the extent to which the average reader of the target language will be able to understand the translation correctly with very close likeness. It means that our goal is not just

to convey the intended meaning, but also make sure the reader of the target language does not misunderstand it. (Nida & Taber, 1982).

Translation can be considered as a process and also a product. Catford (1995) defines translation as source language (SL) material replacement to the equivalent material in target language (TL). By this definition, translation is a process in the sense that is activity. People have been doing simpler kinds of translation such as paraphrasing and rewording. This activity is also possible from one language to another. On the other hand, translation is a product since it introduces us to other different cultures, ancient societies, and civilization when the translated works reach us (Yowell and Mutfah, 1999). It can be concluded that translation is a process of transferring or converting the substance of text from one language to another, which ideally should result in a product that can be understood by the reader of the target language.

Machine Translation

Machine translation, or MT, is the process of translating from one natural language to another using computerized systems, with or without human intervention. (Hutchins, 1992). In order to do the translation, the meaning of the original source text must be fully restored in the target language. While it appears simple on the surface, it is significantly more complicated

Current machine translation software frequently allows for domain or profession-specific (such as weather report) customization, which improves output by limiting the scope of permissible alternatives. This method is especially useful in fields where formal or formulaic language is employed. As a result, machine translation of government and legal documents provides more usable output than text that is less standardized.

The quality of translation can also be increased with human intervention. For example, certain systems can translate more properly if the user has clearly specified which terms in the text are proper names. With these strategies, MT has proven to be a helpful tool for assisting human translators, and in a small number of circumstances, it can even provide output that may be utilized directly. In conclusion, machine translation is a process of transferring the meaning of a text from source language to target language using a computerized system.

Google Translate

Google translate is one of software or programs that is considered as machine translation. It is a multilingual machine translation developed by Google which is used for translating texts and documents. Google Translate is a Google-developed supplemental translation service that was launched in April 2006. It can translate a variety of texts and media, including words, phrases, and web pages. As of May 2016, Google translate supports 109 languages at various levels, and claims to have over 500 million total users. (Turovsky, 2016).

Google Translate was initially made for statistical machine translation service. The input text had to be written in English before it was translated into the target language. The translation back then had low grammatical accuracy due to SMT use of predictive algorithms to translate texts. Despite this, due to the ever-changing nature of language, Google did not initially hire experts to tackle this restriction.

In November 2016, Google switched to a neural machine translation technology as its translation approach. It uses deep learning algorithms to translate entire sentences at a time, resulting in higher accuracy between English and French, German, Spanish, and Chinese, according to tests. No measurement results have been provided by Google researchers for GNMT from English to other languages, other languages to English, or between language pairs

that do not include English. As of 2018, it translates more than 100 billion words a day. In short, Google Translate is one of the popular machine translations that is capable of translating a variety of text and web in 109 languages.

Perception

The word “Perception” comes from Latin words perceptio (receiving, collection, taking possession) is the organization, identification, and interpretation of sensory information in order to understand presented information or environment. (Schacter, 2011). In philosophy, psychology and cognitive science, perception is defined as a process of obtaining awareness or understanding the sensory information. Perception involves processes that consist of three stages: selection, organization, and interpretation.

The initial step in the perception process is selection, which involves converting environmental stimuli into meaningful experiences. Perception has two properties at this stage. The organizing process, for starters, gives human perception structure. Raw sensations from the outside world are always transformed into structured meaningful experiences. Second, the procedure demonstrates that human perception is stable. That is, after we choose stimuli and categorize them, the stimuli we choose become durable.

The organization step of the perception process is the second stage. Following the collection of data from the outside world, we need to arrange it in some way by identifying relevant patterns. This level of organization is completed by categorizing things or individuals, which is why some scholars refer to it as classification.

The third step of perception is interpretation, which is the process of giving meaning to the stimuli that have been chosen. We attempt to make sense of the selected stimuli by giving meanings to them after they have been categorized into structured and stable patterns. Perception is stimuli received by our senses, which then goes through a process of selection, organization, and interpretation. The information obtained from the process is expressed through behavior that indicates how an individual interprets the object of perception.

It is possible for an individual to evaluate stimuli as something difficult and boring, while other individuals evaluate the stimuli as something easy and fun. These two results were explained by Irwanto (2002) as positive and negative perceptions. Positive perception is considered as knowledge and response with the intention of utilizing the object of perception. For instance, students who perceive a study subject positively will be actively involved in discussion and group tasks. On the other hand, negative perception is a response that is not in harmony with the perceived object, which leads to rejection, or a form of passiveness against the object of perception. The example of this behavior can be seen from their unwillingness to participate in the process of learning. In this case of study, the object of perception is Google Translate.

The attitude students expressed towards Google Translate can be taken as consideration for designing English class. Both negative and positive perception will affect the flow of student learning. Thus, it can be concluded that perception is the process of obtaining awareness of certain objects, which either result in positive or negative response.

Previous Study

Similar research was done by Hidya Maulida in 2017 titled “Persepsi Mahasiswa Terhadap Penggunaan Google Translate Sebagai Media Menerjemahkan Materi Berbahasa Inggris”. The purpose of this study is to examine students' perception on using Google Translate to translate English materials. Data is gathered through interviews. The data was collected from seventh-

grade students who, based on preliminary research, use Google Translate and are given numerous assignments to translate English material. According to the data, students have a favorable attitude toward using an online dictionary to translate English materials. It is claimed that Google Translate is really helpful. Students can complete their tasks and translate faster. Although there are still flaws in Google Translate's translation results, it saves time when translating English materials.

The other similar research conducted by Ajeng Pratiwi Amanda was done in 2019 with the title "Students' Perception of Using Google Translate as A Medium of Translating English". The data was taken from 25 students of SMP Tamansiswa Medan. The researchers collected the data by using tests and questionnaires that consist of questions about students' perception on Google Translate. Research shows that students are aware of the existence of Google Translate and know how it works. The result also shows that they have a positive attitude towards Google Translate especially when translating English to Indonesian.

There is also similar research done by Selfian Tumbal, Nihta V.F. Liando, and Senerita T. Olli titled "Student's perceptions Toward the Use of Google Translate in Translating. The study shows that Students enjoy translating activities, particularly translating English to Indonesia, and they rely on Google Translate to assist them. While Google Translate was one of the quickest machine translations, it cannot be denied that the results were not correct when translating paragraphs, and some respondents agreed that Google Translate made them sluggish to open a dictionary. Furthermore, students are advised to use it carefully and to double-check the results of Google Translate.

From the previous studies above, it can be concluded that student's view Google Translate positively. They are familiar with how to use them and consider them convenient in helping them study English. The similarity of this research and previous study is they both investigate the student's perception toward Google Translate. However, this study focuses on the student's perception when using Google Translate for academic assignments such as paper and journal. This study also focuses on students' attitude, instead of awareness towards the usage of Google Translate.

RESEARCH METHOD

Quantitative descriptive was used as a research method for this study. Quantitative research is a term that refers to a collection of techniques for systematically investigating social phenomena using statistical or numerical data. The research was approached quantitatively so that students' attitude could be measured. The subject of study was the first semester students of University Muhammadiyah Banjarmasin with a total 195 students.

In this study the researcher used questionnaires as a means to collect data. A questionnaire is a research tool that consists of a series of questions designed to collect data from respondents. By using questionnaires, the data could be gathered quickly because the researchers did not need to be actual spot to for respondents to answer questionnaires. Questionnaires can be an effective way to measure people's behavior, attitudes, preference, and opinions. This research employed questionnaires as instruments for data collection which was distributed to investigate students' perception on Google Translate for academic assignment purposes. The questionnaire consisted of eight questions that were in a Likert scale and fill-in form.

The data analyzing process was divided into organizing, calculating, and inference making. Data organization is the process of selecting and sorting data from questionnaires into a data table. It is necessary to organize obtained data in order for data calculation to progress

smoothly. The data were then calculated to find the frequency of each question that was represented in distribution of frequency data. It allowed the researchers to see the students' positive, negative, or neutral attitude in the form percentage. After data frequency was found, the data were then analyzed so inferences could be made. The researcher would determine respondent overall perception towards application of Google Translate for academic assignment.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 Google Translate Use Frequency

The first item attempts to find how many students have used Google Translate, to see how familiar they are with Google translating machines.

Alternatives	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	189	96.9%
No	6	3.1%

Table 2 Google Translate Use Purpose

The second item of the questionnaire investigates the respondent's use of Google Translate. This item is used to identify what respondents often use Google Translate for.

Alternatives	Frequency	Percentage
Academic Paper	47	24.1%
General Purpose (Daily Life)	74	37.9%
Campus Assignment	49	25.1%
Translator Job	25	12.8%

Table 3 Perception towards Reliability

This item discuss the respondent's perception toward Google Translate translating reliability.

Alternatives	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	115	60.8%
No	10	5.3%
Maybe	64	33.9%

Tabel 4 Perception towards Utilization

This item discusses the respondent's willingness to utilize Google Translate for academic purpose.

Alternatives	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	126	66.7%
No	5	2.6%
Maybe	58	30.7%

Table 5 Perception towards Capacity

This item discusses the respondent's perception toward Google Translate capacity; its extent of ability as a translating machine.

Alternatives	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	57	30.2%
No	50	26.4%
Maybe	82	43.4%

The goal of this study is to investigate the 1st semester student's perception of using Google Translate for their academic assignment. According to the analysis result, the data suggest that students are favorable to Google Translate. According to Irwanto (2002) the result of perception can be divided into positive and negative perception. Positive perception is considered as knowledge and response with the intention of utilizing the object of perception. On the other hand, negative perception is a response that is not in harmony with the perceived object, which leads to rejection. Based on that theory, it can be said that students have a positive perception towards the reliability of Google Translate. The data show that most of the students consider Google Translate a reliable translating tool. The students said that they have been relying on Google Translate for translating English material. They consider it as a very helpful tool that can be reliably used on certain occasions. However, the students express some uneasiness toward the flaws it holds. This result is similar with Hidya Maudilda's (2017) research where students' have a favorable attitude toward Google Translate in translating English materials. The students also claimed that Google Translate is helpful while being aware of its flaws in translating. Due to the favorable attitude students have, it can be said that they have positive perception toward the reliability of Google Translate.

Students also show their favorable attitude towards the utilization of Google Translate. The majority of students are willing to use Google Translate for completing academic assignments they receive in English class. The reason mostly is due to the convenience it holds. They argue that Google Translate is easy to use and can translate quickly. Indeed, when compared to manual translation, the time spent using a translating machine is shorter than manual translating using a dictionary. Although, like previous results on perception of reliability, they are uneasy about using Google Translate for long texts such as paragraphs. It is in line with the study done by Selfian Tumbal, Nihta V.F. Liando, and Senerita T. Olii which shows how the students rely on Google Translate to assist them in their school assignment. While Google Translate was one of the quickest machine translations, it cannot be denied that the results were not correct when translating paragraphs. From that, it can be said that while students are willing to use Google Translate on their academic assignment, they are aware of the possibility of error when translating long texts.

Meanwhile, the result of perception on Google Translate capacity shows different results to the other item. When asked of the possibility of machine translation replacing human translation, students are unsure and have scattered opinions on it. The most stated reason is that machine translation has its own limitations. It requires devices such as smartphones and computers to use, not to mention it also needs an internet connection so that it can be accessed. There are also others who argue that human translation is more accurate thus, in a sense, is better than machine translation. Perhaps, there is a possibility of machine translation surpassing human translation in the far future due to technological advancement.

From the light of information above, the students seem to have an overall favorable attitude towards Google Translate. This result is relevant with research conducted by Maulida (2017) and Pratiwi (2019). Both research shows that the student shows a positive attitude towards Google Translate in translating English words. The students consider Google Translate as a helpful translating tool, which can translate words faster than using a dictionary. Although there are still incorrect translations, it is still a convenient tool to use. It means that overall, students favor a positive attitude.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, students of University of Muhammadiyah Banjarmasin, have an overall positive attitude towards Google Translate. They consider Google Translate as a reliable translating tool and have been relying on it for translating English material.

The students are willing to use Google Translate for completing academic assignments they receive in English class. It is more convenient for them to translate using Google Translate. When using Google Translate, they can translate texts faster compared to translating manually.

Students are unsure of Google Translate's capacity in replacing humans. They reason that it is limited to only those who own a device and internet connection who can access them. In terms of accuracy, humans also have higher reliability compared to machine translation. Some of them believe in the possibility in the future for machine translation to replace humans. However, for now, it is not considered probable.

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