

Alteration in the Translation of Indonesian Novel into English



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ABSTRACT: This research article discusses one of the adjustment techniques namely alteration found in the translation of an Indonesian novel into English. The data source is an Indonesian novel entitled *Lelaki Harimau* and its translation in English, *Man Tiger*. The novel in the source language shows sophisticated style of writing involving the use of poetic as well as expressive words that it becomes a challenging task for the translator to find the equivalents. It needs a special skill to provide the same messages to the readers of the target language text. It is therefore the translation involves not only one kind of adjustment but also two other kinds under Nida's adjustment techniques as an effort to get the closest and natural equivalent. This research just focuses on the third kind of adjustment technique, alteration. The objectives of this research are to reveal the types of alteration adjustment technique found in the first one hundred sentences of the novel considered as the introduction part and to identify the kind of information adjusted. The method used is descriptive qualitative method. The results show that all types of alteration adjustment technique are involved and the kinds of information adjusted are syntactical as well as cultural.

KEYWORDS: Alteration, Indonesian Novel, *Lelaki Harimau 'Man Tiger'*, Technique of Adjustment, Translation Studies.

I. INTRODUCTION

Translating is a task that requires not only the mastery of linguistic knowledge of both the source language and the target language as a balanced bilingual but also the sufficient cultural knowledge about the two. This is in line with what Larson (1984) states that translation can only be done with sufficient knowledge of culture as well as the structure of the language (Hasibuan, 2018). Due to the difference of cultural background and linguistic background translation problems can be viewed from two categories: lexical problems such as lexical meaning, metaphorical expressions, proper names; and syntactic problems dealing with the system in the source language and in the target language such as word order, word classes, grammatical relations (Owji, 2013). As a messenger from the source language into the target language, a translator needs to make any use of effort to give the closest natural equivalent (Erlina, 2016). The natural differences between the two should not be the reason to make an action like to omit any information given in the source language text by deleting it or reducing it completely for the sake of lack of knowledge. There are ways to overcome this situation by applying such as translation procedures or translation strategies or translation techniques including adjustment techniques. This research focusses on one technique of adjustment only called alteration to bridge the gaps between the source language and the target language.

The phenomena found in the source text of this research deal mostly with the style of writing of the author. It is considered as the reflection of the author's honesty and it is presented through artistic narration though it deals with some tragedies involving brutality and rudeness as well as domestic violence (Dermawan, Rusdian Noor & Noviyanti, 2018). As it is artistic, the language use is unique using uncommon vocabularies or it may be stated as some words are intentionally used not in common collocation. It is therefore that reading this novel is a challenging job due to the fact of its uniquely artistic value in it. And it is much more challenging to translate it into another language. This can be seen from the effort made by the translator by making use of techniques of adjustment specifically alteration with its own subcategories or types. The linguistic forms and the meaning of cultural related terms need to be adjusted in order to present the same message in the target language text in the closest and natural equivalents. And for that, there are seven types of alteration.

The presentation of the novel is unlike most other novels which are in order, starting from the introduction and ending in the closing. The plot of the story in the novel jumps irregularly seen from the study of narrative structure that the first chapter of this novel should be the last chapter or supposed to be in the closing (Yuniasti, 2019). Apart from the jumping plots, the research chooses the first part of this novel to be analysed as it is the beginning of a narration which provides general information regarding the whole story.

Based on the background mentioned, this research is constructed into two identifications of problems: (1) what types of alteration of adjustment technique used in the target language text dealing with the beginning of the novel and (2) what kind of information is

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adjusted. It is therefore the objectives of the research is to reveal the types of alteration adjustment technique found in the beginning of the novel and to identify the kind of information which is adjusted.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Researches

The novelty of this research can be seen from some previous researches dealing with (1) the data source, the novel *Lelaki Harimau* as well as its translation in English, *Man Tiger*; (2) the use of alteration adjustment techniques by Nida. The most current research dealing with the use of alteration as an adjustment technique is in the translation of Qur'an where alteration is categorized as structural adjustment adopted from Anari (2009); this adjustment involves active to passive and vice versa, adjustments of tenses, singular to plural and vice versa, changes in the word levels, for example, nouns to verbs and vice versa, nouns to pronouns and vice versa (Yari & Zandian, 2022). The next previous research is about the use of alteration adjustment technique as well as other adjustment techniques specifically in the translation of statements of revolt given by commoner women in the target novel *Earth Dance* and alteration is the most frequently used technique compared to the other two adjustment techniques (Mahmud et al., 2022). Earlier, the previous research is about all three adjustment techniques of Nida dealing with the translation of vocabularies of religious text in handbooks and one of the results show that alteration is the highest usage in the translation (SUJATMIKO, n.d.). Then before that, the previous research is a thesis involving alteration as one of the adjustment techniques, that used in the translation of magazine namely *Santri Gus Dur* (Mawardi, 2018). And the last previous research under Nida's alteration adjustment technique is about the translation of instruction labels of electric cookers of some brands; the term used is structural adjustment instead of alteration yet it refers to the same thing proposed by the same scholar, Nida (Rahayu, 2017), 2017).

The next category of previous research deals with the data source, the Indonesian novel entitled *Lelaki Harimau* and its translation in English entitled *Man Tiger*. The first current research deals with this novel and its translation is about the translation of figurative languages which is related to the use of ideology translation (Gustema, 2020). The next is about the translation of metaphor found in the novel but the translation is not into English; it is into French (Astari et al., 2019). The third previous research is still about the same novel yet it does not relate to its translation; it discusses social conflicts found in the source language novel using the theory of sociology of literature (Nugraha, 2019). Similar to the third previous research, the fourth previous research still focusses on the novel without its translation; it discusses the savagery of human in the novel using the study of stylistics and sociology of literature (Sukirno, 2020).

2.1 Alteration Adjustment Technique

Nida proposes three adjustment techniques in translation: addition; subtraction; and alteration. Addition adjustment technique involves the adding of information either linguistically or culturally. The second category namely subtraction involves the reducing of information. The last category is called alteration and it deals with the changing of information including changing words, expression or sentences of source language with completely different words or expression in the target language which have equivalent meaning (Nida, 1969). It should be underlined that the three adjustments involving the act of adding, reducing, and changing information represent the same message as given in the source language text. It is therefore through the three adjustments the translator tries to create the equivalents in the target language text having the same message as in the source language. It is therefore that the function of the adjustment mostly to adjust the form of the message in the source language to the characteristics of the structure of the target language (Molina & Albir, 2002).

Alteration as one technique of adjustments by Nida refers to structural adjustments which include active to passive and vice versa; adjustments of tenses; singular to plural or vice versa; and change in the word levels such as nouns to verbs and vice versa. The term alteration is also called shift or transposition dealing with a change in the grammar form of SL to TL such as the change from singular to plural, the change in the position of adjective (Newmark, 1988)

Specifically, Nida (1964) categorizes the alteration of adjustment technique into several subtypes:

- (1) sounds: it can be inferred that this adjustment technique refers to a case when a word or expression in the source language text is phonetically adjusted in order to be naturally accepted in the target language; this is like one of Newmark's translation procedures namely naturalization.
- (2) categories: this subtype involves the changes of various categories such as, the changes from passive to active and vice versa; the changes from negative to positive and vice versa, the changes from singular to plural
- (3) word classes: this subtype refers to the changes of word classes or parts of speech such as from verb to noun and vice versa, from noun to pronoun. This adjustment technique is also called transposition in Newmark's translation procedures and this is called class shift in Catford's (Catford, 1969).
- (4) word order: this subtype of alteration refers to the changes of word order either in a phrase or in a clause or sentence. This subtype can emphasize the important part in a text. Newmark puts this as a part of transposition dealing with the changes of position of an adjective.

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- (5) Clause and sentence structure: this subtype of alteration refers to the changes or shifts such as, from questions to statements, the changes from indirect to direct and vice versa.
- (6) semantic problems involving single words: this subtype deals with the changes from a lower rank word into a higher rank, or a higher rank word followed by classifier, or dealing with the same rank of word but adjusted in position;
- (7) semantic problems involving exocentric expressions: this adjustment technique deals with the translation of idioms or Metaphors.

III.METHODOLOGY

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. It is descriptive research method as the main objective of this research is a description or explanation of the set of circumstances the way it is; and it is qualitative as it deals with qualitative phenomenon; relating to quality or variety (Mishra & Alok, 2017). The qualitative phenomenon under discussion involves adjustments as a technique of translation. There are some steps performed regarding the data collection and the data analysis.

In collecting the data, it starts with observing the data source first in the source language text by focusing on the beginning of the novel and it is done through a reading process. Then it is followed by observing the data source in the target language text by focusing on the same part with the same process. The next step is to compare what happens in the source language and in the target language regarding the adjustments made. All the adjustments regarding the changes of expressions and the changes of structures are collected and made into tables.

In analyzing the data, the step starts by studying the adjustments collected, first to see the types of alteration adjustment technique applied. Using the explanation given in each type of alteration adjustment by Nida, the collected data are then classified into the types of alteration and put in tables under each classification. The last step is to identify the kinds of information contained in the words or expressions adjusted.

IV.RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the data collected, it is identified that there are more than fifty cases of alteration adjustment out of one hundred sentences taken from the beginning of the novel. However, not all fifty alteration adjustments are used under discussion in this research; only 50% of them which can represent each type of alteration adjustment. Each type of alteration adjustment is put into a table under the name of the type of alteration adjustment.

Table 1. Sound

No.	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
1.	<i>Tak ada pistol, tak ada keris, apalagi gigitan.</i> Literal Translation: No gun, no kris , let alone bite.	The cause of the death was never a gun or kris dagger and certainly not biting.

There is only one case of alteration adjustment namely sound identified. It is applied when translating the word “*keris*”. The adjustment is performed by phonetically changing the word *keris* into **kris** in the target language; omitting the phoneme /e/ so the sound becomes familiar in the target language. Though the word is adjusted, the meaning still refers to the same object. It is actually a case of borrowing yet the direct equivalent for that is already listed in a bilingual dictionary from English into Indonesian and from Indonesian into English.

The word “*keris*” in data number (1) of table 1 refers to the name of Indonesian traditional dagger and it is asymmetrical. In the past it was used as a weapon to kill either in an individual fight or in a war. Now it is not practically used anymore for that purpose. People keep this kind of dagger as an ornament put on their wall. Some believe that it has magical power. Based on the information, it can be identified that the kind of information adjusted is cultural information.

Table 2. Categories

No.	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
1.	<i>Ia kawin dengan seorang gadis calon bidan, yang suatu kali datang kepadanya minta dilukis potret,</i> Literal Translation: He married a trainee midwife, who once came to see him asked to be painted portrait .	He married a trainee midwife, who once dropped by and asked him to paint her portrait .
2.	<i>Ia terlalu mengenal bunyi itu untuk memaksanya menoleh</i> Literal Translation: He knew so well the sound to force him to turn around .	He knew the sound so well he didn't bother to turn his head .

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3	<i>Sejenak mereka bertukar pandang,</i> Literal Translation: For a moment they exchanged glance .	For a moment they exchanged baffled glances ,
4	<i>Berita itu jauh lebih menakjubkan, disebabkan pelaku dan korbannya.</i> Literal Translation: The news is much more amazing caused by the perpetrator and his victim.	The identity of the killer and his victim made the news all the more shocking

There are four data in table 2 that can represent the type of alteration adjustment namely categories. In data number (1) the adjustment refers to the change from passive to active where the passive verb “*dilukis*” ‘to be painted’ is translated into active verb, **to paint**. It is an effort to make the equivalent syntactically acceptable in the structure of the target language. While in data number (2) the adjustment refers to the change from positive into negative when the verb phrase “*memaksanya menoleh*” ‘forced him to turn around’ in positive form is translated into a clause “**he didn’t bother to turn his head**” in negative form. This adjustment is acceptable in the syntactic structure of the target language; as the most important thing that it refers to the same message: he did not need to turn his head. As for data number (3) the adjustment involves the change of category from singular noun “*pandang*” ‘glance’ into a plural noun “**glances**”. This may have something to do with the concept in the target language that when you take a glance it involves your two eyes or with the phenomenon that when you exchange it refers to two things in reciprocal meaning. The adjustment is acceptable in the structure of the target language. And the last adjustment in data number (4) deals with the change of category from non-causative verb “*disebabkan*” ‘caused by’ which is in passive voice into causative verb “**made ... shocking**” which is in active voice.

As for the kinds of information being adjusted in this table 2 all involve syntactical information dealing with the structure of the target language. The adjustments do not change the message the author would like to give in the source language text. It is in fact all the four adjustments strengthen the meaning like in data number (1) that what the trainee midwife wanted becomes clear: she wanted the man to make a painting of her portrait not her being made into a painting like a portrait. While in data number (2), the negative form “don’t bother to” emphasizes the meaning of his not wanting to turn his head from his fish pond towards the coming sound of a motorcycle he had already known, in fact, he is very familiar with. The information given through the adjustment in data number (3) is that exchange involves reciprocal relation: the glance of two persons. It is therefore it needs to be adjusted into plural, glances. While the information given through the adjustment in data number (4) from non-causative verb into causative verb makes the message of the source text clearer in the target language text: the news about the identity of the perpetrator and the victim becomes more shocking due to the fact that in the context of the story people know them well.

Table 3. Word Classes

No.	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
1.	<i>Di setiap pertemuan, mereka akan melimpahinya kesempatan berpidato</i> Literal Translation: At every meeting, they would overbrim him a chance to speak .	At every meeting they would let him give lengthy speeches
2.	<i>Itu pengganti bel bagi tetamu</i> Literal Translation: That is a substitute bell for guests.	It functioned as a bell for guests.
3.	<i>tapi barangkali mabuk membuatnya memukul anjing tetangga,</i> Literal Translation: but perhaps drunkenness made him beat a neighbor’s dog.	but drunkenness might push him to beat a neighbor’s dog,
4	<i>Anwar Sadat sendiri penuh antusias di setiap musim panen berakhir</i> Literal Translation: Anwar Sadat himself is full of enthusiasm at every harvest season ends	Anwar Sadat himself had always been highly enthusiastic every time the harvest season ended

Table 4 are represented by four cases of alteration adjustments involving the changes of word classes. In data number (1) of table 4 the adjustment is made by changing a verb “*berpidato*” ‘to speak’ into a noun “**a speech**”. The adjustment is required due to the fact that if the verb *berpidato* is translated into “to speak” literally, it will create an ambiguity as the verb to speak has several meanings such as to talk, to say, while *berpidato* is not to say nor to talk, it has a clear meaning, that is to give a speech. The adjustment from a verb into a noun in translating *berpidato* is a must. The same case occurs in data number (2) when a noun

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“*pengganti*” ‘substitute’ is translated into a verb, “functioned”. It is possible to translate it literally without making any change “That is a substitute for a bell for the guests” yet the structure of the language is not natural. It is therefore the adjustment is needed. The next adjustment in data number (3) is the change from an adverb “*barangkali*” ‘perhaps’ into a verb ‘**might**’. The adjustment is not a must there; it is optional and it has a function to emphasize the focus on possibility into the act that causes the possibility, drunkenness. And the last adjustment in table 4 can be seen in data number (4) when a noun, “*antusias*” ‘enthusiasm’ in the source language is adjusted to an adjective, **enthusiastic**, in the target language. As the adjustment in data number (3), the change of word classes in data number (4) is also optional.

The kind of information in words being adjusted in this table 4 is syntactical as it involves the structure of the target language. The information in data number (1) “*berpidato*” as a verb and data number (2) “*pengganti*” as a noun in the source language text will be confusing if they are translated literally into the target language without changing the word class. The verb “*Berpidato*” when translated into a verb ‘**to speak**’ will lead to ambiguity between the meaning to talk and to give a speech. While the information in data number (2) regarding the translation of the noun “*pengganti*” ‘substitute’ also cannot be translated literally without changing the word class. It will create confusing meaning “a substitute bell” as it may mean the bell that substitute or it has a function as a bell. It is therefore the adjustments are required to give natural as well as clearer meaning. Unlike the adjustments in data number (1) and (2), the information in data number (3) and (4) is clear enough when the two data are translated literally without changing the word class. The change of the word classes may be needed only to emphasize the meaning of the two words being adjusted.

Table 4. Word Order

No.	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
1.	<i>Kini ia rada menyesal telah merampas senjata tak ada guna itu.</i> Literal Translation: Now he felt slightly sorry for having confiscated the weapon which is useless.	Now he felt slightly sorry for having confiscated the useless sword .
2.	<i>Itu Honda 70 milik Mayor Sadrah, dengan warna merahnya yang masih cemerlang.</i> Literal Translation: It is Honda 70 belongs to Mayor Sadrah with its red color which is still shiny.	It was Mayor Sadrah’s shiny, bright-red Honda 70

The data in table 4 involve adjustments in changing the word order especially the change in the position of adjective. Both in data number (1) and data number (2) the adjustments involve the translation of noun phrases where the position of adjective in the structure of the source language and the target language is different. It is therefore the change of position of adjective is a must. Table 4 is represented by two data. The position of adjective especially in a noun phrase in the source language is located after noun while in the target language it is put before noun. It is therefore adjustment dealing with word order specifically the change of position of adjective is a must.

The kind of information given in both data number (1) and data number (2) is syntactical as it deals with a certain structure of the source language and the target language. The adjustments do not change the meaning or the message the author wants to express, so they are naturally and syntactically equivalent.

Table 5. Clause and Sentence Structure

No.	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
1.	<i>Dengan senjata usang di tangan Margio, barangkali Anwar Sadat tak akan mati</i> Literal Translation: With the obsolete weapon in Margio’s hand, probably Anwar Sadat will not die.	Had the shabby weapon remained with Margio, Anwar Sadat might still be alive.

There is only one data representing the change in clause and sentence structure of table 5. The adjustment is made in order to emphasize the meaning contained in the sentence focusing on the possibility of Anwar Sadat’s life. It deals with conditional sentence type 2. In the source language where tenses do not exist, conditional sentence is characterized with the use of adverb or conjunctions. This cannot be identified in the source language data number (1) of table 5; no conjunction and adverb indicated condition so this is a statement. In the target language it is translated into conditional sentence in inversion as to emphasize a condition which is not going to happen; it involves past activities.

The kind of information which is being adjusted include all elements in the sentence. It indicates the meaning of regret that they wish they did something that so what had happened would not be happening. The source language has its own way to express this

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condition while the target language has a different way. It is therefore, the kind of information in data number (1) of table 5 is syntactical.

Table 6. Semantic Problems Involving Single Words

No.	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
1.	<i>Ma Soma, ia guru mengaji anak-anak di surau,</i> Literal Translation: Ma Soma, he is the teacher for reciting to children at the surau.	Ma Soma, who taught children how to read the Koran at the surau,
2.	<i>tidur pulas hingga muadzin membangunkan mereka di kala subuh</i> Literal Translation: sleep soundly until the muezzin woke them at subuh time.	stay fast sleep until the call to prayer woke them at dawn.

Table 6 of this research deals with semantic problems specifically involving single words shown in data number (1) and data number (2). In data number (1) the single word “*mengaji*” to recite’ is translated into a short description ‘to read the Koran’. It cannot be translated literally into “to recite” as the verb to recite is too general to be the equivalent for “*mengaji*”. The word “*mengaji*” can only refer to the act of reading the Koran. The adjustment of semantic problems involving single word type has made the message clearer to the readers of the target language text. A short description “to read the Koran” becomes a well- accepted equivalent. The same case happens also to the data number (2) where the word *muadzin* which refers to a person who makes the call to prayer in Islam religion is translated into a short description describing not about the doer but about the result of what the doer does. This adjustment is more acceptable due to the fact that it is not the muezzin who woke them up but the activity the muezzin does: the call to prayer that did that.

The kind of information being adjusted both in data number (1) and data number (2) is cultural. The two single words are related to Islam religion. It does not have something to do with the structure of the language. It is therefore the kind of information is cultural.

Table 7. Semantic Problems Involving Exocentric Expressions

No.	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
1.	<i>si gadis barangkali masih kecapekan dan tengah memuntahkan isi tasnya</i> Literal Translation: the girl probably is still exhausted and spit out the content of her bag.	the girl still exhausted and unpacking.
2.	<i>“Tak tahulah aku apa isi usus anak itu hingga berpikir menggerogoti leher orang,” kata Mayor Sadrah.</i> Literal Translation: “I don’t know what the content of the boy’s bowel is that he thought to gnaw someone’s neck, “ said Major Sadrah.	“I have no ideas what was in the boy’s mind that he could think of gnawing on someone’s neck,” said Sadrah
3.	<i>Di antara perburuan yang penuh muslihat melawan binatang yang jelas tak ada otak.</i> Literal Translation: Among the tricky hunts against the beasts which obviously have no brain.	During these strategic hunts for these stupid beasts

There are three data representing the adjustment type of semantic problems involving exocentric expressions in table 7. They all deal with idiomatic expressions. In data number (1) the idiomatic expression “*memuntahkan isi tasnya*” ‘to spit out the content of her bag’ is translated into non-idiomatic expression “unpacking” which refers to the same message. While in data number (2) the idiomatic expression used in the source language text is the expression “*apa isi usus anak itu*” ‘what is in the boy’s bowel’ which is translated into an idiomatic expression as well: “**what was in the boy’s mind**”. Those two expressions though mention different parts of the body, bowel and mind, they have similar meaning or message. The idiomatic expressions are about questioning the boy’s common sense. And the last adjustment as shown in data number (3) involves the translation of idiomatic expression “*tak ada otak*” ‘having no brain’ which is then translated into non-idiomatic expression “**stupid**”. The two expressions have similar meaning: they both refer to the same condition that animals have no logical thinking.

The kind of information given in the three data of this table 7 is cultural. The adjustments made are totally deal with meaning not with the structure of the language. The difference between the use of idiomatic expression and the use of non-idiomatic expression as in data number (1) is on the intensity of expressive meaning. The use of idiomatic expression “*memuntahkan isi tasnya*” is much

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more expressive than “unpacking”. In the source language the expression *memuntahkan* involves an activity of throwing out everything at the same time while the expression “unpacking” refers to an activity done one at a time. On the other hand, the adjustment made in data number (3) though dealing with the use of idiomatic expression and non-idiomatic expression, the intensity of expressive meaning is of the same level, both expressions can be categorized rude.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the discussions on the previous sections it can be concluded that overall research articles dealing with Nida’s alteration adjustment technique used in translating the novel *Lelaki Harimau* specifically the beginning part of the novel has never been done before. This is to show the novelty of this research. There are researches which have been carried out before using this novel as the data source and they are of various studies but none has ever discussed it by making use of Nida’s adjustment technique namely alteration.

The next conclusion involving the objectives of this research. The results show that (1) the types of alteration adjustment technique found in the data are all types covering all seven subtypes; and it can be identified that the kinds of information which are adjusted are cultural information and syntactical information.

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