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**Dr. Dodi Mulyadi, S.Pd., M.Pd.**

Dean of the Faculty of Foreign  
Language and Culture,

**Yesika Maya Ocktarani, S.S., M.Hum.**



## ACCURACY AND READABILITY ON THE TRANSLATIONS OF ONOMATOPOEIA IN *THE MAZE RUNNER* NOVEL INTO INDONESIA LANGUAGE

Widya Dara Anindya<sup>1</sup>, Adi Sutrisno<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Akademi Farmasi Surabaya, Ketintang Madya 81 Surabaya; Magister of Linguistics, Faculty of Cultural Science, Universitas Gadjah Mada

<sup>2</sup>English Department, Faculty of Cultural Science, Universitas Gadjah Mada

[widyadaraa@gmail.com](mailto:widyadaraa@gmail.com)

### Abstract

This article discusses about the accuracy and readability on the translations of onomatopoeia in *The Maze Runner* novel translated by Yunita Candra in order to evaluate the translation quality. All onomatopoeia both from English or translated novel were collected and then looked for the meaning in Cambridge Dictionary, Oxford Dictionary, Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), and in some sources such as books, internet, or cross checking from native or experts, then compared and determined the accuracy and readability level using Translation Accuracy Assessment Instrument and Translation Readability Assessment Instrument [1]. The result showed that accuracy and readability related to each other. Onomatopoeia translated accurately tended to have low readability level and there were onomatopoeia intentionally translated inaccurately to obtain high readability level. Nevertheless, there were also the translations of onomatopoeia with high accuracy level and readability level.

**Keywords:** accuracy, readability, translations, onomatopoeia.

### Introduction

The *Maze Runner* novel is a fantasy novel telling about adventure and a little touch of battle. Many kinds of onomatopoeias were used in this novel. While reading the original novel in English, several questions started bothering the researcher's curiosity, such as "how were the translations of the onomatopoeias into Indonesia language?", "were the translations of onomatopoeias accurate?", "was the readability good and natural?" or "were the translated novel as great as the original work?"

Accuracy refers to the equivalent of meaning which means that there is no distortion of meaning between original work and translated work so that the content or the meaning of original and translated work are the same or equivalent in the meaning. As mentioned by Nida and Taber that translation accuracy determined by whether the readers of target language understand the translated text like what is meant by the writer of the original work or not [2]. Kridalaksana in Nababan stated that translation is a process of delivering messages so that the message

should be delivered fully, accurate, without deletion or addition [3]. Furthermore, readability refers to how easy a text can be read and understood by the readers [1]. Added by Nababan in Pelawi that factors affects readability of a translated text are the use of foreign words and vernacular, the use of ambiguous words and sentences, the use of incomplete sentences and the mindset which is not coherent [1].

Accuracy and readability in a translated text are used to measure the quality of translation. The term quality in this article is used as umbrella term which consists of two aspects evaluated, namely accuracy and readability. From the explanation above, the researcher tried to figure out the relation between the accuracy and readability of the onomatopoeia translations of the *Maze Runner* novel into Indonesia language.

### Methodology

This study was qualitative descriptive study, which was explanation about existing linguistic facts [4]. This study was content analysis and the subject of the study was

onomatopoeia in the *Maze Runner* novel in original version (English) and translated version (Indonesia language) [5] [6]. This research was started with collecting onomatopoeia in *The Maze Runner* novel in English and the translation in Indonesia equipped with the context. In collecting onomatopoeia was based on onomatopoeia list used by Sugahara's Dissertation entitled *Onomatopoeia in Spoken and Written English: Corpus- and Usage-based Analysis* [7]. In analyzing the data, in order to check the accuracy, Cambridge Dictionary, Oxford Dictionary and *Kamus Besar Bahasa*

*Indonesia* (KBBI) were used. Furthermore, the researcher gained information of words or phrase from some sources, such as books, internet and cross checking from native or experts. After getting information of the meaning in source language and target language, then both source language and target language were compared. In deciding the data's accuracy and the data's readability, Translation Accuracy Assessment Instrument in Table 1 and Translation Readability Assessment Instrument in Table 2 were used [1].

Table 1.  
 Translation Accuracy Assessment Instrument [1]

Translation Categories	Score	Qualitative Parameter
Accurate	3	The meaning of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses and sentences or source text translated accurately into target language; there is not distortion of meaning.
Less Accurate	2	Most of the meanings of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses and sentences or source text have been translated accurately into target language. However, there are distortion of meanings or ambiguous or there are deleted meanings because affected on the whole meaning of the text.
Not Accurate	1	The meaning of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses and sentences or source text translated inaccurately into target language or deleted.

Tabel 2.  
 Translation Readability Assessment Instrument [1]

Translation Categories	Score	Qualitative Parameter
High Readability Level	3	Words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, and sentences or translated text can be understood easily by the reader.
Medium Readability Level	2	Generally, the translations are understood by the reader; yet there is a part which needs to be read more than once in order to understand.
Low Readability Level	1	The translations are difficult to be understood by the reader.

### Findings and Discussion

Onomatopoeias were found many in the *Maze Runner* novel, especially onomatopoeia related with a battle. Most of the translations of onomatopoeias had already been accurate and had high readability level. Data (1), (2) and (3) were onomatopoeias translated accurately and had high readability level.

- (1) SL : Buh- bump, buh- bump, buh- bump (119)
- TL : *Dug-dug, dug-dug, dug- dug.* (155)
- Context : Thomas was in the Maze with Minho dan Alby. Griever created by the Creator was spying on them. When the sound of

the Griever came closer, Minho who used to be in the Maze was panic and directly ran and left Minho and Alby whom was unconscious. Thomas tried to figure out whether Alby was still alive or not by laying his ear on Alby's chest to check his heartbeat.

Data (1) was sound imitation of heart beat. In the source language, the beat of the heart was buh-bump, buh-bump, buh-bump, translated as *dug-dug, dug-dug, dug-dug*. In target language, onomatopoeia which represented heart beats, such as *dug-dug, dug-dug, dug-dug; deg-deg, deg-deg, deg-deg;* and *dag-dig-dug, dag-dig-dug*. Those three

represented different conditions. The beat of normal hearts was *dug-dug, dug-dug, dug-dug*, while the beat of fluttered heart was *deg-deg, deg-deg, deg-deg*. Therefore, in the target language, there was term which was known as “*deg-degan*” (fluttering heart). In addition, the beat of pounding heart in fear was represented by the onomatopoeia of *dag-dig-dug, dag-dig-dug* [8].

The translations of *buh-bump, buh-bump, buh-bump* into *dug-dug, dug-dug, dug-dug* had already been accurate, since at that time, Alby was unconscious, and Thomas tried to check his heart beat due to make sure whether Alby was alive or not, so that the heart beat heard by Thomas was normal beat of human heart. The translator had chosen words that were equivalent in meaning so that there was not distortion of meaning and the component of meaning of source language could be transferred accurately in target language. Moreover, data (1) had high readability level since the target language text could be understood easily by the reader.

- (2) SL : Cows moored, sheep bleated, pigs squealed all around him. (76)  
 TL : *Sapi- sapi melenguh, domba- domba mengembik, babi- babi mengui di sekelilingnya.* (99)  
 Context : Thomas was in Blood House for experiencing his first training with a Keeper. Blood House was a place for raising and slaughter animals.

Data (2) had been translated accurately by the translator. The translator translated it using literal translation. Cows moored translated into *sapi-sapi melenguh*, sheep bleated translated into *domba-domba mengembik*, pigs squealed translated into *babi-babi mengui*. The translations of source language into target language had been accurate because source language had equivalent words in target language and the plural subjects in the source language translated plural too in target language. Besides the translations had been accurate, the readability of data (2) was high too, the reader could easily get the meaning of the translator without reading it many times.

- (3) SL : With a click and then a clack, the beetle turned and scuttled off, disappearing into the ivy.  
 TL : *Dengan suara klik dan klak serangga itu berbalik dan berlari pergi, lenyap di balik rimbun tanaman merambat.* (162)  
 Context : Thomas with Alby who was unconscious were hung in the wall of Maze using ivy. Thomas was shocked and almost screamed when he saw the machine beetle was just right in his left and clang to the stone wall. The beetle was cylinder and silver with diameter around 7 cm and 25 cm long. The machine beetle had twelve feet in line in the lower part of its body, its eye shone bright red rays.

Data (5) was onomatopoeia of walking machine beetle. In the source language, the sound “a click and then a clack” translated into *klik dan klak*. In Oxford Dictionary, click means “to make a short, sharp sound as of a switch operated or of two hard objects coming smartly into contact”, while clack in Cambridge Dictionary means “a short sharp noise made by two hard objects being hit together” [9] [10]. Click and clack were repeated words by changing one vowel, like *snip- snap, ding- dong, tick- tock* [11]. According to KBBI, *klik- klak* was “Sound klik sounding several times, such as sound of pushed button camera which pressed many times” [8]. The translation of a click and then a clack became *klik dan klak* categorized into accurate translation. Data (5) also had high readability level proven by the translated text which was easy to understand.

However, there also were found onomatopoeias intentionally translated inaccurately in order to reach high readability.

- (3) SL : The voice was distant, warbled, like an echo in a long tunnel.  
 TL : *Suara itu terdengar sayup- sayup, seperti gema di dalam sebuah terowongan.* (382)  
 Context : Thomas was stung by Griever so he was unconsciousness for days and experienced the Changing. Everyone who was stung by the Griever would experiencing the same with Thomas which would experience the Changing. When Thomas was unconscious, half awake, he heard a voice calling his name.

In the source language of data (4), it was found one subject (the voice) and three verbs (was, warbled and like). In the target language, there were only two verbs which were translated (was and like) and verb warble was deleted. The deletion of verb warble caused distortion of meaning. Warbled in source language means “(of a bird) to sing pleasantly; HUMOROUS to sing, especially in a high voice” [10]. Verb which had the equivalency of meaning with warbled was *bersiul*. The translator decided not to translate the verb warbled in order to get high readability level. If the verb warbled was translated, the readability might be low, sounded redundant and unnatural (look data 4a). In this case, the translator sacrificed one aspect which was accuracy to reach high readability level.

- (4a) SL : The voice was distant, warbled, like an echo in a long tunnel.  
 TL : *Suara itu terdengar sayup- sayup/ jauh, bersiul, seperti gema di dalam sebuah terowongan.*

There were some translated texts that had low readability level in which the readability felt unnatural and difficult to be understood by the reader (needed to read several times in understanding the translated text). It could be caused by choosing unequivalent words when translating, translating word by word so the emphasis was in the equivalency of syntactical, not in the meaning. In the *Maze Runner* novel, there were several onomatopoeias which were difficult to be understood, meant that the reader needed several times in understand the words, such as shown in data (5).

- (5) SL : He heard teeth snapping open and closed, a horrific clack, clack, clack.  
 TL : *Giginya membuka dan mengatup, mengeluarkan bunyi gigi-gigi membuka dan mengatup yang menyeramkan. (92)*  
 Context : Thomas was inside the forest which was full of big trees and dark because the light of the sun could not break through inside the forest. Thomas was in a broad land used as a graveyard. There were many wooden board plugged into the land used as headstone. When Thomas

was reading the name on the headstone one by one, he suddenly heard sound of broken twigs. Thomas froze, and was panic. The rumbling sound came closer and suddenly there was a boy appeared from the trees and jumped into Thomas body. Thomas was bounced and his back hit the wooden headstone. The wooden headstone was split into two and scratched deep into his skin. Now, the body of the boy was right above Thomas body, grasped with a powerful hand.

The translator translated data (5) by changing the structure, from primer onomatopoeia into secondary onomatopoeia. It was shown in the novel that the situation was dark inside the forest; Thomas could not see a boy who attacked him. Thomas did not see snapping teeth open and closed, he could only hear the snapping teeth pictured with onomatopoeia “a horrific clack, clack, clack”. In the target language, the primer onomatopoeia of “a horrific clack, clack, clack” was changed into secondary onomatopoeia, *bunyi gigi- gigi membuka mengatup*.

Even though the translator translated by changing the structure of onomatopoeia, the translation of data (5) had been accurate because there was no distortion of meaning. In other side, the readability of the data (5) was average, because in the first phrase, it was shown that *giginya membuka dan mengatup* (the teeth were open and closed), and in the second phrase it was repeated *mengeluarkan bunyi gigi-gigi membuka dan mengatup yang menyeramkan* (make horrific snapping teeth open and closed sound) so it was redundant. Therefore, the data (5) was accurate but had medium readability level.

- (6) SL : “Yeah,” Jeff muttered; then he and Clint shuffled off to the Homestead, the girl’s body bouncing as they went, and the other Gladers finally started to talk about it, scattering as theories bubbled through the air.  
 TL : *“Ya”, gumam Jeff, kemudian dia dan Clint berjalan menuju Wisma, tubuh anak perempuan itu melambung-lambung saat mereka pergi, dan para Glader yang lain akhirnya mulai membicarakannya, suara-suara*



*memenuhi udara mengemukakan berbagai teori.* (79)

Context : After the arrival of Thomas in the Glade, in the next day, Glader were surprised with the arrival of new comer. The new comer was a girl, it was the first time because all of this time, Gladers were boys. The girl was unconscious. According to Clint and Jeff who were medical boys, she was coma. Clint and Jeff carried the girl into the House.

Data (6) was accurate translations of onomatopoeia which shifted the point of view of the source language. Modulation technique was applied in data (6). Although data (6) had been translated accurately, the readability of data (6) was medium, generally the translations are understood by the reader; yet there is a part which needs to be read more than once in order to understand [1]. The translation of “scattering as theories bubbled through the air” into “*suara- suara memenuhi udara mengemukakan berbagai teori*” was marked unnatural so that the reader needed several times to understand. Therefore, data (6) categorized as onomatopoeia which had medium readability level.

(7) SL : A loud, slow beeping sound cut him off, like the warning alarm of a huge truck driving in reverse, but much more powerful.

TL : *Bunyi nyaring yang lambat memotong perkataannya, seperti suara alarm peringatan truk raksasa yang dijalankan mundur tetapi dengan lebih cepat.* (451)

Context : Thomas and the Gladers did their best effort to go out from the Glade. And when they succeeded going out from the Glade, now they were at a giant bulding which could be filled with six houses. The building was full of machines, cables, pipes and computers and also there were several rectangle boxes just like coffins which was as many as 40 coffins. Right in front of them, there were around twenty opaque windows in the bulding and there were several people sitting while observing them from the other side of the windows, they looked pale and thin. There suddenly was heard loud sound.

Target language in data (7) showed that the translation of onomatopoeia was less accurate because of the deletion of word beeping. Beside the translation was less accurate, the readability of data (7) was low. The reader needed several times to finally got the meaning of the translator. “A slow beeping sound” translated into *bunyi lambat yang nyaring*. *Bunyi lambat yang nyaring* here was difficult to understand or imagine how the sound was. Therefore, the translation of data (7) categorized into less accurate and low readability level.

(8) SL : Everything came together so quickly in Thomas’s mind, he almost heard an audible click, as if the pieces all snapped into place at once.

TL : *Segalanya mengalir begitu cepat ke dalam pikiran Thomas, anak itu hampir mendengar suara semua bagian yang menyatu pada saat bersamaan.* (338)

Context : Thomas and Teresa were having conversation about Maze. They tried to analyze the patterns of Maze which were changed everyday. Every night, Maze moved and changed so the patterns of Maze would be different everyday. The Runners who had the duty of solving the patterns of the Maze still failed until now. So, they could not go out from the Glade. Thomas and Teresa tried to solve the problem and suddenly Thomas realized that the Runners had analyzed it wrongly, and Thomas found the different way in analyzing it and he was sure that it was the correct way.

The translation of data (8) showed that the translation was not accurate because the translator did not translate the phrase “an audible click“. The translator should have a reason why the phrase was not translated. It may because the translator could not find the right word which was equivalent in meaning, the translator may make mistake in translating so that the phrase were not translated, or the translator tended to get high readability level by sacrificing the accuracy, because if the phrase “an audible click” translated, the readability became unnatural. So that data (8) categorized into translation which was not accurate but had high readability level.

## Conclusion

According to the analysis of the accuracy and readability on the translations of onomatopoeia in the *Maze Runner* novel into Indonesia language, the result showed that accuracy and readability had a close relationship and affected one another. Onomatopoeia translated accurately tended to have low readability level and there were onomatopoeia intentionally translated inaccurately to obtain high readability level. Nevertheless, there were also the translations of onomatopoeia with high accuracy level and readability level. It was happened because the translator usually sacrificed one aspect and accentuated the other aspects.

Based on the analysis above, it is suggested that 1) in order to get accurate translations, a translator should pay more attention on the equivalence of the meaning rather than the form, 2) in order to reach high degree of readability, a translator should practice translating many times so the translator will be used to find appropriate words in target language when translating. In the end, the translator will improve her/ his capability in finding the right words which have equivalent of meaning between source language and target language. In addition, the translator have to read the whole text in the end of the translating process.

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