# GOOGLE TRANSLATE VS. HUMAN TRANSLATOR IN TRANSLATING INDONESIAN LITERARY TEXT OF MUNA MASYARI'S SHORT STORY KETUK LUMPANG INTO ENGLISH

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Translators should know both the advantages and disadvantages of using machine translation. This research aims (1) to investigate whether or not the result of the translation works carried out by Google Translate and that of human translator in translating Indonesian short story into English will be different, and (2) to investigate whether or not the shift of sentences between both of them will cause the shift of the main idea of the paragraph. In comparing the results, the researcher focuses on the shift of sentences and their influence on the main idea of the paragraphs. The research method used is descriptive-qualitative method proposed by Enio Cipani and comparative study by Robert L Stake. Meanwhile, for the shift of sentences, the researcher uses Jim Miller's theory of finite and non-finite clauses. Related to translation theory, J.C Catford's statement, i.e. translation may occur between sentences, clauses, groups, words and (though rarely) morphemes, and Mona Baker's view, i.e. to find the national category which is regularly and uniformly expressed in all languages is difficult, are considered. Related to the data, the researcher chooses one of the short stories on the page of Dalang Publishing, an American publisher located in San Mateo, California, USA, i.e. Muna Masyari' short story Ketuk Lumpang which was translated by the researcher himself and then being edited by an English native editor becoming Requiem for a Wedding. The findings of this research are that the Indonesian short story which originally had 1,501 words after being translated into English by Google Translate became 1,937 words. Meanwhile, a human translator translated it into 2,089 words. Regarding the number of sentences, the sentences in the Indonesian short story, whose total number is 169 sentences, and after being translated by Google Translate the number is just the same. However, the human translator translated it becoming 155 sentences. The shifts of sentences (original short story >> Google Translate >> Human translator) can be (1) of a sentence becoming a sentence, (2) of a sentence becoming two sentences, and (3) of two sentences becoming a sentence. Even though the number of sentences change after being translated by human translator into English, the main ideas of the paragraph do not change. Such a matter can be checked by back-translation. The shifts of sentence happen due to the nativelikeness both linguistically and culturally of the target text. Thus, it can be concluded that concerning the main idea of paragraphs, the work of Google Translate was linguistically and culturally different from the human translator's in translating a literary work from Indonesian into English. However, concerning human translator's work, the main ideas of the original or Indonesian version do not change.

**Keywords**: Google Translate, human translator, Indonesian short story, clauses, main idea.

## **ABSTRAK**

Penting bagi penerjemah untuk mengetahui kelebihan dan kekurangan penggunaan mesin penerjemah. Penelitian ini bertujuan (1) untuk mengetahui apakah penerjemahan yang dilakukan oleh Google Translate dan penerjemah manusia dalam menerjemahkan cerita pendek berbahasa Indonesia ke dalam bahasa Inggris hasilnya sama atau berbeda, dan (2) untuk mengetahui apakah perubahan kalimat menyebabkan perubahan gagasan utama paragraf atau tidak. Dalam membandingkan hasil keduanya, peneliti memusatkan pada perubahan kalimat dan pengaruh perubahan itu terhadap gagasan utama paragraf. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode deskriptifkualitatif yang dikemukakan oleh Enio Cipani dan studi komparatif oleh Robert L Stake. Sementara itu, untuk perubahan kalimat, peneliti menggunakan teori finite and non-finite clauses oleh Jim Miller, Terkait dengan teori penerjemahan, pernyataan J.C Catford, (yaitu penerjemahan dapat terjadi pada kalimat, klausa, kelompok, kata, dan – meskipun jarang terjadi – morfem), dan pendapat Mona Baker, (yaitu bahwa untuk menentukan kategori dalam sebuah bangsa yang secara teratur dan seragam dapat diungkapkan dalam semua bahasa itu sulit), menjadi bahan pertimbangan. Terkait dengan data tersebut, peneliti memilih salah satu cerpen yang ada di laman Dalang Publishing, penerbit Amerika yang berlokasi di San Mateo, California, Amerika Serikat, yaitu cerpen Muna Masyari berjudul Ketuk Lumpang yang diterjemahkan sendiri oleh peneliti (dan disunting oleh penyunting Amerika) menjadi Requiem for a Wedding. Temuan penelitian ini adalah bahwa cerpen berbahasa Indonesia yang semula berjumlah 1.501 kata setelah diterjemahkan ke dalam bahasa Inggris oleh Google Translate menjadi berjumlah 1.937 kata. Sementara itu, pada saat diterjemahkan oleh penerjemah manusia menjadi berjumlah 2.089 kata. Terkait jumlah kalimat, kalimat-kalimat dalam cerpen berbahasa Indonesia yang berjumlah 169 kalimat, setelah diterjemahkan oleh Google Translate jumlahnya tetap sama. Akan tetapi, pada saat diterjemahkan oleh penerjemah manusia menjadi berjumlah 155 kalimat. Pergeseran atau perubahan kalimat (cerpen asli >> Google Translate >> penerjemah manusia) dapat berupa (1) satu kalimat menjadi satu kalimat, (2) satu kalimat menjadi dua kalimat, dan (3) dua kalimat menjadi satu kalimat. Meskipun jumlah kalimat berubah setelah diterjemahkan oleh penerjemah manusia ke dalam bahasa Inggris, gagasan utama paragraf tidak berubah. Hal ini dibuktikan dengan cara backtranslation. Pergeseran kalimat terjadi karena penyesuaian kepada kelaziman bahasa dan budaya bahasa sasaran (Bahasa Inggris). Dengan demikian, dapat disimpulkan bahwa mengenai gagasan utama paragraf, karya Google Translate secara linguistik dan budaya berbeda dengani penerjemah manusia dalam menerjemahkan karya sastra dari bahasa Indonesia ke bahasa Inggris. Namun, terkait teks hasil penerjemah manusia, gagasan utama versi aslinya (bahasa Indonesia) tidak berubah.

Kata kunci: Google Translate, penerjemah manusia, cerita pendek Indonesia, klausa, gagasan utama.

# INTRODUCTION

There has been quite a lot of studies on translation works carried out by machine translation. Since the 1950s, machine translation or CAT (Computer Assisted Translation) has been introduced. At that time, there were many statements coming from the CAT supporters that underestimated the role of human translators. According to them, human translation services will no longer be used in the near future. Their jobs will be replaced by CAT. However, until now it turns out that human translators are still used. This is caused by the results of CAT's works which have not satisfied its users. This fact is interesting because attempts have been made to intensively develop CAT for more than 70 years; unfortunately. the results are not capable of being said to be satisfactory. Due to this phenomenon, many linguists state that human translation services will still be needed. As a consequence, conducting a research regarding the results of translations carried out by CAT compared with the results of translations carried out by human translator still needs to be done.

The problem to be solved is the extent of the quality of the text resulting from the translation results carried out by machine translation or CAT. The translated text from human translators who are experts in translation (with editors from English speaking countries) needs to be compared with the translated text resulting from CAT. Knowing the results of this comparison is important because CAT developers have been trying to intensively develop CAT for quite a long tiem. However, the results have not been as expected. There are many variables that can be used as a measure of the accuracy and acceptability of translation results. In this research, what is meant by machine translation or CAT is *Google Translate*. In this case the researcher emphasizes on the finite and main idea changes of the results of translation by *Google Translate* compared to the results of translation by human translators. The researcher compares texts translated by *Google Translate* with that of human translators, and it is hoped that the results will influence the mindsets or thinking concepts of both students or English learners and CAT developers.

Translation using *Google Translate* is an interesting topic since it can be used easily and freely. In contrast to the development of calculating machines such as calculators, until now *Google Translate* has not been reliable, especially for translating literary works. However, as a tool or helper to save time, *Google Translate* is certainly useful. This research will try to place the *Google Translate* proportionally. The researcher chooses *Google Translate* because it is the most widely used. This is due to *Google*'s extraordinary role in ICT which covers almost all aspects of human life around the world.

The translation of a literary work in the form of a short story in Indonesian, which has been translated into English and published by a publisher located in San Mateo, California, United States, is certainly interesting to research. The focus of the research is to compare the text resulting from the translation carried out by the human translator with the translation carried out by *Google Translate*. The comparison focuses on finite changes which are one of the most dynamic parts of speech and main idea of the paragraph. Investigating finite is important because finite constitutes verb in a clause that will change according to the time and subject. There has been a lot of research on translation carried out by *Google Translate*. However, there has not been much research comparing texts translated by *Google Translate* and that of by human translators with data taken from literary works such as short story.

#### **METHOD**

This research aims to compare and then interprete the translation works carried out by *Google Translate* and that of by human translator in translating Indonesian short story into English. Related to the data, the researcher chooses one of the short stories on the page of *Dalang Publishing*, a publisher located in San Mateo, California, United States, i.e. Muna Masyari' short story *Ketuk Lumpang* which was translated by the researcher becoming *Requiem for Wedding*. In comparing, the researcher focuses on the finite and main idea changes between *Google Translate* and human translator.

The research method used is descriptive-qualitative. Concerning the descriptive research, Cipani (2009) stated that description is perhaps the easiest form of gaining knowledge and a first step toward

subsequent scientific inquiry ... watch a phenomenon and describe what you observe ... is termed descriptive observational research. Furthermore, he said that in descriptive research, observation of the phenomenon is conducted by the researcher ... essential to obtain a recording of the observation(s) that allows for quantification. Related to translation theory, J.C Catford's statement, i.e. translation may occur between sentences, clauses, groups, words and (though rarely) morphemes, and Mona Baker's view, i.e. to find the national category which is regularly and uniformly expressed in all languages is difficult, are considered.

Furthermore, concerning the qualitative research, Stake (2010) stated that ... the researcher himor herself is an instrument, observing action and contexts, often intentionally playing a subjective role in the study, using his or her own personal experience in making interpretations. Moreover, concerning the comparative study, he stated that comparison is a close companion to description and an essential aid to interpretation—but it is not the strongest basis for coming to understand how a thing works.

For the finite changes, the researcher considers Jim Miller's statement on finite and non-finite clauses. Miller (2008) stated that in discussing finite and non-finite we cannot avoid to consider what sentence actually is. Furthermore, in discussing sentence we cannot avoid to consider what clause actually is. In this case, he said that ... traditional distinction between clause and sentence is important ... main clause combines with one or more subordinate clauses to form a sentence ... different clauses occur in sentences can be described ... phrases occur inside clauses. Meanwhile, concerning finite, he stated that ... clause contains a finite verb; that is, a verb marked for tense. Moreover, he stated that finite verbs are traditionally said to be marked for tense, person, and number.

To investigate whether or not there is any difference concerning the sense of sentence (by focusing on finite shift) and the main idea of paragraph (focusing on back-translation) between the original Indonesian text and the work of human translation, Mona Baker's statement of back translation is employed.

The construction of development implementation can be illustrated in the following table.

Translating Literary Works				
Source language	Target language 1	Target language 2		
Short Story	Google Translate	Human Translator		
Indonesian Text	English Text 1	English Text 2		
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Table 1. The Direction of Three Comparison Entities

Source language is Muna Masyari's short story *Ketuk Lumpang*, whereas target language are respectively short story *Tap Lumbar* (translated by *Google Translate*) and *Requiem for Wedding* (translated by Human translator).

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Translating Indonesian text as the source language into English one as the target language is considered quite complicated. A research conducted by Akil (2011) in some higher institutions in Makassar, such as UNHAS, Atmajaya, UNMUH, UNM, ABA, etc., proved the validity and reliability of such a statement. He stated that the quality of the students' translation, therefore, was very poor ...; the average grade was only 0.65 on (0-4) grading scale. All aspects (accuracy, clarity, and naturalness) were poor and varied by institutions, by status of institutions, and by semester the students belonged to. This research concerned Indonesian-English translation. It means that the source language is Indonesian and the target language is English. However, being different from the research conducted by Akil, in this research, the source language chosen belongs to one of the literary works, i.e. a short story.

Different from poetry, short stories consist of sentences that form paragraphs. The integration of paragraphs becomes a discourse called a short story. Thus, when translating a short story, the matter dealing with sentence translation is important to discuss. Before discussing sentences further, it needs to be stated here that in English grammar, a sentence is often referred to as main clause. This is important to

consider because the main characteristic of a sentence is the presence of a finite, and finites are found in clauses.

Sentences are usually differentiated based on their function and form, i.e. as a statement in the form of a declarative, a question in the form of an interrogative, a command in the form of an imperative, and an exclamation in the form of an exclamative. It can be further explained that what is meant by a statement is to inform someone of something, a question is to get information from someone, a command is to get someone to do something, and an exclamation is to express one's attitude about something... (Verspoor & Sauter, 2000).

In the short story *Ketuk Lumpang*, which was translated by a human translator as *Requiem for Wedding*, these four types of sentences can be found. The following table can clarify the four types of sentences found in such a short story.

From the data in the form of translations done by *Google Translate* and human translator, there are changes in parts of speech. In this research, the researcher only focuses on finite changes and their influence on the main idea. Verbs are the main thing when discussing sentences. In this case, (Verspoor & Sauter, 2000) supports how important verbs are when talking about sentences. They say that ... people communicate, they do so for various reasons; the four main reasons are: to inform someone of something, to get information from someone, to get someone to do something, and to express one's attitude about something.

The importance of finite can be found in *Study Smarter*, a well-known website for English learners. In this website, we can read that finite verbs are essential for forming complete sentences that express clear meaning. Furthermore, it is said that finite verbs are essential for constructing grammatically correct sentences and conveying coherent meaning in the English language. It then concluded that in summary, finite verbs are critical aspects of English grammar, responsible for creating structured and meaningful sentences. (https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/english/english- grammar/finite-verbs/)

In this study, the researcher only intends to discuss the finite differences between English texts translated by *Google Translate* and that of translated by human translators. Dealing with it, Stake (2010) stated that much qualitative research aims at understanding one thing well ... consistent with their priorities on uniqueness and on context. If in this research the data is taken from a short story, not from an academic text, qualitative researchers have reasons as stated by (Colyar, 2010). They stated that qualitative researchers have long struggled with the question of how to represent social reality through the academic text. While researchers historically have been bound by a limited template in terms of scholarly writing, recent decades have seen a challenge to the accepted format of academic manuscripts.

The findings of this research are that the Indonesian short story, i.e. Muna Masyari's short story *Ketuk Lumpang*, which originally had 1,501 words after being translated into English by machine translation, i.e. *Google Translate*, became 1,937 words. Meanwhile, a human translator translated it into 2,089 words. Regarding sentences, the sentences in the Indonesian short story, whose total number is 169 sentences, after being translated by machine translation was just the same. Meanwhile, the human translator translated it 2,089 sentences. Regarding the number of sentences, the sentences in the Indonesian short story, whose total number is 169 sentences, and after being translated by Google Translate the number is just the same. However, the human translator translated it becoming 155 sentences. Thus, it can be concluded that concerning the sense of sentences, there are some differences between the work of machine translation and the human translator in translating a short story from Indonesian into English.

The benefit of this finding is, among others, to prove that the finites produced by *Google Translate* are different from the finites written by human translators. The existence of finite indicates the degree of the words string, namely whether it is just a fragment or a sentence. The finite difference shows a significant difference. The existence of finite in a string of words indicates that it has sentence level. Moreover, a sentence means the idea it carries is already complete. This research shows that the results of translations carried out by human translator and then edited by English native speakers of the target language have many differences in determining the finite. Thus, especially for the translation of literary works from Indonesian into English, a human translator – an Indonesians who is proficient in the source and target languages and his work is edited by English native speakers – are needed. In other words, the translation carried out by *Google Translate* cannot be accounted for.

In this discussion section, before answering the research question, the first thing that will be discussed is the number of words in the source language and the differences when translated by machine translators or human translators. Regarding this comparison, Stake (2010) wrote that emphasis on comparison may give us what we want most to know, caring little to know about the complexity.

Furthermore, it needs to be said that even though this research is basically qualitative, calculations or numbers are still needed. This is not against the rules. In this case, Stake (2010) stated that the distinction between quantitative and qualitative methods is a matter of emphasis more than a discrete boundary.

Muna Masyari's short story *Ketuk Lumpang* is referred to as source language, and the result of the translation by *Google Translate* is called Target Language 1. Meanwhile, the short story which was translated by a human translator, i.e. the researcher or Junaedi Setiyono, becoming *Requiem for Wedding*, is referred to as Target Language 2.

The next description is about the number of words. Words can be found in a sentence. The number of sentences is important to consider because from the sentences we can see more closely changes in words that can be linked to the change of parts of speech. Furthermore, from sentences we can see more closely about finite changes.

Table 2. Table Format

Number of sentences			
Source language	Target language 1	Target language 2	

There has been quite a lot of research conducted on the works of machine translation in translating the literary works. Research conducted by Agung et al. (2024) entitled *Translation Performance of Google Translate and Deepl in Translating Indonesian Short Stories into English.* also utilizes machine translation to collect data. The data collected are short stories in Indonesian which were translated by a machine translator into English. The difference between such a research and the research conducted by the researcher is the number of translation machines used. This research uses two translation machines, i.e. *Google Translate* and *Deepl*, while the research conducted by the researcher only uses one type of translation machine, i.e. *Google Translate*. Another difference is regarding the research focus. This research focuses on translation errors, while the research conducted by the researcher focuses on finite changes. Another difference is the involvement of a human translator. In this research, human translators were not involved, while in the research conducted by the researcher, human translator was involved.

Research conducted by Siahaan et al. (2023) entitled *Accuracy of the Translation of the Indonesian Short Story "The Goose with Golden Eggs" into English Using U-Dictionary* also has similarities with the research conducted by the researcher. In such a study, data was also taken from short stories written in Indonesian which were translated using a machine translator into English. The difference is first about the unit of analysis. Such a research focuses on the accuracy of translation carried out by machine translators, while the research carried out by the researcher focuses on the shift of sentences. Secondly, such a research uses *U-Dictionary* as a translation machine, while the research conducted by the researcher uses *Google Translate*. Lastly, this research does not include any human translator as one of the variables, whereas the research conducted by the researcher included human translator variable.

In the research conducted by Munthe et al., (2023) entitled *Comparing the Translation Accuracy between Google Translate and Professional Translator*, there are quite a lot of similarities with research conducted by the researcher. Firstly, in this research data was collected from literary works. Secondly, this research focuses on sentences. And, lastly, this research uses the *Google Translate*. The differences between such a research and the research conducted by the researcher is, among others, that such a research translates an English text into Indonesian, while the research carried out by the researcher is translating an Indonesian text into English. Another difference is that such a research uses some novels as the data, while the research conducted by the researcher uses a short story.

In the research conducted by Repelita et al. (2023) entitled *Technology Trends in Translation: A Comparative Analysis of Machine and Human Translation*, there is a similarity with the research conducted by the researcher, i.e. that both of them comparing the results of translation which were carried out by *Google Translate* and those which were carried out by human translator. The difference is that such a study measured the accuracy of both *Google Translate* and human translator, whereas the research carried out by the researcher was to describe the sentence shifts that occured in translation carried out by *Google Translate* and translation carried out by a human translator.

The research conducted by Baihaqi & Mulyana (2021) entitled *Reviewing the Results of Machine Translation: A Case for Indonesian Translation Version by Google Translate and Imtranslator* has a similarity with research conducted by the researcher. The similarity is that such a research compares the results of translations carried out by *Google Translate* with those carried out by human translators. Meanwhile, the difference is that this research emphasizes accuracy, consistency, and flexibility both by

machine translators and human translators, while the research conducted by the researcher emphasizes the sentence shifts in the translation results of *Google Translate* and a human translator.

The research conducted by Hasibuan (2020) entitled A Comparative Study between Human Translation and Machine Translation as an Interdisciplinary Research has a similarity with research conducted by the researcher, i.e. that both describe the results of translation by machine translators in translating literary works. The difference is, among others, that such a research focuses on translation from English into Indonesian, while the research carried out by the researcher is Indonesian-English translation. Another difference is that such a research compares texts translated by two types of machine translators, namely Google Translate and IMTranslator, while the research conducted by the researcher compares the results of translations carried out by Google Translate and human translator.

The research conducted by Sibuea et al. (2023) entitled *The Equivalence Problems Produced by Machine Translation on a Literary Text: A Study on the Indonesian Translation of Harry Potter: the Order of the Phoenix* has some similarities with research conducted by the researcher. Firstly, both of them took data from literary works. Secondly, both focus on sentence translation. And, lastly, both use *Google Translate* to collect data. The difference is that such a research focuses on translating English text into Indonesian one, while the research conducted by researchers focuses on translating from Indonesian text into English one. Another difference is that such a research focuses on translating novels, while the research conducted by the researcher focuses on translating short story.

Halimah (2018) conducted a research entitled *Comparison of Human Translation with Google Translation of Imperative Sentences in Procedures Text*. Such a research has a similarity with the research conducted by the researcher, i.e. both studies compare the translation of machine translation with human translator. Such a research is different from the research conducted by the researcher. Firstly, this research focuses on translating procedural texts, while the research conducted by researchers focuses on narrative ones. Secondly, this research emphasizes on imperative sentences, while the research conducted by the researcher emphasizes on all types of sentences.

The research conducted by Ismailia (2023) entitled *The Analysis of Machine Translation Performance on Translating Informative Text from English into Indonesian* has a similarity with the research conducted by the researcher, i.e. both of them use machine translation to collect the data. The difference with the research conducted by the researcher is that such a research uses six translation machines to collect the data, while the research conducted by the researcher only uses one type of translation machine. Another difference is that such a research focuses on translating news reports that use formal language, while the research conducted by the researcher focuses on translating literary works that use a lot of cultural language.

Changes related to the type of word can be called changes in parts of speech. Of the various types of words (noun, adjective, verb, etc.), the most basic is verb change, especially verbs that are in the finite category. (Miller, 2008) in his book *An Introduction to English Syntax* discusses what finite actually is. Before discussing finites, he discussed the place where finites are located, namely in sentences or more precisely in clauses. The traditional distinction between clause and sentence is still important to notice. A main clause combines with one or more subordinate clauses to form a sentence. Where different clauses occur in sentences can be described, as can where phrases occur inside clauses. Each clause contains a finite verb; that is, a verb marked for tense. Finite verbs are traditionally said to be marked for tense, person and number (Miller, 2008). Furthermore, the verb itself is divided into finite and non-finite verbs, both of which are discussed in the clause discussion. In fact, this sentence is called the main clause.

The sentences found in the short story *Requiem for Wedding* consist of several clauses. Thus, the main idea can be found easily. The presence of a finite is indicated in the sentence. To clarify the problem, the researcher includes examples of sentences from (1) original Indonesian short stories, (2) short story that have been translated by *Google Translate* into English, and (3) short story that have been translated by human translator into English. The following table can clarify the explanation above.

It means the text translated by Google Translate underwent the finite changes. The shifts of sentences (original short story >> Google Translate >> Human translator) can be (1) of one sentence becoming one sentence, (2) of one sentence becoming two sentences, and (3) of two sentences becoming one sentence

Table 3. Sentence Shifts

<b>Examples of Sentence Shifts</b>				
Source Language	Target Language 1	Target Language 2		
Original Short Story	Google Translate	Human Translator		
Malam merangkak perlahan.	The night crept slowly.	The night moved on slowly.		
Namun orangtua Maksar justru tidak setuju karena ibu Marinten dikabarkan memiliki susuk pemikat, dan mencarikan perempuan lain.	However, Maksar's parents did no agree because Marinten's mother reportedly had a decoy implant, and looked for another woman.	t Unfortunately, Maksar's parents didn't agree.		
		Going by a rumor that Marinten's mother owned a susuk pemikat — a magic gold pin that could supposedly bewitch a man — Maksar's parents made him marry another girl.		
Sakit hati Arsap terobati sudah.	Arsap's heartache has healed.	He had recovered from his heartache, and the fury inside him had subsided.		
Bara di dadanya padam tersiram.	The embers in his chest were doused.			
	Etc.			

From the table above it can be seen that the finites change (from Google Translate work to human translator work), i.e. (1) crept >> moved, (2) had >> owned, (3) look for >> made, (4) has healed >> had recovered, (5) were doused >> had subsided, etc.

It can be noticed that the changes not only involve changes in parts of speech but also changes in tenses. Apart from that, changes in word order in sentences also occur which, if simplified, are related to writing effective sentences in the target language. Thus, it can be said that effective sentences in the source language can change their structure if they are to be translated into effective sentences in the target language.

To find out whether the sense of a sentence – which ultimately influences the main idea of a paragraph – changes or remains the same, researcher performs what so-called back-translation. Back-translation itself according to Baker (1991) is ... the term back-translation ... this involves translating the target text back into the source language from which it was originally translated.

The following table can simplify the explanaton of the shift process.

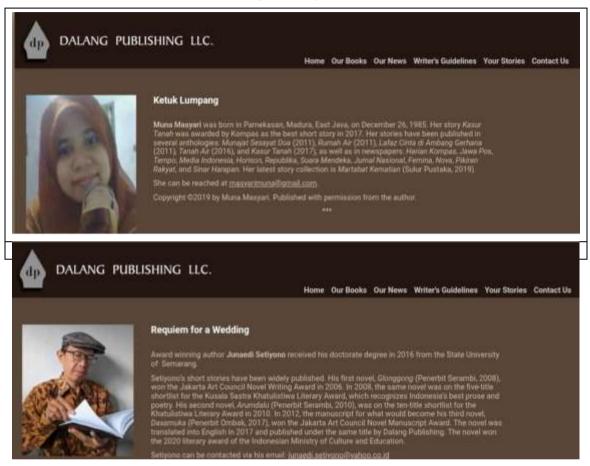
Table 4. Comparing Google Translate Text and Human Translator

Examples of Back Translation				
Original Short Story	Human Translator	Back-Translation		
Malam merangkak perlahan.	The night moved on slowly.	Malam berlalu dengan lambat.		
Namun orangtua Maksar justru tidak setuju karena ibu Marinten dikabarkan memiliki susuk pemikat, dan mencarikan perempuan lain.	agree. Going by a rumor that Marinten's mother owned a susuk pemikat — a magic gold pin that could supposedly bewitch a man — Maksar's parents made him marry another girl.	Sayangnya, orang tua Maksar tidak setuju. Berdasarkan rumor yang beredar bahwa ibu Marinten memiliki susuk pemikat, yaitu peniti emas ajaib yang konon dapat menyihir seorang pria, orang tua Maksar menyuruhnya menikah dengan gadis lain.		
Sakit hati Arsap terobati sudah.	He had recovered from his heartache, and the fury inside him had subsided.	Dia telah pulih dari sakit hatinya, dan kemarahan dalam dirinya telah mereda.		
Bara di dadanya padam tersiram.				

By back-translation, the researcher compares the original sentences of the short story with the sentences translated by human translators. By comparing them, it can be seen that the sense of the sentences is not different. This means that the sense of the sentences does not change, i.e. only the

structure changes. Thus, the difference between the finite resulting from *Google Translate* work and the finite resulting from the human translator work does not affect the sense of the sentence. Thus, it can be said that the translation resulting from the human translator work does not change the sense of the sentence.

To prove that the short story used for obtaining data is representative one, especially which is written in both Indonesian and English, it is also necessary to describe a bit about the author and translator. The following picture is the profile of both author and translator. From the homepage of the publisher, Dalang Publishing LLC., the readers can see that this publisher specializes in translating short stories and novels in Indonesian and then publishing them.



Picture 1. Author and Translator of Short Story Source: Dalang Publishing

After considering the change of finites – that the translation done by *Google Translate* is quite different from that of human translator – which possibly causes the change of sentences' sense, we need to consider such changes – supposed that it happens – in some philosophical views. Stolze (2012) stated that translation should enable readers to look beyond the text structures into the socio-cultural background, making it possible for them to enter a literary world created by a novel, or to continue a specialist communication initiated by the original text. Another philosophical view related to dynamic equivalence (D-E), Thomas (1964) stated that in view of the close parallel between D-E and hermeneutics, three questions need to be faced: a linguistic one, an ethical one, and a practical one. Furthermore, Piecychna (2012) stated that the development of the field concerned with the study of the phenomenon of translation was strongly influenced by philosophical hermeneutics ... as hermeneutics, in all its forms and configurations, revolves around such topics as language, understanding, meaning, text, interpretation, and, consequently, translation.

# **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

In comparing the translation works carried out by *Google Translate* with human translator's, the researcher focuses on the finite and main idea changes. It is found that almost all finites changed. It means that related to the meaning or sense of the *Google Translate* works in translating the short story was under threat. In the

discussion, the researcher showed the linguistic change by comparing both the number of words and of sentences. Related to the main idea change, the technique of back-translation proved that the main ideas found in the short story do not change. Thus, it can be concluded that concerning the main idea of paragraphs, the work of Google Translate was linguistically and culturally different from the human translator's in translating a literary work from Indonesian into English. However, concerning human translator's work, the main ideas of the original or Indonesian version do not change. About ten years ago, to make Indonesian literary works going globally, we waited for the help of people from English speaking countries who were experts in Indonesian, such as Harry Aveling or John H. McGlynn, nowadays Indonesians who are fluent in English can hold that job. Of course, Indonesians need the help of an editor from English speaking countries to harmonize English culturally. This research proves that alignment related to nativelikeness is important and cannot be done by Google Translate. Further research can be carried out on literary prose in the form of novels with the same characteristics, i.e. the source language is Indonesian, translated by Indonesians who are fluent in English and edited by editors who are English native. Translation from Indonesian to English cannot rely entirely on Google Translate especially if the translation results are intended to be read by people in English-speaking countries. If the translation results are intended to be read by such readers, the translator needs to collaborate with some native English editor.

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