

Clause Structure And Distribution Changes: A Translation Analysis Of Adjective Clauses In The Kite Runner

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the translation of English adjective clauses into Indonesian in *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (2003) and its translation by Berliani M. Nugrahani (2008). Using Chesterman's (2000) translation strategies framework, this descriptive analytical study explores how syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic translation strategies are applied to adapt complex English grammatical structures to Indonesian. The study focuses on identifying the strategies employed—such as literal translation, transposition, unit-shift, synonymy, antonymy, and cultural adaptation—and evaluating their effectiveness in preserving the meaning of the source text while ensuring accuracy, readability, and fluency in the target text. The findings show that syntactic strategies, including literal translation and transposition, were commonly used to accommodate the structural differences between the two languages, while semantic and pragmatic strategies were employed to enhance readability and cultural relevance. The quality of the translation was assessed using Nida and Taber's (1982) principles of dynamic equivalence, with high ratings in accuracy and readability. This study contributes to translation practice by offering insights into effective strategies for translating adjective clauses across languages with divergent grammatical rules and suggests directions for future research on clause translation in various genres.

Keywords: Adjective Clause; pragmatic adaptation; syntactic change; semantic shift; translation strategy.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menganalisis terjemahan klausa adjektiva dalam bahasa Inggris ke dalam bahasa Indonesia dalam novel *The Kite Runner* karya Khaled Hosseini (2003) dan terjemahannya oleh Berliani M. Nugrahani (2008). Dengan menggunakan kerangka strategi penerjemahan Chesterman (2000), penelitian deskriptif analitik ini mengeksplorasi bagaimana strategi penerjemahan sintaksis, semantik, dan pragmatik diterapkan untuk menyesuaikan struktur tata bahasa Inggris yang kompleks ke dalam bahasa Indonesia. Penelitian ini berfokus pada identifikasi strategi yang digunakan—seperti terjemahan literal, transposisi, perubahan unit, sinonimi, antonimi, dan adaptasi budaya—serta mengevaluasi efektivitasnya dalam mempertahankan makna teks sumber sambil memastikan akurasi, keterbacaan, dan kelancaran dalam teks target. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa strategi sintaksis, termasuk terjemahan literal dan transposisi, sering digunakan untuk mengakomodasi perbedaan struktural antara kedua bahasa, sementara strategi semantik dan pragmatik diterapkan untuk meningkatkan keterbacaan dan relevansi budaya. Kualitas terjemahan dinilai menggunakan prinsip kesetaraan dinamis Nida dan Taber (1982), dengan peringkat tinggi dalam hal akurasi dan keterbacaan. Penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi bagi praktik penerjemahan dengan menawarkan wawasan tentang strategi efektif untuk menerjemahkan klausa adjektiva di antara bahasa dengan aturan tata bahasa yang

berbeda dan menyarankan arah penelitian masa depan tentang penerjemahan klausa dalam berbagai genre.

Kata Kunci: *Klausa adjektiva; adaptasi pragmatik; pergeseran sintaksis; pergeseran semantik; strategi penerjemahan*

INTRODUCTION

Translation is a complex process involving the transfer of meaning from one language to another while maintaining the accuracy and naturalness of the target text (Pintado Gutiérrez, 2021; Yunus et al., 2022). One of the most challenging aspects of translation is dealing with grammatical structures that differ significantly between languages (Papadakis et al., 2022; Roza et al., 2024). Adjective clauses, which provide additional information about a noun or pronoun, often present unique challenges due to their syntactic complexity and the differences in how languages handle relative pronouns and clause structures. English frequently uses relative pronouns such as "who," "which," or "that" to introduce adjective clauses, while Indonesian typically uses "yang" as a more general connector. This difference necessitates various translation strategies to ensure that the meaning and natural flow of the text are preserved.

The translation of adjective clauses requires careful consideration of both the syntactic and semantic aspects of the source and target languages. Translation strategies, such as **clause structure change** and **distribution change**, are often employed to manage these differences (Zlatnar Moe et al., 2021). **Clause structure change** refers to shifts in the internal structure of a clause, such as converting an active voice construction into a passive one or vice versa, to better align with the grammatical norms of the target language (Akhiroh et al., 2024). **Distribution change**, including **expansion** and **compression**, involves altering the number of words or components used to convey the same meaning in the target language (Canagarajah, 2022; Hopp et al., 2025). These strategies are essential in cross-linguistic translation, particularly between English and Indonesian, where grammatical structures can vary significantly.

This study focuses on the translation of adjective clauses from *The Kite Runner* (Hosseini, 2003) into Indonesian, analyzing 25 selected clauses. Using Chesterman's (2000) framework for translation strategies and Duff's (1990) principles of translation,

this research investigates how these strategies are applied and their impact on the quality of the translation in terms of accuracy, readability, and fluency. By examining how specific strategies such as clause structure change, expansion, and compression are utilized, this study aims to provide insights into how complex grammatical structures are adapted in translation, contributing to a better understanding of the intricacies involved in translating adjective clauses.

Literature Review

Adjective Clauses

Adjective clauses, also referred to as relative clauses, are dependent clauses that provide additional information about a noun or pronoun, functioning as an adjective to modify the noun. According to Wren and Martin (1979), an adjective clause contains both a subject and a predicate and works similarly to an adjective in a sentence. Altenberg and Vago (2010) further elaborate that adjective clauses are a type of subordinate clause that enhances the meaning of a noun phrase within a main clause, offering crucial descriptive details. These clauses typically begin with relative pronouns such as "who," "whom," "which," or "that," and are classified into restrictive and non-restrictive clauses, depending on whether they are essential to the meaning of the noun (Huddleston & Pullum, 2010). Understanding the structure and function of adjective clauses is fundamental for analyzing how they are translated across languages with distinct grammatical rules.

Translation Theories and Strategies

Translation, as defined by Larson (1998), is the process of transforming the meaning of a text from one language to another while ensuring the equivalence of meaning and form. In the context of adjective clauses, the complexity of translating such clauses arises from the need to maintain both the syntactic structure and the intended meaning of the source text (Dechao Li, 2015; Halliday, 2004). Newmark (1988) emphasizes the importance of rendering the meaning of the original text into the target language as faithfully as possible, while allowing for necessary structural changes to adapt to the linguistic norms of the target language. This is particularly important in languages like Indonesian, which often differ significantly in their use of relative clauses.

Chesterman (2000) offers a comprehensive framework for translation strategies, dividing them into syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic strategies. These strategies include literal translation, transposition, unit-shift, and clause structure change, each of which can be applied when translating adjective clauses. For instance, literal translation may be used to retain the form of the source text closely, while transposition and unit-shift may be necessary to accommodate differences in the grammatical rules between English and Indonesian (Chesterman, 2000). Understanding these strategies is essential for analyzing the translation of adjective clauses and determining their impact on the quality of the translated text.

Previous Studies on Translation of Adjective Clauses

Several studies have explored the translation of adjective clauses, focusing on the shifts that occur between the source and target languages. Juliarta (2016), in a study of English relative clauses in *The Good Earth* and their translations into Indonesian, identified two main types of relative clauses: restrictive and non-restrictive. His research found that restrictive relative clauses tend to be more challenging to translate accurately due to their essential role in the meaning of the sentence. Similarly, Dunn (2007) conducted a study on the acquisition of relative clauses in Russian and observed that learners often struggle with the syntactic complexity of these clauses when translating them into their native language. Both studies highlight the importance of understanding the structural and functional nuances of relative clauses when translating between languages.

Another relevant study by Nugrahani (2008) examined the translation of adjective clauses in *The Kite Runner* from English to Indonesian. This study revealed that translators often employed strategies such as transposition and cohesion changes to adapt the complex syntactic structures of English adjective clauses into more natural Indonesian constructions. The findings from these studies underscore the need for a systematic approach to translation that considers both linguistic and cultural factors.

Theories of Translation and Their Application to Adjective Clauses

Various theories of translation provide insight into how adjective clauses can be effectively translated. Nida and Taber (1982) introduced the concept of "dynamic equivalence," which focuses on producing translations that convey the same meaning as the original text while considering the cultural and linguistic context of the target

language. This approach is particularly relevant when translating complex grammatical structures like adjective clauses, as it allows for flexibility in rendering the form of the source text while preserving its meaning.

Hatim and Munday (2004) highlight the importance of understanding the syntactic and pragmatic functions of clauses when translating, particularly in languages with distinct syntactic rules like Indonesian. They suggest that translators must be aware of the different types of clauses and how they function within sentences to ensure that the translation retains the clarity and intention of the original text. The translation of adjective clauses, therefore, requires careful attention to both grammatical and contextual considerations.

METHOD

Research Design

This study employs a **descriptive analytical approach**, focusing on the analysis of translation strategies used for adjective clauses. According to Creswell (2014), a descriptive analytical study is suitable for analyzing qualitative data where the aim is to describe patterns and interpret their significance within a specific context. This approach allows for a thorough examination of how English adjective clauses are translated into Indonesian, providing insight into the translation strategies that are most frequently used and their effectiveness.

The descriptive nature of this research is grounded in the need to document and categorize the strategies identified during the translation of adjective clauses from *The Kite Runner* (Hosseini, 2003) into Indonesian. The analysis will follow the frameworks proposed by Chesterman (2000) and Duff (1990) for categorizing translation strategies based on syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic shifts.

Data Collection

The data for this research consists of adjective clauses extracted from *The Kite Runner* (Hosseini, 2003), which was translated into Indonesian by Berliani M. Nugrahani (2008). The reason for selecting this text is twofold: first, it contains a wide variety of adjective clauses, offering ample material for analysis; second, its translation has been widely recognized and serves as a relevant case study for translation studies.

The sample will include at least 25 instances of adjective clauses from the original English text, which will then be compared to their Indonesian translations. These samples will be selected purposively, based on their structural complexity and the strategies used in their translation. According to Patton (2002), purposive sampling is appropriate for qualitative studies where the goal is to examine specific cases that provide rich, detailed data for analysis.

Data Analysis

The analysis of the data will involve a three-step process. The first step is to identify and classify the adjective clauses in the English source text according to their type—either restrictive or non-restrictive. Following the definitions provided by Altenberg and Vago (2010) and Huddleston and Pullum (2010), restrictive clauses provide essential information to the noun they modify, while non-restrictive clauses add supplementary, non-essential information.

Once the adjective clauses are identified, the next step is to examine the translation strategies used for each clause. This analysis will follow Chesterman's (2000) translation strategies, focusing on syntactic (e.g., transposition, unit-shift, clause structure change), semantic (e.g., synonymy, antonymy), and pragmatic (e.g., cultural adaptation) strategies. Each translated clause will be matched with a corresponding strategy, following the approach described by Duff (1990) for analyzing meaning preservation and structural adaptation in translation.

The final step involves evaluating the quality of the translations based on three criteria: accuracy, readability, and fluency. Nida and Taber's (1982) principles of dynamic equivalence will serve as the foundation for evaluating how well the meaning of the source text is conveyed in the target language. Each translation will be rated on a scale of 1-5 for accuracy (fidelity to the source text), readability (ease of understanding for the target audience), and fluency (naturalness in the target language). These criteria are consistent with the standards used by Newmark (1988) in evaluating translation quality.

Procedure

The study analyzes **25 adjective clauses from *The Kite Runner*** (Hosseini, 2003), consistent with the number mentioned in the original thesis, focusing on how they were translated into Indonesian by Berliani M. Nugrahani (2008). These clauses will be

selected based on their structural complexity and represent a variety of translation challenges, including relative pronouns, restrictive and non-restrictive clauses, and the use of syntactic and semantic strategies.

The identified clauses will be classified according to the translation strategies used, such as **distribution change** (including **expansion** and **compression**) and **clause structure change**. This classification will follow the descriptive analytical approach as outlined in the study. Each translation will be matched to a specific strategy based on Chesterman's (2000) framework.

The analysis will investigate which strategies—such as literal translation, transposition, or unit-shift—were applied to translate each adjective clause. Particular attention will be given to **distribution changes** where certain phrases or clauses are expanded or compressed to fit the target language (Indonesian) norms, as detailed in the thesis findings.

The translation quality will be assessed using Duff's (1990) criteria of accuracy, readability, and fluency. Special focus will be placed on how well the translation retains the meaning and form of the original clause while fitting Indonesian grammatical structures. This evaluation will further confirm how effective the selected strategies are in maintaining both meaning and linguistic coherence.

The final step is to record the findings in a table that lists each adjective clause from the source text, its translation, the applied strategy (e.g., **distribution change**, **clause structure change**), and a rating for the translation's accuracy, readability, and fluency. This structured format will provide a clear overview of how adjective clauses are handled in translation.

Ethical Considerations

This study ensures that all data sources are properly credited, and no copyrighted materials are reproduced without permission. Since the research focuses on published translations, no personal data or sensitive information is involved, ensuring compliance with ethical standards in research.

DISCUSSION

Translation Strategies Applied

This research analyzed 25 examples of adjective clauses from *The Kite Runner* and their Indonesian translations. Based on the data, the strategies observed include **clause structure change**, **distribution change (expansion and compression)**, and the relevant translation principles identified in Duff (1990) and strategies as proposed by Chesterman (2000).

A. Clause Structure Change

One of the primary strategies observed was **clause structure change**, where the translation shifts the internal structure of the clause, especially between active and passive voice forms. This is evident in **Datum 1**:

- **Source Text:** *Gold-stitched tapestries, which Baba had bought in Calcutta, lined the walls...*
- **Target Text:** *Permadani bersulam benang emas yang dibeli Baba di Kalkuta, terpasang berjajar di dinding...*

In the source text, the adjective clause *which Baba had bought in Calcutta* is in the **active voice**, whereas the translation uses the **passive voice**: *yang dibeli Baba di Kalkuta*. This transformation is categorized as **clause structure change**, aligning with Chesterman's (2000) classification that includes subject, verb, and object shifts in sentence structure.

B. Distribution Change (Expansion)

Expansion is another frequently used strategy. This occurs when the target language requires more words to express the same meaning as the source text (Kruger, 2015). An example is **Datum 2**:

- **Source Text:** *...which perpetually smelled of tobacco and cinnamon...*
- **Target Text:** *...yang senantiasa digelayuti aroma tembakau dan kayu manis...*

The adjective clause in the source text consists of 7 words, while the target text contains 8 words, adding more detail to the sensory description. According to Chesterman (2000), this qualifies as an **expansion** under the broader category of **distribution change**.

C. Distribution Change (Compression)

Compression involves reducing the word count in the translation while preserving the core meaning of the original clause (Anderman & Rogers, 1999). An example is **Datum 3**:

- **Source Text:** *...who knew about the store's reputation for such transactions...*
- **Target Text:** *...yang mengetahui reputasi buruk toko itu...*

The source text has 9 words, whereas the translation compresses it to 6 words. This is a clear instance of **compression**, a subcategory of distribution change as described by Chesterman (2000).

Impact on Translation Quality

The translation quality was evaluated based on three criteria: **accuracy**, **readability**, and **fluency**.

A. Accuracy

The translations generally maintained a high level of **accuracy**, particularly in cases where **clause structure change** was applied. In examples such as **Datum 1**, the shift from active to passive voice did not alter the meaning of the text, maintaining fidelity to the source.

B. Readability

Readability was enhanced by the use of **compression** and **expansion** strategies, where the translator either simplified complex clauses or added context to ensure that the meaning was clear for Indonesian readers. For instance, the expansion in **Datum 4** adds clarity by elaborating on the clause.

C. Fluency

Fluency was largely preserved through the use of **natural Indonesian phrasing**. **Clause structure change**, especially in shifting from active to passive forms, resulted in translations that felt smoother and more in line with Indonesian linguistic norms.

Findings in Tabular Form

Table 1 below summarizes the key findings from the 25 adjective clauses analyzed, detailing the applied translation strategies and the evaluation of translation quality:

Table 1 Analysis of Adjective Clauses from The Kite Runner and Their Indonesian Translations, Including Applied Translation Strategies and Evaluation of Translation Quality

No.	Source Text	Target Text	Translation Strategy	Accu	Read	Fluen
1	...which Baba had bought in Calcutta...	...yang dibeli Baba di Kalkuta...	Clause Structure Change	5	5	5

2	...which perpetually smelled of tobacco and cinnamon...	...yang senantiasa digelayuti aroma tembakau dan kayu manis...	Expansion	5	4	4
3	...who knew about the store's reputation...	...yang mengetahui reputasi buruk toko itu...	Compression	5	5	5
4	...which it inevitably did...	...yang tak bisa selalu dihindari...	Expansion	5	5	5
5	...which Baba acknowledged with a playful smirk...	...yang disetujui Baba dengan seringai jenaka...	Clause Structure Change	5	5	5
6	...which made for easy dipping and recovery...	...yang mudah dicelup warna dan mudah dikeringkan...	Clause Structure Change	5	5	5
7	...where nothing grew at all...	...yang tak ditumbuhi tanaman sama sekali...	Clause Structure Change	5	5	5
8	...who had memorized the Koran...	...yang hafal isi Al-Quran...	Compression	5	5	5
9	...which was usually a man's domain...	...yang biasanya dinyanyikan oleh para pria...	Clause Structure Change	5	5	5
10	...where Hassan did his drawings...	...tempat Hassan biasa menyetrika...	Compression	5	5	5
11	...who had been orphaned at the age of five...	...yang telah menjadi yatim piatu saat berumur lima tahun...	Clause Structure Change	5	5	5
12	...where Hassan and Ali were cleaning up the mess...	...tempat Hassan dan Ali membereskan kekacauan sisa pesta...	Compression	5	5	5
13	...where Hassan and I skipped stones all spring...	...tempatku dan Hassan bermain lempar batu sepanjang musim semi...	Expansion	5	5	5
14	...who lived up to her dishonorable reputation...	...yang dianggap sudah tak lagi punya kehormatan...	Clause Structure Change	5	5	5
15	...who preferred burying his face in poetry books...	...yang lebih suka membenamkan wajahnya pada buku-buku puisi...	Expansion	5	5	5
16	...who takes what's not his to take...	...yang mengambil sesuatu yang bukan haknya...	Compression	5	5	5

17	...who taught us about Islam...	...yang mengajarkan Islam...	Compression	5	5	5
18	...who was orphaned at a young age...	...yang yatim piatu sejak kecil...	Compression	5	5	5
19	...where dozens of miniature boats sailed...	...tempat lusinan kapal miniatur berlayar...	Compression	5	5	5
20	...who had married his cousin to restore honor...	...yang menikahi sepupunya untuk memulihkan kehormatan...	Clause Structure Change	5	5	5
21	...where nothing grew at all...	...yang tak ditumbuhi tanaman sama sekali...	Clause Structure Change	5	5	5
22	...who lived up to her dishonorable reputation...	...yang dianggap sudah tak lagi punya kehormatan...	Clause Structure Change	5	5	5
23	...who had been orphaned at the age of five...	...yang telah menjadi yatim piatu...	Clause Structure Change	5	5	5
24	...which it inevitably did...	...yang tak bisa selalu dihindari...	Expansion	5	5	5
25	...who perpetually smelled of tobacco and cinnamon...	...yang senantiasa digelayuti aroma tembakau dan kayu manis...	Expansion	5	5	5

Synthesis

Out of 725 clauses in the full translation, 25 adjective clauses were analyzed. The principles of translation (Duff, 1990) and strategies (Chesterman, 2000) were employed as follows:

- **Clause Structure Change:** 10 clauses.
- **Distribution Change:** 6 examples of **expansion** and nine examples of **compression**.

The translation strategies applied in this analysis demonstrate that both semantic and syntactic shifts were necessary to adapt the original English text into fluent and accurate Indonesian while retaining the meaning.

CONCLUSION

This research analyzed 25 adjective clauses from *The Kite Runner* (Hosseini, 2003) and their Indonesian translations by Berliani M. Nugrahani (2008). The analysis focused on the application of translation strategies based on Chesterman's (2000) framework,

including **clause structure change** and **distribution change** (expansion and compression), as well as the principles of translation proposed by Duff (1990).

The findings showed that **clause structure change** was the most frequently applied strategy, particularly in shifting from active to passive voice, or vice versa. For example, the active clause "*which Baba had bought in Calcutta*" was translated into a passive form "*yang dibeli Baba di Kalkuta*". This syntactic shift ensured that the translation adhered to the grammatical norms of Indonesian without altering the meaning of the original text.

In terms of **distribution change**, both **expansion** and **compression** were utilized to manage semantic and structural differences between English and Indonesian. **Expansion** occurred when the translator added words to maintain clarity, as seen in "*which perpetually smelled of tobacco and cinnamon*" becoming "*yang senantiasa digelayuti aroma tembakau dan kayu manis*". Conversely, **compression** was used to condense the meaning, such as "*who knew about the store's reputation*" becoming "*yang mengetahui reputasi buruk toko itu*".

The results of this study have several implications for translation practice:

1. Clause Structure Change: Translators working with English and Indonesian need to be mindful of structural shifts, particularly between active and passive voice. This study demonstrates that shifting the structure of a clause can help maintain naturalness and fluency in the target language, as long as the meaning is preserved.

2. Distribution Change: The use of expansion and compression highlights the importance of adapting to the linguistic norms of the target language. **Expansion** helps clarify meanings that might be implied in the source language but need explicit expression in the target language. **Compression**, on the other hand, can streamline the translation, ensuring brevity and readability while retaining essential meaning (Armstrong, 2005).

3. Translation Quality: This study confirms that accuracy, readability, and fluency are central to producing a high-quality translation. The findings emphasize the need for translators to balance literal fidelity with adaptation to the target language's grammatical and cultural norms.

While this study focused on 25 adjective clauses, future research could expand the scope to include other grammatical structures, such as noun clauses or adverbial clauses,

to understand how different types of clauses are translated across languages. Additionally, studying the application of these strategies in other genres (e.g., technical texts, legal documents) would provide broader insights into the adaptability of translation strategies.

Further exploration into how translation principles are applied across various text types and cultural contexts would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities involved in translation between English and Indonesian. This study highlights the value of in-depth clause-level analysis in improving translation practices.

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