

# Translation errors of noodles product cooking instructions from Indonesian into English

**Agus Dwiyanto**

Language and Education Department  
State University of Semarang, Indonesia

**Diah Ayu Setianingrum**

Language and Education Department  
State University of Semarang, Indonesia

email: [setianingrum.diahayu@gmail.com](mailto:setianingrum.diahayu@gmail.com), [zagusonizuka@yahoo.co.id](mailto:zagusonizuka@yahoo.co.id)

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**Abstract:** This paper discussed the translation errors in various top brands of instant noodles in Indonesia, ranging from the products produced by the local industries to the one imported from overseas. In this research, the researchers used a descriptive qualitative research method. The sources of the data for the objects of the research were ten cooking instructions or procedures of various brands of instant noodles in Indonesia, translated from Indonesian into English. The data were collected by documentation techniques. The types of data were words, phrases and sentences. The data were classified and tabulated based on the error types, following the standard of ATA's Framework for Standard Error Making Classification. The result of the analysis showed that there were 40 translation errors, found in 10 of 23 error categories with Omission as the most frequent error produced. The three most prominent error categories found in the instant noodles' cooking instructions are Omission, Mistranslation, Syntax and Cohesion. Omission turns to be the highest category of translation errors which appeared 13 times out of 40 errors or 32.5 % of errors found in the analysis, followed by Mistranslation with 15% and Syntax and Cohesion that shares the same percentage of findings by reaching 12.5%. The researchers also found that out of 10 instant noodle brands, instant noodle brand D has the most translation errors with 9 error out of 40 errors in total, followed by brand J with 8 errors. The implication of the study is that the findings are hoped to be useful for the industry in terms of usage of English in labeling and branding the products, to avoid miscommunication and misinterpretation.

**Keywords:** Translation Errors, Cooking Instruction, ATA Standards of Errors

## **INTRODUCTION**

'*To err is human*' is a well-known proverb that refers to occasional errors made in our everyday life. But without being corrected, the error will remain an error. We make errors so that we may learn from the mistakes we have made. When realizing that we have made errors, we have to try our best not to repeat the same error in the future. It goes for every aspect of life, from the simplest one for instance making error in placing an item at the place where it should be, to the critical ones such as producing errors in translating or interpreting what people are saying. Nothing is perfect in the world which makes sense if making errors are sometimes acceptable. However, we have to keep minimizing the errors we make or else, it will end up becoming a more serious problem. In the context of error in the field of translation, it can be found that translators sometimes make errors (Hartono, 2018).

Translation Errors is a topic which has been analyzed by numerous researchers for various reasons. One of the studies involving translation errors is the research conducted by Salam (2017). He analyzed the translation errors in the crowd sourcing translation app and he found that the deviation of meanings errors as the most common errors made.

Another research by Mu'minah (2017) analyzed the translation quality of recount text produced by SMA Muhammadiyah Purworejo in the academic year 2016/2017 by following the format of Ellis' translation Error. The end result shows that omission as the most frequent error made with the percentage of 59%.

Another research is conducted by Utami (2017) whose research analyzed the source of errors in Indonesia-English Translation in the written text produced by the fourth semester of English Department students at UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau Pekanbaru. It resulted in the statement that the errors were due to students' incompetence in the target language. Another research conducted by Ardeshiri (2014) was also about the cause of errors, focusing on Translating Pragmatic Senses. The main cause of errors stated by the researcher was the misunderstanding of the pragmatic senses of the students. The researcher then hoped that his study would provide a new perspective for the objective assessment of some translation devices and instruction for the teachers in the Iranian university.

Koman (2019) argued that translation is needed since it is a crucial task in the process of exchanging information. She also underlined that translation is not an easy task because it requires a very good mastery of the source language and the target language as well. Hence, it is agreed that without good mastery of the languages we are about to translate, we will not be able to produce a good quality of translation. Yuliasri (2016, as cited in Koman 2019) also highlighted that a translator must have good mastery of the two languages involved. In relation to errors, this research focused on the errors that happen in our daily life. For example, cooking instructions, advertisements we see on the road, signs that are available everywhere like at the airport, terminal, railway station and other public places, may contain errors. This research will analyze the errors found in the cooking instruction of instant noodle brands that are sold in marts available in Indonesia, ranging from those produced for local consumptions to the imported brands. In this research, the data of 10 instant noodles cooking procedures were collected by purchasing, taking pictures and notes of the instant noodles.

## **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

The first term that we need to define is the word "error". In general, when people come across the word error, usually people will think of something which is wrong, or a wrongdoing or something that is out of calculation that make things stray out of the track. Lennon (1991) as cited by Cuc (2018) considered error as a linguistic form or combination of

forms which, in the same context and under similar conditions of production, would, in all likelihood, not be produced by the speakers' native speaker counterparts. Error, depends on the usage and can be divided into several types. Kezhavars (1999) as cited in Ghasemi (2016) stated that linguistically, errors can be divided into four major groups which are (a) orthographic errors, (b) phonological errors, (c) lexicosemantic errors and (d) morphological-syntactic errors. But the theory proposed by Kezhavars (1999) is mainly used in analyzing translation errors in machine or translation apps and the products out of it.

Kingwell (2019) pointed out that each year, it is estimated that 13 billion packets of instant noodles are sold in Indonesia that makes the country as the world's second largest instant noodle market in the world, following Hong Kong and China as the leading countries. Kingwell (2019) also mentioned that two national companies, Indofood and Wings Corp, dominated instant noodles sales with a combined market share of over 80% and Indofood was by far the dominant supplier with its *Indomie* brand. The statements aforementioned became the main foundation of our reason in choosing such products for our research.

Dewi (2016), stated that the beginning of instant noodles production in Indonesia was triggered by the US global power domination. During the period, there was abundance of wheat that used to be lowly consumed. Kingwell (2019) also mentioned that Indonesia's noodle market is dominated by instant noodle which is called 'instant' due to the time for cooking is generally less than three minutes. Kingwell (2019) related that by 2018 55% of wheat flour in Indonesia was allocated to the production of instant, dry and fresh noodles. It is also stated that most Indonesian consumed instant noodles once to six times a week in average.

The focus of this research is on the instant noodles' cooking instructions and the product labels which demand for the presence of a translation process for the sake of effective advertising process (Abdulrahman, 2015). Besides that, careful translation is needed as the products are exported abroad. As explained by Mat (2014), reading and obtaining information about certain products in mother tongue is far more closer to individual and a careful translation exercise is truly perusal, as meanings vary greatly across norms, attitudes, beliefs and cultures.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Descriptive qualitative method was used in the research because this research aim to describe the errors found in the cooking instruction of various brands of instant noodles. The data were collected through documentation techniques. The types of data were words, phrases and sentences. The data were classified and tabulated based on the error types, following the standard of ATA's Framework for Standard Error Making Classification. In analyzing and tabulating the data, the researchers used the following coding:

Table 1: Data coding system used in translation error Tabulation Analysis (ATA, 2016)

Name of Errors	Codes
Addition	A
Ambiguity	AMB
Capitalization	C
Cohesion	COH
Diacritical Marks/Accents	D
Faithfulness	F
<i>Faux Ami</i>	FA
Grammar	G

Illegibility	ILL
Indecision	IND
Literalness	L
Mistranslation	MT
Misunderstanding	MU
Omission	O
Punctuation	P
Register	R
Spelling	SP
Style	ST
Syntax	SYN
Terminology	T
Unfinished	UNF
Usage	U
Word form/Part of Speech	WF/PS

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing the errors, we found some findings related to the translation from Indonesia to English in the cooking instructions of the various noodle brands. The findings of the translation errors will be provided in the next table whilst the description of each finding of translation errors will be provided right below the table.

Table 2: Log of errors for noodles products cooking instructions

No.	Error Codes	Instant Noodles Brands										Total	
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J		
1.	A							1	3				4
2.	AMB												
3.	C												
4.	COH	2			2						1		5
5.	D												
6.	F												
7.	FA												
8.	G				1								1
9.	ILL												
10.	IND	1											1
11.	L									2			2
12.	MT				2		1		1		2		6
13.	MU												
14.	O			4	4	3	1				1		13
15.	P										2		2
16.	R												
17.	SP												
18.	ST												
19.	SYN		1					1	1		2		5
20.	T												
21.	UNF									1			1
22.	U												
23.	WF												

<b>Total Errors</b>	3	1	4	<b>9</b>	3	2	2	5	3	8	40
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### Addition

An addition error occurs when the translator introduces superfluous information or stylistic effects.

Example:

ST : *Tuangkan kecap*

LT : Pour the soy sauce

TT : Pour the soy sauce *into the bowl*

The phrase *Tuangkan kecap* on the source text was translated into “Pour the soy sauce *into the bowl*”. The translator of brand H wrote additional information which was not written on the source text in the sentence. The additional information came from the translator himself/herself. Therefore, the meaning of the target text is different from the source text. In conclusion, the phrase “into the bowl” is classified as an additional error of translation.

### Cohesion

A cohesion error occurs when a text is hard to follow because of inconsistent use of terminology, misuse of pronouns, inappropriate conjunctions, or other structural errors.

Example:

ST : ...*masukkan saus aduk selama 30 detik..*

LT : ...mix with sauces and stir for 30 seconds.

TT : ...mix with liquid paste stir for 30 seconds .

The word (liquid paste) does not refer to any other words in the sentence. This makes the readers confused with the meaning of “liquid paste” phrase. Perhaps the phrase “liquid paste” is aimed to replace the word *sauce* (in translation). It could mean any mixture or sauces available for the noodles, but it is not cohesive enough to make the reader understand what the phrase truly implies. Therefore, the translated text does not properly deliver the meaning of the source text. The phrase *liquid paste* (in translation) should be translated into “sauce” instead of “liquid paste”. The explanation above shows that cohesion error in translation occurred in the sample.

### Grammar

A grammar error occurs when a sentence in the translation violates the grammatical rules of the target language.

Example:

ST: ...*in 400cc (2 gelas) air mendidih*

LT : ...in 400cc of boiling water

TT: ...in boiling water 400cc

In the source text, it was clearly stated that 400cc of boiling water is required, but the TT of noodle brand D's translator translated it into "in boiling water 400cc". This phrase contains grammatical errors as numerical codes or the amount or quantity should be placed before the noun. Based on the above explanation, it is summarized that there is a grammatical error on the sample above.

### **Indecision**

An indecision error occurs when the translator gives more than one option for a given translation unit.

Example:

ST : *Tuangkan Bumbu Bubuk.. Tuangkan Mie Beserta..*

LT : Pour seasoning powder.. Pour Noodles with..

TT : Place seasoning powder.. Pour Noodles with..

The translator of the noodle brand A may lead the readers to confusion due to his/her indecision in translating the word *Tuangkan*. The translation for the word *Tuangkan* is not consistent in the cooking instruction of noodle brand A, whereby the word place and pour are used to refer to similar action. In conclusion, giving more than one option which has different meaning in translating a word is referred to as an indecision error of translation.

### **Literalness**

Literalness is usually known as linear translation. It fused between word-for-word translation and free translation. Translator attempted to find the same grammatical construction of the source language in the target language, and then the translator reproduced the words structure to suit the target language. So, this method was more flexible than word-for-word translation.

Example:

ST : Rebus mi dan sayuran *kering* ke dalam 400ml...

LT : Cooks noodles and *dehydrated* vegetables in 400ml...

The translator of brand I noodle literally translated *kering* into dehydrated, which has the right meaning but is irrelevant in the context of cooking instruction. It should be translated to dry. Due to the irrelevant context, then it is considered as the translation error of literalness.

### **Mistranslation**

A mistranslation error occurs when the meaning of a segment of the original text is not conveyed properly in the target language.

Example:

ST : ...*mi goreng lezat siap disajikan*.

LT : ...delicious fried noodles is ready to be served.

TT : ...enjoy your delicious fried noodles.

The translator of the cooking instruction for brand F did not match the translation with the source text. The source text stated "...*mi goreng lezat siap disajikan*" which should be translated as "... delicious fried noodles is ready to be served", instead, the translator

translated the original or source text into "...enjoy your delicious fried noodles" which do not match the source text. Due to the inappropriate translation, the error in the sample above is categorized into mistranslation error.

### **Omission**

An omission error occurs when an element of information in the source text is left out of the target text.

Example:

ST : *Campurkan Mi dengan bumbu di piring*

LT : mix the noodles with the seasoning in a plate.

TT : mix with the seasonings.

It can be seen clearly that the translator omitted some words from the ST which are a *Mi* and *Piring*. Without those words, the readers will end up in confusion, wondering what should be mixed whether it is the noodle or the soup or the sauce and et cetera. In sum, the example belongs to omission error in translation since the omission of some words caused incomplete delivery of the source text message.

### **Punctuation**

A punctuation error occurs when the conventions of the target language regarding punctuation are not followed.

Example:

ST : *masukkan mi dan sayuran kering, kemudian didihkan kembali..*

LT : put noodle and dried vegetable, mix and boil more..

TT : put noodle and dried vegetable mix and boil more..

The inexistence of comma between vegetable and mix will be interpreted into two different meanings. It is either vegetable mix or dried vegetable mix. It should have been "put noodle and dried vegetable, mix and boil.." to separate two words and mainly, to convey the real purpose of the cooking instruction to the readers. From the explanation above, that sample can be categorized as punctuation error since there is an omission of a comma between those words.

### **Syntax**

A syntax error occurs when the arrangement of words or other elements of a sentence does not conform to the syntactic rules of the target language.

Example:

ST : *Rentangan anak usia dini menurut pasal 28 UU Sisdiknas No.20/2003 ayat 1 adalah 0-6 tahun.*

LT : The range of early childhood according to the Law of National Education System Article 28 Number 20/2003 Clause 1 is 0-6 years old.

TT : The age length for children in PAUD according to Law Sisdiknas (system education national) No. 20/2003 article 28 clause no. 1 is 0-6 years old.

The sample above indicates the error on the underlined phrase "system education national". The reason is that the word order of the phrase is incorrect. In the noun phrase, the main word should be on the last part of the phrase. However, in the sample above, the main word is placed in the initial phrase. The phrase "system education national" should be written as

“national education system”. In conclusion, the phrase on the target text above contains a syntax error.

### **Unfinished**

A substantially unfinished passage is not graded.

Example:

ST : ...*sayuran kering ke dalam 400ml air mendidih selama 3 menit.*

LT : ...vegetables to 400ml of boiling water for 3 minutes.

TT : ...vegetables to 400ml for 3 minutes.

As it is seen on the target text, the translator did not finish in translating the phrase *air mendidih* (Air Mendidih). He / She left the phrase out after the word “400ml”. The gap should be filled with the phrase “boiling water” instead but the translator left them out. Because of the incomplete writing of the translation, the above sample consists of an unfinished error.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

In conclusion, there are 10 translation errors out of 26 error categories found in the instant noodles’ cooking instructions based on the ATA’s Standard of Translation Error. The errors consisted of addition, cohesion, grammar, indecision, literalness, mistranslation, omission, punctuation, syntax and the last one is unfinished. The three most prominent error categories found in the instant noodles’ cooking instructions are Omission, Mistranslation, Syntax and Cohesion. Omission turns to be the highest category of translation errors which appeared 13 times out of 40 errors or 32.5 % of errors found in the analysis, followed by Mistranslation with 15% and Syntax and Cohesion which share similar percentage that is 12.5%. The researchers also found that out of 10 instant noodle brands, instant noodle brand D has the most translation errors with 9 errors, followed by brand J with 8 errors.

From the result of the study, the translators and students of English Education Program, should take note of the translation errors they made. It is crucial and critical in knowing where one made mistakes so that one could minimize the mistakes in translation as little as possible. Evidence from the research showed that confusing translation may lead to misinterpretation of the content among the readers, in this context, customers. For future research, the results of this study are expected to be used as a reference for developing similar research, especially on the English Education students’ translation errors. This research was only conducted by focusing on 10 instant noodle brands in Indonesia. Future research can look at more than 10 brands and focus on different categories of errors and the factors that caused the errors.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

The implication of this research is the feedback in a form of critics and suggestions to the noodle industries to improve their translation errors. It will also reduce the customers’ miscommunication and misinterpretation in reading the translation of the products’ cooking procedures. The positive feedback will make the industries become more credible and caring



to the customers not only in terms of the product's quality but also satisfactory level among customers will increase.

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