



**Buku Ajar**  
**Theoretical**  
**Foun dation**  
*of*  
**Translating**



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## PREFACE

This book is designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to the fundamental concepts and principles of translation. It aims to serve as a valuable resource for students, educators, and professionals keen to explore the intricate process of translating texts from one language to another. The content is structured to guide readers through essential topics, starting from the basic definition of translation, the importance of meaning, and the core principles that govern the practice.

The book also delves into the complexities of translation problems, focusing on lexical and grammatical equivalence. Understanding these issues is crucial for achieving accurate and acceptable translations. Further, the text addresses the procedures and methods of translation, offering practical insights into different types of translation work.

Special attention is given to the stylistic aspects of translation, particularly the use of figurative language, which is a critical element in preserving a text's original tone and intent. The exercises included in this book are designed to reinforce the theoretical knowledge presented, encouraging readers to apply what they have learned to real-world translation challenges.

We hope that this book will not only enhance the reader's understanding of translation but also inspire them to approach translation tasks with greater skill and confidence. Whether you are a student beginning your journey in translation studies or a seasoned professional seeking to refine your craft, this book offers valuable insights and practical tools to support your development.

Medan, 2025

**Authors**

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# UNIT 1

## A. INTRODUCTION TO TRANSLATION

### 1. General Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Understand and define the key concepts and principles of translation.
- 2) Identify and analyze the role of meaning in the translation process.
- 3) Apply the fundamental principles of translation to produce accurate and acceptable translations.
- 4) Recognize and address common linguistic challenges in translation, focusing on lexical and grammatical equivalence.
- 5) Demonstrate proficiency in various translation procedures and methods.
- 6) Differentiate between different types of translation and their appropriate contexts.
- 7) Analyze and apply stylistic elements, particularly figurative language, in translation to maintain the original text's tone and intent.
- 8) Develop practical translation skills through targeted exercises, enhancing their ability to handle real-world translation tasks effectively.

### 2. Specific Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Define translation and explain its significance in cross-cultural communication.
- 2) Analyze the concept of meaning in translation and how it influences the accuracy and effectiveness of translated texts.
- 3) Identify and apply the core principles of translation to achieve clarity, coherence, and cultural appropriateness in translations.
- 4) Differentiate between lexical and grammatical equivalence, and effectively address these challenges in translation practice.

# UNIT 2

## **A. LINGUISTIC PROBLEMS IN TRANSLATION: LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL EQUIVALENCE**

### **1. General Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and explain the challenges of achieving lexical equivalence between English and Indonesian, considering the influence of cultural and contextual differences.
- 2) Analyze and apply appropriate strategies to determine the correct lexical equivalence in translation, focusing on context rather than direct word replacement.
- 3) Recognize and address grammatical differences between English and Indonesian, ensuring accurate grammatical equivalence in translation.
- 4) Translate English sentences into Indonesian while making necessary adjustments for tense markers, gerunds, phrasal verbs, idiomatic expressions, and ellipses.
- 5) Translate compound words and affixed forms between English and Indonesian, accurately reflecting the meaning and structure of the source language.
- 6) Utilize bilingual dictionaries, glossaries, and terminology banks effectively to solve translation problems, especially in the context of lexical and grammatical equivalence.
- 7) Demonstrate an understanding of how syntactical and semantical considerations impact translation accuracy, particularly when dealing with idioms and complex grammatical structures.

### **2. Specific Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Lexical Equivalence:
  - a. Identify and explain the concept of lexical equivalence and the challenges it presents in translation between English and Indonesian.

# UNIT 3

## A. TEXT IN TRANSLATION

### 1. General Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Understand and classify different types of texts based on their unique characteristics and purposes in the translation process.
- 2) Analyze and apply appropriate translation techniques for expressive, informative, and vocative texts, ensuring that the original intent and tone are preserved in the target language.
- 3) Recognize and utilize specialized forms of translation, including general, scientific, technical, and literary translation, to accurately convey content across various disciplines and genres.
- 4) Develop strategies for addressing the challenges presented by different text types, such as maintaining stylistic elements in literary translation or ensuring precision in technical and scientific translations.
- 5) Evaluate and produce translations that are both faithful to the source text and culturally relevant to the target audience, taking into account linguistic and cultural nuances.

### 2. Specific Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Expressive Texts:
  - a. Identify and analyze the key features of expressive texts, such as tone, style, and emotional depth.
  - b. Apply appropriate translation techniques to maintain the author's voice, creativity, and cultural references in the target language.
- 2) Informative Texts:
  - a. Distinguish between various types of informative texts, such as textbooks, technical reports, and scientific papers.

# UNIT 4

## A. PROCEDURES OF TRANSLATION

### 1. General Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and apply various translation procedures, including addition, subtraction, adaptation, and dealing with untranslatable elements.
- 2) Analyze and execute appropriate translation strategies to ensure the structural and lexical equivalency between source and target languages.
- 3) Evaluate and select suitable translation procedures based on different theoretical frameworks by Vinay & Darbelnet, Newmark, Schreiber, and Molina & Albir.
- 4) Adapt cultural and linguistic nuances from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL) to achieve the closest possible intent and impact of the original text.
- 5) Apply translation procedures to a range of practical examples, recognizing when direct or oblique translation methods are most appropriate.

### 2. Specific Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Understand Translation Procedures:
  - a. Define and describe key translation procedures such as borrowing, calque, transposition, modulation, and adaptation.
  - b. Differentiate between direct translation methods (e.g., literal translation) and oblique translation methods (e.g., transposition, modulation).
- 2) Apply Translation Procedures:
  - a. Implement the procedure of borrowing to translate culturally specific terms accurately.

# UNIT 5

## A. TYPES OF TRANSLATION

### 1. General Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) **Understand Translation Categories:**
  - a. Define and describe the three general categories of translation based on extent, level, and rank as proposed by Catford.
- 2) **Identify Types of Translation by Extent:**
  - a. Differentiate between full translation and partial translation based on the extent of the translation process.
- 3) **Recognize Types of Translation by Level:**
  - a. Distinguish between total translation and restricted translation according to the level of translation required.
- 4) **Analyze Types of Translation by Rank:**
  - a. Explain the concepts of rank-bound translation and unbounded translation in terms of the rank or grammatical unit being translated.
- 5) **Apply Knowledge to Translation Practice:**
  - a. Apply the understanding of different types of translation to practical translation tasks, selecting the appropriate type based on the text and translation requirements.
- 6) **Evaluate the Impact of Translation Types:**
  - a. Assess how different types of translation affect the accuracy, completeness, and contextual relevance of the translated text.

### 2. Specific Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) **Understand and Define Translation Types:**
  - a. Define full translation and partial translation based on the extent of translation.
  - b. Explain total translation and restricted translation according to the level of translation.

# UNIT 6

## A. STYLISTIC IN TRANSLATION: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

### 1. General Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) **Understand Figurative Language and Figures of Speech:**
  - a. Define figurative language and explain its role in creating stylistic effects in both literary and non-literary texts.
  - b. Identify and describe various figures of speech, including alliteration, metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, euphemism, antithesis, irony, synecdoche, and onomatopoeia.
- 2) **Analyze the Use of Figurative Language:**
  - a. Analyze how figures of speech contribute to the text style and meaning.
  - b. Recognize and interpret figurative language in different contexts and genres, understanding its impact on the reader's perception.
- 3) **Apply Figurative Language in Translation:**
  - a. Apply appropriate translation strategies to preserve the stylistic effects of figurative language when translating texts.
  - b. Translate texts containing figurative language, ensuring that the stylistic and emotional impact of the original is maintained in the TL.
- 4) **Evaluate the Effectiveness of Translation Choices:**
  - a. Evaluate the effectiveness of different translation methods in conveying the intended stylistic and figurative elements of the original text.
  - b. Assess how well various translation strategies capture the nuances of figurative language and its impact on the target audience.
- 5) **Integrate Theoretical Knowledge into Translation Practice:**
  - a. Integrate theoretical understanding of figurative language and stylistic devices into practical translation tasks.

# UNIT 7

## A. EXERCISES

### Exercise 1: Introduction to Translation

#### Part 1: Understanding Key Concepts

**Instructions:** Read the following definitions and match each concept with its correct description.

1. **Translation**
2. **Source Text**
3. **Target Text**
4. **Literal Translation**
5. **Dynamic Equivalence**

#### Descriptions:

- a. The text that is being translated from one language to another.
- b. The process of rendering text from one language into another.
- c. A translation approach focusing on conveying the same meaning and impact as the original text.
- d. The text that results from the translation process.
- e. A type of translation that adheres closely to the exact wording and structure of the source text.

#### Part 2: Identifying Translation Techniques

**Instructions:** Read the examples below and identify which translation technique is used. Write your answer next to each example.

1. **Example 1:** "He is over the moon with joy" is translated as "Dia sangat bahagia."

**Technique:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Example 2:** "I'm feeling blue" is translated as "Saya merasa sedih."

**Technique:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Example 3:** "To kick the bucket" is translated as "Meninggal dunia."

**Technique:** \_\_\_\_\_

# REVIEW TEST

## Part 1: Translate the following into good Indonesian

When we talk about language skills we normally refer to listening, speaking, reading and writing. However, there is another important skill in language learning that we seem to neglect, namely translation. In the past, we looked down at this skill since we claimed that speaking is the ultimate goal in learning English as a foreign language. Only then did we realize that translation was and is unavoidable to happen especially with mature students.

To acquire the skill in translation from a source language into a target language you need to study some linguistic theories related to translation before you actually do the translation. These theories will tell you what to do and what not to do so that translation activities that you are attempting to perform will be more effective in terms of time and more accurate and readable in terms of contents.

The principles and procedures will tell you what to do and how to do it when you translate from a source language into a target language. In this process grammatical equivalence, besides lexical equivalence, should be taken into consideration. This could mean adding, subtracting or even adapting from the source language into the target language materials.

## Part 2: Answer Questions

1. Which of the following illustrate a literal translation?
  - a. They are broke / Mereka tidak mempunyai uang.
  - b. She must be out of her mind / Dia sudah benar-benar gila.
  - c. Bill bought a car yesterday / Bill membeli sebuah mobil kemarin.
  - d. Don't dare to lay a finger on her / Jangan coba-coba melukainya.
2. Which of the following translation equivalent is classified as modulation?
  - a. Bill has become a guinea pig in the experiment.  
Bill telah menjadi kelinci percobaan pada eksperimen itu.
  - b. Tim has read „Mc Beth“ twice.  
Tim sudah dua kali membaca „Mc Beth“.
  - c. I would do it, if I were you.  
Saya akan mengerjakannya, seandainya saya adalah kamu.

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## BIOGRAPHY

### **Yunita Mutiara Harahap, S.Pd., M.Hum.**



Penulis adalah seorang penulis, instruktur, dan pengajar yang lahir di Medan pada 16 Juni 1984. Ia menempuh pendidikan sarjana di Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara (UMSU) dan lulus pada tahun 2006 dengan gelar Sarjana Pendidikan dalam bidang Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris. Setelah itu, ia melanjutkan pendidikannya di Universitas Negeri Medan (UNIMED) dan meraih gelar Magister Humaniora (M.Hum.) dalam bidang Linguistik Terapan Bahasa Inggris pada tahun 2010.

Sejak tahun 2022, Yunita telah terlibat dalam penyusunan modul dan pengajaran untuk program Asesmen Kompetensi Madrasah Indonesia (AKMI) yang diselenggarakan oleh Kementerian Agama (KEMENAG). Selain itu, ia aktif sebagai instruktur dan pembicara dalam berbagai pelatihan dan seminar terkait AKMI.

Dalam bidang pendidikan, Yunita memiliki ketertarikan khusus pada strategi pembelajaran, terutama *Discovery Learning*. Ia juga berperan sebagai asesor untuk Pendidikan Profesi Guru (PPG) serta Pendidikan Guru Penggerak (PGP).

Yunita juga sudah menerbitkan Buku Ajar *Theoretical Foundation of Interpreting* bersama rekan tim dosen yang berkecimpung pada bidang yang sama. Saat ini, Yunita tengah mengembangkan Buku Ajar *Speaking in General Communication* yang mencakup berbagai topik seputar keterampilan berbicara dalam komunikasi umum. Di samping itu, ia aktif merancang pelatihan seperti "Pelatihan Penggunaan *Liveworksheet* untuk Meningkatkan Keterampilan Mendengar (*Listening Skill*) bagi Siswa" serta mempersiapkan berbagai konsep dan latihan terkait penerjemahan, seperti kesepadanan terjemahan, akurasi, dan prosedur penerjemahan berdasarkan teori dari para ahli.

Yunita juga aktif di media sosial, di mana ia mengelola akun Instagram "*GramMinds*" yang membahas pendidikan dan pembelajaran bahasa Inggris.

### **Wiki Tedi Rahmawati, S.Pd., M.Hum.**



Penulis lahir di Medan pada tanggal 21 Mei 1984. Lulus dengan gelar Sarjana Pendidikan (S1) pada Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris dari Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara (UMSU) pada tahun 2006. Kemudian melanjutkan studinya pada Program Studi Linguistik Terapan Bahasa Inggris dan memperoleh gelar Magister Humaniora (M.Hum.) dari Universitas Negeri Medan (UNIMED) pada tahun 2010. Sejak tahun 2009 hingga saat ini aktif sebagai Dosen Tetap Yayasan di Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris di Universitas Alwashliyah di Medan. Wiki juga terlibat aktif di kegiatan Kemendikbudristekdikti sebagai asesor pada Pendidikan Profesi Guru (PPG) serta Pendidikan Guru Penggerak (PGP) sejak tahun 2022.

Sebagai dosen, Wiki memiliki ketertarikan yang lebih terhadap bidang linguistik dengan mengajar beberapa mata kuliah seperti *Phonology* dan *Psycholinguistics*. Wiki juga terlibat dalam pengajaran Mata Kuliah *Translation* dan *Speaking* bersama rekan *team teaching* Yunita Mutiara Harahap, S.Pd., M.Hum. Bersama rekan satu tim, Wiki juga terlibat dalam menulis dan menerbitkan Buku Ajar *Theoretical Foundation of Interpreting* yang berisikan tentang teori-teori penerjemahan.

**Sofia Idawati Lubis, S.Pd., M.Hum.**



Penulis lahir di Perdagangan pada 22 Juli 1975. Lulus S1 di Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara (UMSU) tahun 2012, lulus S2 di Linguistik Terapan Bahasa Inggris (LTBI) Universitas Negeri Medan (UNIMED) tahun 2015. Penulis pernah menjadi Dosen Pendamping Lapangan (DPL)

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Selain menjadi dosen di Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris di Universitas Alwashliyah Medan, penulis juga menjabat sebagai Ketua Lembaga Penjaminan Mutu (LPM) di Universitas Alwashliyah Medan.

# Buku Ajar Theoretical Foundation *of* Translating

Theoretical Foundation of Translating is a comprehensive resource designed for students, educators, and professionals seeking to master the art and science of translation. The book begins with foundational concepts such as the definition, principles, and meaning in translation, emphasizing its critical role in cross-cultural communication.

Readers are introduced to key challenges in the field, such as lexical and grammatical equivalence, and are provided with strategies to overcome these obstacles while preserving accuracy, clarity, and naturalness. The text delves deeply into the nuances of translation methods and procedures, drawing on theoretical frameworks by notable scholars like Nida, Newmark, Vinay, and Darbelnet.

Additionally, the book explores specialized types of translation, from scientific and technical to literary and vocative, offering insights into how cultural and stylistic differences impact the translator's approach. Exercises are incorporated to reinforce theoretical knowledge and provide practical skills in handling real-world translation scenarios.

Through a balance of theoretical discussions and practical applications, this book equips readers with the tools to tackle the complexities of translation with confidence, fostering skills in accuracy, equivalence, and creativity while navigating the intricate interplay of language and culture.

