MEASURING THE ENGLISH COMPETENCY OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS TROUGH THE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST (EPT) AND THE TRANSLATION QUALITY ASSESSMENT

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Abstract

This descriptive qualitative research is conducted to know the students' competency in English through their achievements in English Proficiency Test (EPT) and the translation quality assessment result. The data from EPT achievement scores were analyzed statistically by considering the lowest, average and highest scores. While the data from the translation result were analyzed with translation approach by using translation assessment instrument and the Content Analysis method by Spradley. The results of the analysis shows that most of the data 83 data (55 %) were translated accurately, there are 49 data (33%) are considered as less accurate translation and the rest, there are 18 data (12 %) are considered as inaccurate translation. Moreover, from acceptability assessment most of the sentences of the target text 80 data (53%) are evaluated as acceptable, there are 51 data (34 %) in this research that are considered as less acceptable and the rest 19 data (13%) in this research that are considered as unacceptable translation. Although most of the data are accurate and acceptable, it cannot be inferred that the translation of the abstract by the students of engineering field is high-quality. The reason is because there are still many data that are less accurate and less acceptable if it is seen from the transfer of the source text content. This condition reflects the translation competence of the student is fair and need to practice more in translating different kind of texts to improve their translation competency.

***Keywords:** English proficiency Test, Translation Quality Assessment, Abstract*

1. INTRODUCTION

The introduction contains background, the current issues related to the research and the urgency of the research. The purpose of the research is stated here together with the problem solving strategy. Related theories or literary works are included into this part. (Times New Roman, 12, single space, no space after paragraph).The students as the academic community should be ready to be able to compete for their better career in the global job market. moreover, the students must have some soft skill to support their main hard skill. The communication skill as part of the soft skill play an important role to take the graduate students to their better career in the future. However, the students must have a good command in English to communicate with the global people.

Talking about English learning in an academic community, in some case the situation is getting worse whenever the students are sharing among them, there is an assumption that the students from engineering study have lover achievement score than the students from economics or business study. Of course we can not easily rely on this assumption since it has not been proven whether it is correct or not. Some people may consider that the students of Engineering programs have problems in their English rather than the students of economic programs. There

may some cases can be taken as an example that the students of engineering seem find stress while taking an English test. Considering the above public opinion, the writer is interested to conduct a study entitled "the quality assessment on the translation of an abstract by the students of Electricity Engineering Program" to find out whether or not they have problems in their English through an English Proficiency Test and a Quality Assessment on their translation results.

1.1 Problem Statements:
This research is carried out to answer the problems as formulated below:
1. How is the achievement on the EPT Test ?
2. How is the quality assessment result ?
3. How is the relation between the achieved EPT score and the quality assessment result towards the students' proficiency in English ?

1.2 Research Objectives:
The objectives of this research are:
 1. To know the achievement on the EPT Test
 2. To know is the quality assessment result
 3. To know the relation between the achieved score and the quality assessment result and the students' proficiency in English ?

1.3 Literature Review:
A. English Proficiency Test (EPT)
A proficiency Test measures an individual's abilities and skills in a domain or subject to know how well he/she has learned, understood and internalized the related concepts and principles. Such a test in language e.g may assess a student's skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking or vocabulary. Similarly a test in Science may focus on assessing students' abilities to apply concepts and principles to analyse a given situation, solve a given problem and conduct practical work efficiently. Thus, the proposed Proficiency Test will mainly focus on assessing students' abilities and skills to apply knowledge and understanding of any subject to new and unfamiliar everyday life situations. Proficiency refers to the ability to perform an action or function. It refers to one's ability to use language for real-world purposes to accomplish real-world linguistic tasks across a wide range of topics and settings.

English Proficiency Tests reflect and measure the candidate's ability to carry out these real-world tasks. Differing from an achievement test, which measures knowledge of specific information (what a person knows), a proficiency test targets what an individual can do with what he or she knows. As in a driver's test, an achievement test would represent the paper and pencil questions on the written examination, while a proficiency test determines how well the person can drive the car. The language proficiency test is an evaluation of how well a person can use language to communicate in real life.

In State Polytechnic of Madiun, the English Proficiency Test is conducted by the Language Center in every years especially for all four semesters students. The EPT test consist of three sections as follows;
1. Section 1: Listening Comprehension

In this section consists of 50 questions which should be done in 35 minutes. The students will have opportunity to demonstrate their ability to understand conversation and talk in English. There are three parts in this section; short conversation between two people, longer conversation with several question and some question after several talks.

2. Section 2: Structure and Written Expression
In this section consists of 40 questions which should be done in 30 minutes. This section is designed to measure students' ability to recognize language that is appropriate for standard written English.

3. Section 3: Reading Comprehension
In this section consists of 60 questions which should be done in 55 minutes. This section is designed to measure the students' ability to read and understand passages.

The students of State Polytechnics of Madiun who has already taken the test will have a certificate indicating their achievement score on the test. This score represent their understanding and proficiency in mastering English language.

B. The Translation

Many experts propose the definitions of translation. According to Halliday (cf. Bell, 1997: 13) the term 'translation' can mean both the process and the product. He points out that "translation is the process or result of converting information from one language or language variety into another." Besides, the translation is also the product of the process of translating. In line with him, Bell (ibid) concludes that the word 'translation' has three distinguishable meanings:

1. Translating: the process (the activity rather than the tangible object)
2. A translation: the product of the process of translating (i.e. the translated text)
3. Translation: the abstract concept which encompasses both the process of translating and the product of that process.

Eugene A. Nida and Charles R. Taber define that "Translating consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in term of meaning and secondly in terms of style". (1969: 11). In line with the above statement, Bell (1991) states that translation is a representation of a text in one language by a representation of an equivalent text in second language. Therefore, the translator has to find the closest equivalent to the target language. This is supported by Nida and Taber statement (1974) that the best translation does not sound like a translation.

Translating the message from the source language to the target language is not an easy job to do. The translator must find the closest equivalent of the word, phrase, or sentence to avoid the distortion of the message. Therefore to do this process, a translator requires certain competences so that a quality translation product can be produced. In order to achieve a quality translation, certain translation strategies are inevitably needed by the translator during the process of transferring message from the source language to the target language. Translation strategy is basically any method a translator employs in order to solve the problems of linguistic and cultural untranslatability the translator finds in the translation process.

In addition, the one who translate the source language into target language must obey the rule related to the translation itself. The prior purpose of the translation is the reader interest; therefore the product of translation must be closely equivalent with the content of original source text. Besides, the translation language style must sound natural to the target language.

C. TQA (Translation Quality Assessment)

Larson (1984) mentions that the three most important features to be checked in translation quality assessment are accuracy, clarity, and naturalness. The accuracy is about the meaning or message of ST that should be fully transferred into TT without any omission. The clarity means that the translation should be communicative to the people using it. The forms of languages used should make the message of the ST easy to be understood. The naturalness means that the translation should not only be accurate and communicative but also be natural in the receptor language. The translation is checked whether the grammatical forms are normally used in the target language. The composition of the translation should be natural and original in the receptor language.

Moreover, a translator is required to be able to transfer the message and form of the SL into the TL. Tyttler, in Hatim and Mason (1990:16), proposes three requirements of the quality translation. First, the translation should provide a complete transcript of the ideas of the original work. Second, the style and the manner of the writing should be of the same character with that of the original. Third, the translation should have all the ease of the original composition. Based on the understanding above, it can be concluded that accuracy in translation deals with the message or content of the SL into the TL. A translation product can be stated as an accurate when it can transfer the whole message from SL to the TL.

Furthermore acceptability of a text refers to the natural "feel" of the translation. A translation which leans toward acceptability can thus be thought as fulfilling the requirement of "reading as an original" written in target language rather than that of "reading as the original" (Shuttleworth and Cowie, 1997: 2-3). Acceptability relates to the naturalness of the translated text to the target readers. It is determined by the faithfulness to the linguistics and cultural bounds of the target system. Therefore, the translator needs to observe the norms of the source language and the target system before he translates a text. The translated text will be considered acceptable if it is read as an original written in target language and sound natural for the target readers. Moreover, like what is stated by Finlay, in Simatupang (2000: 3) that ideally, the translation should give the sense of the original in such a way that the reader is unaware that he/she is reading a translation. It means that an acceptable translation reads like the original composition written in the target language.

D. Abstract

An abstract is a brief summary of a research article, thesis, review, conference proceeding, or any in-depth analysis of a particular subject and is often used to help the reader quickly ascertain the paper's purpose. When used, an abstract always appears at the beginning of a manuscript or typescript, acting as the point-of-entry for any given academic paper or patent application. Abstracting and indexing services for various academic disciplines are aimed at compiling a body of literature for that particular subject.

Your abstract is simply a short, stand-alone summary of the work or paper that others can use as an overview. An abstract describes what you do in your essay, whether it's a scientific experiment or a literary analysis paper. It should help your reader understand the paper and help people searching for this paper decide whether it suits their purposes prior to reading. To write an abstract, finish your paper first, then type a summary that identifies the purpose, problem,

methods, results, and conclusion of your work. After you get the details down, all that's left is to format it correctly.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method as the type of research. Hadi (1989) states that descriptive method involves collecting the data, analysing data, finding the models, and drawing conclusion based on the data without taking account into general conclusion. In short, descriptive method is a method for finding fact about actual phenomena through the process of collecting data, classifying data, analysing and interpreting based on the analysis result. This research also involves the process above so that it can be said that this research belongs to the descriptive research.

This research is also qualitative one. Moleong (1990) asserts that qualitative research is a type of research that does not include any calculation or enumeration. The research will describe the existing phenomenon in this case the phenomenon is the translation of the jokes. Data in the qualitative research is not in a form of numbers but in the form of words or sentences (Sutopo, 2002: 35).

A. Data and Source of Data

The source of data of this research is divided into two kinds of data that are primary and secondary data. The documents which are applied as the primary data of this research; first, the achieved score of EPT and second, the translation of an abstract of the final project report by the fourth grader students of State Polytechnic of Madiun. The secondary data of this research are taken from the information given by the informants, raters and respondents. In this research, the raters play a role as the competent person to determine the accuracy of the translation. Later, they will contribute the data that is significant for the researcher to identify the translation's accuracy. All of the raters should master both languages, English and Indonesian. They should have knowledge and experiences in translation.

B. Technique of Analyzing Data

In this research, the data will be analysed by using the steps on the Content analysis. The Content analysis is a research technique used to make replicable and valid inferences by interpreting and coding textual material. By systematically evaluating texts (e.g., documents, oral communication, and graphics), qualitative data can be converted into quantitative data. Although the method has been used frequently in the social sciences, only recently has it become more prevalent among organizational scholars. The collected data are analysed as follows:
1. The researcher observes the achieved EPT scores
2. The researcher analyse the scores and provide statistic display to describe the EPT achievement
3. The researcher observes the abstract in the original language.
4. The Researcher and raters compare between the original and the translated text to know the accuracy and the acceptability of the translation results.
5. Based on the comment of the raters, the researcher analyses compose the matrix/ table of translation assessment results
6. The researcher interprets the results of analysis and drawn conclusion based on the research.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION
A. The achievement on the English Proficiency Test

Based on the latest result of the English Proficiency test conducted in the period of 2018 towards the four semester students, the score can be shown on the following table;

SCORE/Study	Eng.	Buss.	Acc.	Comp.	Mec.	Elec.
HIGHEST	560	557	540	527	473	530
LOWEST	393	273	343	347	323	313
AVERAGE	492	433	436	439	402	425

The above table show us, there are six studying programs in State Polytechnic of Madiun. The programs divided into two fields, first Economic field consists of English, Business Administration, Computerized Accounting. The second Engineering field, consist of Computer, Automotive mechanic and Electricity program. To compare clearly of the achievement of the EPT score can be displayed into diagram as follow;
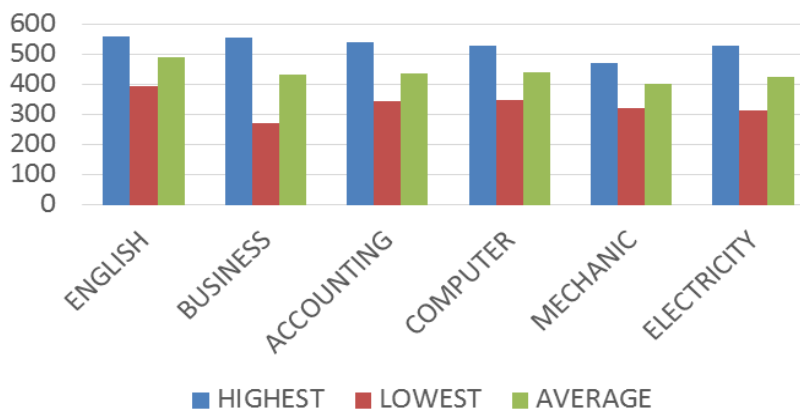
Before continuing the discussion, the writer would like not to put the English Study into our consideration. For the further discussion the English Study will be taken out from The Economic field. This step should be taken since we are trying to compare in between Economic students and Engineering students on their achievement on "English Proficiency" Test. Of course it will be unfair if we are involving English Study into our consideration. Based on the diagram of EPT achievement score, the writer will describe the achievement as follows;

The highest score (minus English program) was achieved by the student of Business Administration (557 points). This achievement represents the students from economics field achieve higher score than the students from engineering field. However, the highest score by the student of engineering program (Electricity program: 530 points) is still lower compared with the achievement of the students from business and economics program. If we take a pre-conclusion just based on the highest score, it shows that the highest score achieved by the students of Engineering filed is under the achievement score by the students of economics.

The Lowest score was achieved by the student of Business Administration (273 points). This achievement represents the students from economics field achieve lowest score than the

students from engineering field. However, the lowest score by the student of engineering program (Electricity program: 313 points) is still higher compared with the achievement of the students from business program. If we take a pre-conclusion just based on the Lowest score, it shows that the Lowest score achieved by the students of Economics filed is under the achievement score by the students of Engineering.

The average score (minus English program) shows that the achieved score by the student of Computer (439 points) is above the other programs. Even though the achieved score from the students from economics field (represented by Accounting, 436 points), is under the students from engineering field. Even though the students from engineering field take the highest rank on the other hand they also seated on the lowest rank (represented by the student from Mechanics with 402 points).

However, if we take a pre-conclusion just based on the average score, it shows that the score achieved by the students of Engineering filed is vary in some different programs' achievement. The students from Computer program achieve the better score than the achievement score by the students of economics. However, the students from Mechanics program achieve the worst score than the other programs. By the way, the writer consider that the pre-conclusion based on the average score is much better rather than based on the highest or the lowest score. The reason is, that the average score accommodate the lowest and the highest rank of score as well.

B. The Analysis of Accuracy and Acceptability of the Translation

1. The Analysis of Accuracy of translation

From the analysis of the questionnaire distributed to the raters, the researcher found out that most of the translations are accurate. There are 83 (55 %) data in this research that are considered as accurate translation. The accuracy of the translation is defined specifically by the correct transfer of the message of the source text. In addition, a translated text must be clearly understood and does not need any rewriting. Most of the sentences of the Target Text are evaluated as accurate (communicating the same message/content) by the raters. Further more, there are 49 (33%) data in this research that are considered as less accurate translation. The rest, there are 18 (12 %) data is considered as inaccurate translation.

Although most of the data (83 or 55 %) are accurate translation, it can not be inferred that the translation of the abstract by the students of engineering field is high-quality. The reason is because there are still many data that are less accurate if it is seen from the transfer of the source text content. Moreover, although in the smallest number, there are data that are classified as inaccurate translation because the raters consider there is message distortion in those data. Each rater has his own consideration in giving scores to each of the data, but the researcher has set the scoring system to rate the accuracy level of the translation. Thus, the average score given by the raters can be used as a pointer for the accuracy level. In general, the translation of the abstract by the students of engineering is relatively good.

2. The Acceptability of the Translation

Based on the analysis of the questionnaire distributed to the raters, the researcher found out that most of the translations are considered as acceptable translation. The acceptability of the translation is defined by whether the translation has natural form of target text. In addition,

acceptability of the translation is also measured from the use of unfamiliar terms and sentence pattern.

From the score given by the raters, most of the sentences of the target text are evaluated as acceptable. The assessment on acceptability result showed that there are 80 data (53%) in this research that belong to the acceptable translation, 51 data (34 %) in this research that are considered as less acceptable translation and the rest 19 data (13%) in this research that are considered as unacceptable translation.

Although most of the data 80 data or 53% are acceptable translation, it can not be inferred that the translation of the abstract by the students of engineering field is accepted in the target language well. The reason is because there are still many data that are less acceptable. Moreover, although in the smallest number, there are data that are classified as unacceptable translation because the raters consider there are some unnatural sentence pattern and unfamiliar terms. In general, the translation of the abstract by the students of engineering field is relatively good although some changes in the diction are needed.

4. CONCLUSION
A. Conclusion
Based on the result of the analysis, the writer draw the conclusion as follows: The results of the analysis data shows that Most of the data were translated accurately (83 data/ 55 %). However, there are 49 (33%) data in this research that are considered as less accurate translation and he rest, there are 18 (12 %) data is considered as inaccurate translation. Moreover, from acceptability assessment, most of the sentences of the target text are evaluated as acceptable. The assessment on acceptability result showed that there are 80 data (53%) in this research that belong to the acceptable translation, 51 data (34 %) in this research that are considered as less acceptable translation and the rest 19 data (13%) in this research that are considered as unacceptable translation.

Although most of the data are accurate and acceptable translation, it can not be inferred that the abstract by the students of engineering field is high-quality. The reason is because there are still many data that are less accurate and less acceptable if it is seen from the transfer of the source text content. This condition reflects the translation competence of the student is fair and need to practice more in translating different kind of texts to improve their translation competency. Last but not least, the writer can also conclude based on the EPT achievement score that the assumption that the students from engineering field have lower achievement in English proficiency is not correct. The students from engineering field have proven that they are also able to have a good achievement in their English proficiency.

B. Recommendation
The researcher would like to give some recommendations to the other researchers as follows; The students are expected to improve their competence in translating some different kind of texts. The students as the translator have to improve their mastery both on the source language and target language in order to be able to transfer the message into the target language better in the accuracy and acceptability.

The result of this research is supposed to be beneficial for the students as one of the additional source to enlarge and sharpen their knowledge on translation. Moreover, the result of

this study may be used as a reference by other researchers to   conduct a further research related to this study.

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