

## Examining Translation Techniques in the Health Article on Benefits of Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine

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### Abstract

The types of translation techniques proposed by prominent figures support the translators to ease the process of converting source text (ST) into target text (TT). Regarding the translation process and product, this study applied Vinay and Darbelnet's techniques (1958) to examine the translation of a medical text published on July 13 2022 in University of Missouri website. The text discusses the benefits of getting COVID-19 vaccine. The goal of choosing this article is to provide more information about the advantages of COVID-19 vaccine in Indonesian. Thus, the ST that is used in this study is English and the TT in Indonesian. This translation study used descriptive qualitative research that tends on the medical text in form of article as the data of the study. In this study, the translation process of the text involves 7 techniques of Vinay and Darbelnet including literal translation, omission, borrowing, transposition, paraphrase, explication, and modulation. The most used technique in translating the text is literal translation that focuses on the structure or forms of the text and the least used techniques are modulation and explication.

**Keywords:** Translation study; Vinay and Darbelnet's techniques; medical text; benefits of COVID-19 vaccine

### 1. INTRODUCTION

As Covid-19 breaks and impacts all life sectors around the world, scientists and other related parties develop vaccine as one of the efforts to prevent the disease. According to World Health Organization or WHO's technical document of global COVID-19 vaccination (2021), the two main goals of globally developing the vaccination strategy are protecting individual and public health and minimizing societal and economic impact. The first goal refers to reducing the burden of the disease and protecting the capability of health system in handling the infected and non-infected patients, whereas, the second goal is supporting community to run the economic confidently without risking the health. In other words, vaccine helps to achieve herd immunity that can reduce the spread of covid-19.

On the other hand, nowadays, the debate of vaccination is still going through the society. It is from the mistaken or lack of information they get from vaccine. To help people understand how the vaccine works, there are many research articles available that provide the benefits of getting vaccine. Nevertheless, the article mostly written in English which as lingua franca, so it accessible widely. In this study, the researcher concerns on translating one of the medical texts that discusses the benefits of getting Covid-19 vaccine. The source text (ST) of the article is in English, which is translated into Indonesian as the target text (TT).

As one of the oldest occupations in the world, translation takes crucial part of the history of human being, since we have so many different languages and dialects all over the world. The common goal of translation is introducing and helping target readers or listeners in understanding new culture, knowing more stories or songs from other places that we do not share the same language, etc. For instance, target readers are able to read foreign novels in their language as the result of translation process. Corresponding to this study, the purpose of translation medical text is giving more insightful information to the target language readers on how effective or important the vaccine to prevent COVID-19. Further, the main purpose of conducting the study is examining the translation techniques applied in the text during the process of translation.

Based on the brief background above, the research question of this study is What translation techniques are observed in the medical text entitled “*Benefits of Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine*”?

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In regard to this study, the process of accomplishing more information about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccine is done by transferring the information from ST (English) to TT (Indonesian). This is known as a process of translation. Generally, translation is one of the ways to interpret ideas or messages or even a sign of written or spoken language. It transfers the meaning or messages by involving the activity of interpreting and analyzing a text, spoken language, sign, or gesture. According to Newmark (1988), translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way the author intended the meaning. At this point, the responsibility of a translator is to communicate the message from ST to TT by converting the exact meaning from ST or choosing the closest forms in TT. Translation process involves the ability of understanding or analyzing a text from one language (ST), then conveying it to another language (TT). It can be said that that translation is like bridge that connects ST and TT in its function to deliver the message or meaning. Simply, we realize that translation gives us advantages in understanding the intention of the writers in ST.

Nida (1982) states that translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message, that is first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. This relates to the role of translators in analyzing or interpreting the meaning of ST into TT and their strategy in finding

the best term or closest meaning to be used. Thus, translators are responsible to produce similar intention or meaning in TT, so the target readers can acquire the information or access the text without difficulty. As elaborated by Kembaren (2018) that translators should be able to produce similar message completed by giving detail explanation, so it eases the target readers in understanding the message of ST.

Further, the process of translation also involves the knowledge of text typology. Translators have to distinguish between political texts, legal texts and medical texts; fairy tales, novels and short stories differ from newspaper reports, essays, and scientific papers; food recipes, instructions booklets and advertisements may show similarities but they are not the same, expository texts differ from argumentative texts, etc. (Trosborg, 1997). Medical research article becomes the type of the translated text in this study. Pilegaard (1997) classifies medical English into technical English or scientific English as factual and objective type of writing. In translating medical text, translators must deliberate theoretical and practical point of view. Pilegaard (1997) explains that the aspect of theoretical view consist of semantic conceptualization and selection of lexical and syntactic patterns in medical text, the aspect of text difference between ST and TT in terms of level of discourse structure, and cultural difference between ST and TT due to the shift of words classes.

As mentioned earlier, translator may face difficulties in translation process due to the words choice, limitation of words both of ST or TT, different culture views, etc. Venuti (2008) states that the translation of cultural concepts requires additional information and list of words that refers to the text that contains of cultural words. This makes a translation becomes a time-consuming activity. Therefore, Translation strategies and techniques are needed in order to be the reference in producing a good translation. Techniques describe the result obtained and can be used to classify different types of translation solutions (Kembaren, 2018; Molina dan Albir, 2002). In addition, Newmark (1991) proposed two main translation strategies and categorized them into two, semantic and communicative translation. He differentiated the strategies into some parts. In semantic translation, the center is the author's idea of the text, while the center in communicative is the reader. In semantic translation, the orientation is semantic and syntactic forms, while in communicative it's the effect. The translation in semantic is faithful and more literal and in communicative, it's faithful and freer. There are some other basic differences between semantic and communicative translation, they are semantic translation tends on meaning and communicative translation focuses on the message, semantic translation is more awkward and detailed and communicative translation is more natural and smoother but longer, semantic translation is sourced-language based and communicative translation is target-language based, etc. Besides translation strategies, the techniques are used to help the translators creating awareness of possibilities in translation process and its consequences.

The process of translating the medical text in this study is examined by using Vinay and Darbelnet's (1958) classifications of translation techniques as follows:

### **1. Literal translation**

According to Vinay and Darbelnet literal translation is the direct transfer of a SL text into a grammatically and idiomatically appropriate TL text in which the translators' task is limited to observing the adherence to the linguistic servitudes of the TL. Literal translation is limited to the words translation; it focuses on the forms or structure only without adding explicit aspect, it tends on word-for-word translation.

### **2. Borrowing**

Vinay and Darbelnet stated that when equivalence is not possible at the word level, we can borrow words from source language and use them in target language. Borrowing is taking word from another language directly. Borrowing may occur when there is limitation of words in TT or some terms are set to be patent. Sometimes, translators borrow the words from ST because the words in TT are longer than ST. For instance, the word "gossip" in Indonesia is borrowed from English "gossip" because it has longer forms in TT that is "obrolan tentang orang lain" or cerita negatif tentang seseorang."

### **3. Calque**

Calque refers to foreign word or phrase translated and incorporated into another language. Calque is similar to literal translation. The difference is literal translation relates to sentence translation and calque relates to phrase translation.

### **4. Transposition**

Transposition is the transformation of a ST word into another grammatical category in TT for equivalency in meaning. This technique belongs to a shift of word class; the verb for noun or noun for preposition, etc.

### **5. Modulation**

Modulation is the change in the point of view or image due to the difference between linguistic system and culture. The example of modulation is (ST) "Hi, you're early again" translated to TT: "Hai, kau tidak terlambat lagi."

### **6. Equivalence**

This accounts for the same situation using a completely different phrase, e.g., the translation of proverbs or idiomatic expressions.

### **7. Adaptation**

Adaptation includes anything from the transcription of the original, to updating a translation, omission, expansion, exoticism or situational equivalence. Adaptation is shift in cultural environment, i.e., to express the message using a

different situation, e.g. cricket for the English and baseball for the American.

### **8. Paraphrase**

Paraphrase refers to restatement of a text. Translators use their own words or ideas to convey the meaning or message. Paraphrasing in translation makes the TT longer or shorter than ST, but it does not change the meaning of the text (Molina & Albir, 2002). The translator may generate the translation without reducing the intention of the text.

### **9. Compensation**

Compensation is a procedure by which translators add information, such as linguistic, cultural, and stylistic in one part of the TT which was lost in another part of the ST to avoid translation loss. An item of information or a stylistic effect from the ST that cannot be reproduced in the same place in the TT is introduced elsewhere in the TT For instance: (ST): “I was so moved that I couldn't stop crying.” TL: “Aku sangat terharu oleh tangisan itu.”

### **10. Expansion or amplification**

It is the use of a greater number of words in the TT than in the ST. Amplification occurs when the TT uses more signifiers to cover syntactic or lexical gaps. According to Vinay and Darbelnet, dissolution is a question of langue and adaptation of parole.

### **11. Explication**

Explication tends on the specificity. Explication is to introduce information from the ST that is implicit from the context or the situation.

### **12. Under translation**

Under translation is another term of simplification that is generalization of the ST in the TT because of loss of linguistics or cultural meaning.

### **13. Omission**

Omission is a technique that reduces certain elements of the SL. It is also called elimination, omission or subtraction which suppressing a ST information in the TT.

Investigating medical text using translation techniques become interesting study to conduct. There are some previous researchers who studied the translation technique used in medical text. Dharmawan et al. (2018) conducted the study on techniques for medical dictionary translation, which results borrowing as the most used technique in translating the medical dictionary. Their study also concludes that omission in translating the dictionary can lead to mistranslation since it is done by human and in web translation, the use of google translate can cause strange translation or it is not suitable.

Moreover, Rongre and Saleh (2018) analyzed word-level translation in medical terms in midwife community using the concept of Molina and Albir (2002). The result of their study presents that the text used 11 translation techniques, which borrowing is the most used by the translator, while modulation and transposition are the least used technique.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

This is a translation study that used descriptive qualitative method to examine the techniques used in the translated medical text on the benefits of getting COVID-19 vaccine. Qualitative research includes the process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting non-numerical data. Creswell (2014) states that qualitative method relies on text and image data that has unique steps in data analysis and it draws on diverse designs which focuses on data collection, analysis, and writing.

The data of this study were taken from a medical article entitled “Benefits of Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine” which published on July 13 2022. The article discusses the effectiveness of getting COVID-19 vaccine as one of the ways to overcome the spread of the virus. The ST was in English and it was translated into Indonesian as the TT. The downloaded ST was arranged into a table to ease the researcher in the process of classifying and analyzing the translation techniques. After tabulating the data, the researcher translated the text into TT. The next step was the researcher examined and analyzed the translated text using translation techniques offered by Vinay and Darbelnet (1958).

### 4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings and discussions of translation techniques used in a medical text entitled “Benefits of Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine” that published on July 13, 2022 in University of Missouri website. The translation of the text is examined by using Vinay and Darbelnet’s translation techniques (1958). The findings of this study result 40 data collections and 8 translation techniques used in the text. The results are presented as follows:

**Table 1: Translation Techniques used in the Text**

No	Translation Techniques	Frequency	Percentage
1	Literal Translation	26	65
2	Omission	6	15
3	Borrowing	2	5
4	Transposition	2	5
5	Paraphrase	2	5
6	Explication	1	2.5
7	Modulation	1	2.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>



As demonstrated in table 1, literal translation is frequent technique used by the translator in translating the medical text with 26 sentences or clauses (65%) followed by the omission with 6 sentences or clauses (15%). Other translation techniques such as borrowing, transposition, and paraphrase are used by the translator with 2 sentences or clauses (5%) for each technique followed by explication and modulation with 1 sentence or clause (2.5%). The analysis of the findings is elaborated in the following section.

### 1. Literal Translation

Literal translation is used to translate a phrase in the source text word by word into the target text. In literal translation, translators convert the ST grammatical structure to the closest or nearest ST equivalent, the lexical words are translated singly, not based on the context (Kembaren, 2018; Newmark, 1988). The results of literal translation in the medical text are presented in as follows:

- (1)**ST**: Once you receive your first shot, your body begins producing antibodies to the coronavirus.  
**TT**: Setelah mendapatkan suntikan pertama, tubuh mulai memproduksi antibodi terhadap virus corona
- (2)**ST**: A new study found that expectant mothers who receive the COVID-19 vaccine create antibodies to the virus and pass those to their unborn baby through the placenta.  
**TT**: Penelitian terbaru mengemukakan bahwa bumil yang menerima vaksin Covid-19 membentuk antibodi terhadap virus dan meneruskan kepada bayinya melalui plasenta
- (3)**ST**: The vaccine protects against severe illness  
**TT**: Vaksin Memberi Perlindungan terhadap Penyakit Akut
- (4)**ST**: Public health measures such as mask wearing, physical distancing and hand-washing were implemented to slow the spread of the virus, and they have proven to work.  
**TT**: Langkah-langkah kesehatan masyarakat seperti memakai masker, menjaga jarak, mencuci tangan diterapkan untuk memperlambat penyebaran virus dan terbukti berhasil
- (5)**ST**: It's important we all receive the vaccine to help us achieve this public health goal  
**TT**: Penting bagi kita untuk mendapatkan vaksin agar mencapai sasaran kesehatan masyarakat.

The findings of the study (1) to (5) show the process that relies on literal translation, which the translator brings the originality of ST into TT. In this process, the translator directly transfers the intention of the author in ST to TT with the limitation of exploring the text. The directness of translating the text considers the grammatical and idiomatic forms or the structures of the text without adding the

explicit meaning or explanation.

## 2. Omission

In this technique, the translator eliminates unnecessary words from ST to produce natural translation. The translator as the approach of avoiding non-equivalent translation uses omission in the process as in:

- (6) **ST**: Much like the original strand, all three vaccines will protect you against severe illness and reduce the likelihood for hospitalization  
**TT**: Ketiga vaksin tersebut melindungi dari penyakit akut dan mengurangi kemungkinan rawat inap
- (7) **ST**: The vaccine reduces your risk of infection  
**TT**: Vaksin memperkecil risiko infeksi.

The translator omits “much like the original strand” of the ST in (6). This refers to the absence of a ST element or aspect of sense in the TT. While, “your” in (7) is omitted in TT. The consideration of dropping “much like the original strand” in (6) and “your” in (7) is they have less effect in TT. In other words, the necessity aspect is needed in omission to adjust the text with target readers.

## 3. Borrowing

In translating medical text, there are universal terms that can be borrowed in TT. In some cases, medical or other related terms in ST have longer meaning or description in TT, thus borrowing is applied to the process of translation.

- (8)**ST**: The clinical trials for the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines showed they were 100% effective at preventing severe illness.  
**TT**: Uji klinis vaksin Pfizer-BioNTech dan Moderna menunjukkan keduanya 100% efektif dalam mencegah penyakit akut.
- (9)**ST**: The Johnson & Johnson vaccine showed 85% effectiveness against severe illness.  
**TT**: Vaksin Johnson & Johnson menunjukkan efektivitas 85% terhadap penyakit akut.

The names of the vaccine in (9), “Pfizer-BioNTech” and “Moderna” are taken directly from the ST as the name of the multinational company “Johnson & Johnson” in (9). Borrowing in translation occurs to shorten the translation of certain terms in the text.

## 4. Transposition

In accordance with the different grammatical aspect between ST and ST, transposition is used to complete the process of translation by changing the word order. Transposition refers to a shift of word class (Molina & Albir, 2002)



(10) **ST**: Although experts are still learning a lot about the COVID-19 vaccines, there are some clear benefits to getting vaccinated.

**TT**: Di saat para ahli masih terus meneliti vaksin Covid-19, berikut sejumlah manfaat nyata yang bisa didapatkan dari vaksin

(11) **ST**: These antibodies help your immune system fight the virus if you happen to be exposed, so it reduces your chance of getting the disease.

**TT**: Antibodi ini membantu sistem kekebalan tubuh melawan virus jika Anda terpapar, sehingga memperkecil kemungkinan untuk terpapar Covid-19.

The changes of grammatical category in shown (10) and (11). Conjunction “although” in ST becomes adverb of time in TT. The adjustment of word classification in (10) is aimed to avoid a wrong association (Nida, 1982). When the translator keeps translating the sentence literally in TT, the result is going to be doubtful for the target readers. Meanwhile, the adjustment in (11) belongs to a change in grammatical form, which noun phrase “these bodies” in ST becomes singular noun in TT.

## 5. Paraphrase

The purpose of using this technique is avoiding ambiguity and producing natural translation by restructuring ST.

(12) **ST**: As more people continue to receive the vaccine, we might reach herd immunity, which means the spread of the virus becomes unlikely.

**TT**: Karena semakin banyak yang divaksin kekebalan komunitas terbentuk dan penyebaran virus bisa diminimalisir.

(13) **ST**: Once you’ve received the vaccine and waited the recommended time for your body to build immunity, ...

**TT**: Setelah divaksin dan antibodi terbentuk, ...

The process of translation using paraphrasing in (12) and (13) involves the translator’s interpretation and consideration of restructuring the message in TT. The translation in TT as in (12) is not grammatically ordered, but it conveys the same thing in different way. As stated earlier, paraphrasing can make TT longer or shorter than ST. It is shown in in (13), which the translation in TT is shorter than ST.

## 6. Explication

This technique allows the translator to attach implicit information to certain term as in (14). “Mothers” in ST is translated as “busui” in TT in which the translator also completes the term by adding the meaning of it. This eases target readers who are especially new to the term to access the text quickly without considering searching for the word “busui.”

(14) **ST**: Mothers were also shown to pass antibodies to their newborns through breast milk.

**TT**: Busui (ibu menyusui) meneruskan antibodi kepada anaknya melalui ASI.

## 7. Modulation

Sentence (15) bellow presents the finding of modulation technique during the translation process of the text. The translator changes the perspective of ST and makes adjustment in TT.

(15) **ST**: This suggests those newborns have some immunity to the virus.

**TT**: Hal ini membuat bayi memiliki kekebalan terhadap virus.

## 5. CONCLUSSION

The goal of translation in this study is sharing information about COVID-19 vaccine from ST (English) into TT (Indonesian), so the target readers experience more knowledge on the advantages of getting vaccine. By some means, the translator finds difficulties during the translation process. Various translation techniques are offered by some important figures with the purpose of helping the translator adjusting the words choices. The translation process of the text in this study used the concept of Vinay and Darbelnet (1958).

The findings of the study show that the translator used 7 translation techniques consisting of literal translation, omission, borrowing, transposition, paraphrase, explication, and modulation. Literal translation is the most technique applied by the translator due to the concern of transferring the text based on its grammatical structure. In this technique, the translator transfers the message from ST by using word-for-word without adding explicit information of the text. Meanwhile, the least techniques are explication and modulation. Translation techniques are solutions for translator in deciding what can be done to a ST, so the message is effectively delivered to target readers.

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Kemangi, Putri Grendi Orvin. (2023).  
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