

# The Impact of Cohesion Shift Levels on Translation Accuracy

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## Abstract

This study discuss about the impact of cohesion shift levels on translation accuracy. The aims of this study to find out a) a dominant cohesion shift level, b) the impact of the dominant level on translation accuracy, c) the dominant category changes caused by dominant level, d) the level of cohesion shift which have a positive impact on translation accuracy. This research used descriptive qualitative method to achieve the objectives of study. There are two kinds of data in this study, the first is objective which consist of 562 data and the second is affective in the form of number (1-3). The objective data was collected through observation and content analysis while the affective data was collected through questionnaire and depth-interview. The result of this research shown that a) cohesion shift in the level of implicitation is dominant (217 shifts), b) implicatioan influence a negative impact on translation accuracy (2,45), c) the dominant changes of category on implicitation level are phrase become Ø and phrase become phrase (36 shifts), d) cohesion shift in the level of explicitation is a well strategy than the other levels. Translators are able to improve the accuracy of translation by applying cohesion shift in the level of explicitation.

**Keywords:** Cohesion shift; Translation accuracy; Shift level.



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## 1. Introduction

The main task of translator is to find out the equivalence concept in translation activities. Unfortunately, there is no similar concept in both languages (ST and TT) since the difference of culture, vocabulary and linguistic system. It means that translation is the difficult work to do but it is the easiest method to accelerate knowledge, like in Indonesia. Source of knowledge are dominantly written in English language while most Indonesian are lack on English, (Sipayung, 2018). Now a days, most foreign text book have been translated in Indonesia, it is more than 24.000 titles per year, (Abrams, 2015). The researchers have a great desire to conduct a research on accuracy aspect.

This research deals with the impact of cohesion shift on translation accuracy found at '*Principles of Language Learning and Teaching*' as the source text (ST) and Indonesian language as a target text (TT). This study is an investigation on translation accuracy caused of cohesion shift as strategy that applied by Cholis and Pereanom (2008). Cohesion shift is divided into two levels : 1) shift in the level of explicitness and 2) shift in the level of text meaning (Blum-Kulka, 2000). The concept of translation quality is classified into three aspects, namely the accuracy of translation, the acceptability of translation and the readability of translation (Nababan *et al.*, 2012). This study focuses on cohesion shift levels and translation accuracy. This research is conducted based on several reasons which are discussed in the following.

In translation from SL into TL cannot be separated from the concept of shift. The shift is used by the translator in translation activities to achieve a equivalence concept. The purpose of shift from ST into TT is communicative competence, so target reader easy to understand the message. It means that shift can be categorized as a strategy to solve the translation problem on non-equivalences. Unfortunately, translators of PLLT applied some concept of shift in wrong way. The application of false shift strategy will affect on translation accuracy.

The impact of cohesion shift on translation accuracy of PLLT textbook is important to conduct in order to attain the accuracy of translation. The mistaken of cohesion shift as translation strategy will make the students of TEFL as a future English teacher become confuse on principles of teaching language. Inaccuracy of translation since cohesion shift level will influence to the wrong concept of teaching language principles in this case is student or language candidate teacher. The mislead concept of language teaching which applied by English teacher/lecturer will affect the language acquisition of students from kindergarden upto the students at university to learn English.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. Translation Shift

Shift is said to occur if, in a given TT, a translation equivalent other than the formal correspondent occurs for a specific SL element, (Munday, 2004). Newmark (1988) states that shift is a translation procedure involving a change in the grammar from SL to TL. Shifts are all the mandatory actions of the translator and the optional ones to which resorts consciously for the purpose of natural and communicative rendition of an SLT into another language, (Al-Zoubi and Ali, 2001). It means that the usage of shift is depend on translators competence to solve the non-equivalence. in addition, Catford (1978) divides shift into two kinds, such as level shift and category shift. He categorized the category shift in to structure shift, class shift, unit shift (range changes) and Intra-System shift.

### 2.2. Cohesion

Cohesion is the element of linguistic marker of connection that exist in a clause or in a sentence within text that tie together, according to Farikah (2006) Internal coherence comes from cohesion way, which appears in a text through kinds of linguistic devices. Cohesion is a part or area of discourse competence which links with linguistic competence and help to generate text. In order to translate ST to TT, translator need to have a good competencies on linguistic to achieve the nature of translation. Cohesion is realized by four cohesive devices, namely reference, substitution, ellipses, conjunction, and lexical cohesion (Halliday and Hasan, 1976).

Level of cohesion, shift in types of cohesive markers used in translation seem to affect translations in one or both of the following directions:

- Shift in levels of explicitness; i.e. the general level of the target texts' textual explicitness is higher or lower than that of the source text,
- Shift in text meanings(s); i.e. the explicit and implicit meaning potential of the source text changes through translations (Blum-Kulka, 2000).

It means that cohesive markers played an important role in shift of cohesion. Here is the example of shift in level of explicitness, where the TT experience addition on conjunctive cohesive marker, as follows:

ST : **Thus**, in the case of question.....

TT : **oleh sebab itu** berkenaan dengan pertanyaan.....

From the example above, there is an addition in TT. It means that translator applied explicitation shift of cohesion in translation process. In addition, here is the example of shift in the text meaning from the source data.

ST : **...and not** very strongly for the acquisition ....

TT : **... tetapi tak** begitu kuat untuk pemerolehan....

It is clear that, the conjunction *and* is translated into *but*. In translation process, the translator applied cohesion shift in the level of text meaning.

### 2.3. Translation Accuracy

Accuracy is a tool to measure the equivalences between ST and TT. Larson (1988) states the main objectives of accuracy test are as follows; a) to check the equivalence of information in a text, b) to find another problems by comparing ST and TT, after he/she is sure about the existence of the information need. A text can be called equivalence if ST is translated in TT with the same of meaning or message. To have a good accuracy aspect of translation, a translator needs to avoid addition and deletion of meaning. To add or to delete a message in TT means to poisoning the reader or listener and to treasonous the source writer or source speaker. By adding and deleting of meaning can affect into a serious impact of translation. Both of them can be applied in translation without affecting to the meaning from ST into TT.

**Table-1.** The Instrument of Translation Accuracy Assessment

Score	Qualitative Parameter	Translation Category
3	Meaning ST in words, phrase and clause of source text are translated accurately in target text ; no distortion of meaning even though shift of cohesion and coherence occur	Accurate
2	Most of Meaning ST in word, phrase and clause are translated accurately in target text; however can be found distortion of meaning or ambiguous or there is a deleted meaning which affect to the accuracy of translation even though shift of cohesion and coherence occur	Less accurate
1	Meaning of ST in word, phrase and clause of source text are not translated accurately in target text or deleted even though shift of cohesion and coherence occur .	Not accurate

Source : Nababan *et al.* (2012) with modification

The instrument of accuracy will use the rate from 1 up to 3. The highest rate indicate that the accuracy assessment level is accurate. The opposite to that, the lowest rate indicate not accurate the meaning of translated text. This instrument will be used in this research. This instrument will be proposed to the expert of translation or interpreting (key-informant)

### 3. Instrument and Method

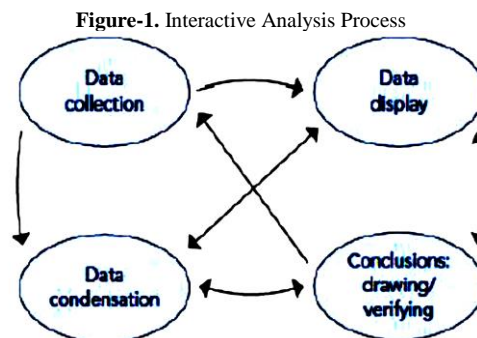
This study is investigated the translation product. It is done by comparing ST and TT. The data of this research divided into two parts, the first is objective data in the level of words, phrase and clause which experience cohesion shift in PLLT textbook and its translation in Indonesian. The source text was written by [Doughlas \(2007\)](#) in the fifth edition and TT was translated by [Cholis and Pereanom \(2008\)](#). There were 562 data which experience cohesion shifts in this study, they were tabulated and displayed based on their level to make the data strong.

The first data are collected through two methods, they were observation, content analysis. Observation was done by reading then signing the unit of word, phrase and clause which experienced cohesion shift include the page number. Content analysis is a technique to find a variety of things in accordance with the needs and goals of the research ([Sutopo, 2006](#)). Based on this statement, the researcher tabulated the pairs of text, which experience cohesion shift referred to their level.

The second data are affective data or translation quality from the inter-raters of key informant. This data was collected through instrument such questionnaire and depth-interview method which given to the raters of accuracy. They were asked to fill the questionnaire sheet about translation accuracy then in order to verified their answer on questionnaire sheet, the researcher made depth-interview. The instrument about the accuracy questionnaire was adopted from ([Nababan et al., 2012](#)) concept with modification. [Nababan et al. \(2012\)](#) states that to keep the validity and realibility of research on translation quality, the amount of rater on each aspects of translation quality must be odd and minimum three raters. Based on the statement above, translation accuracy was analyzed by three raters, two of them are practioners on translation and the last is researcher himself as academician who is active and interested on translation study.

This study used qualitative-descriptive method with emmbeded cause study design. [Bogdan and Biklen \(2007\)](#) states that the sample of qualitative is small. It is to indicate that small data is enough to achive the aim of this study. ([Nawawi, 1998](#)) states that the descriptive qualitative approach was chosen because this study is focused on problems that exist at the time of study conducted. This study categorized descriptive since the data in the form of word, phrase and clause. In addition to that, the score in the form of number (1 up to 3) help the researchers to describe the translation category on accuracy aspect. The researchers chose emmbeded cause design since the conclusion of this study can be applied only on this research analysis.

To analyzed both data, the researcher applied interactive model analysis based on the theory of [Miles et al. \(2014\)](#). The interaction of data analysis can be seen in the following figure.



The performance in the form of cycle which indicate interactive analysis process among components (data collection, data condensation, data display and conclusion: drawing/verifying) continuously run up to the last and finally there is no new data or information.

### 4. Result and Discussion

After analyzing the data interactively at the category changes through translation on the level of explicitness which is higher than ST. It is described as follow.

**Table-2.** Calculation of Shift in the Level of Explicitness which is Higher than Source Text

No	ST	TT	Occurances	Percentage
1	Ø	Word	1	1,67%
2	Word	Phrase	19	31,67%
3	Word	Clause	5	8,33%
4	Phrase	Phrase	13	21,67%
5	Phrase	Clause	13	21,67%
6	Clause	Clause	9	15%
Total			60	100%

The finding as stated in the table above to indicate there are 60 shifts in the level of explicitness which is higher than ST. The shift is divided into six categories as stated above. The changes of word category become phrase are 19 shifts or 31,67%. It is the dominant changes of category in the level of explicitness which is higher than ST. It means

that, this changes played a crucial role on translation accuracy. In addition to that, the table above states that category of  $\emptyset$  become word only 1 shift or the least in the level.

Cohesion shift in the level of explicitness which is lower than that of the ST is the second level on cohesion shift. The description of category changes which lead cohesion shift on this level can be observed in the following table.

**Table-3.** Calculation of Shift in the Level of Explicitness which is Lower than that of the Source Text

No	ST	TT	Occurances	Percentage
1	Word	$\emptyset$	34	21,12%
2	Phrase	$\emptyset$	38	23,60%
3	Phrase	Word	32	19,88%
4	Phrase	Phrase	13	8,07%
5	Phrase	Clause	1	0,62%
6	Clause	$\emptyset$	12	7,45%
7	Clause	Word	8	4,97%
8	Clause	Phrase	10	6,21%
9	Clause	Clause	13	8,07%
Total			161	100%

As stated on the table above, cohesion shift on this level consist of 161 data. There are nine variation of categories changes on this level as stated above. The dominant category changes is phrase become  $\emptyset$ , it consist of 38 shifts or 23,60%. The dominant changes played a crucial role on translation accuracy.

The third level of cohesion shift is implicitation. The implicitation is explicit information in ST changes become implicit through translation. The variation of changes in this level can be observed in the following table.

**Table-4.** Implicitation

No	ST	TT	Occurances	Percentage
1	Word	$\emptyset$	32	14,75%
2	Word	Word	35	16,13%
3	Word	Phrase	3	1,38%
4	Phrase	$\emptyset$	36	16,59%
5	Phrase	Word	20	9,22%
6	Phrase	Phrase	36	16,59%
7	Phrase	Clause	4	1,84%
8	Clause	$\emptyset$	12	5,53%
9	Clause	Word	5	2,30%
10	Clause	Phrase	9	4,15%
11	Clause	Clause	25	11,52%
Total			217	100%

Obviously, table three above indicate that there are 217 pairs of translation which experience cohesion shifts on this level. There are two kinds of category changes which are dominant on this level. The first is the category changes from phrase become  $\emptyset$ . The second is phrase become phrase. The percentage both of them are 16,59%. It means, those dominants changes of categories played the imporatnt role on translation quality especially on accuracy aspect.

The last level in cohesion shift is explicitation. Explicitation is the changes of implicit ST become explicit in TT through translation activities. The distribution of this level changes can be observed in the following table.

**Table-5.** Explicitation

No	ST	TT	Occurances	Percentage
1	$\emptyset$	Word	1	0,81%
2	Word	Word	18	14,52%
3	Word	Phrase	18	14,52%
4	Word	Clause	5	4,03%
5	Phrase	Word	12	9,68%
6	Phrase	Phrase	35	28,23%
7	Phrase	Clause	15	12,10%
8	Clause	Word	3	2,42%
9	Clause	Phrase	2	1,61%
10	Clause	Clause	15	12,10%
Total			124	100%

The variation of this changes can be seen in the table four above. Cohesion shift in this level consist of ten variation of categories changes. There are 124 cohesion shifts on this level and changes of category phrase become phrase are dominant in this level. It consist of 28,23% which indicate that percent has a big portion on translation accuracy.

Based on the distribution of each cohesion shift level and category changes, the total of each level can be seen in the table 5 below.

**Table-6.** Total of Cohesion Shift Level

	Cohesion Shift Level			
	Higher	Lower	Implicitation	Explicitation
	60	161	217	124
Total	562			

Obviously, the total of cohesion shifts in the translation consist of 562 data. Related to the first research problem, the table 5 above state that cohesion shift in the level of implicitation is dominant than the other level. It means that translator left or ommit information into TT through translation. Larson (1988) states that some information or meaning is left implicit because of the structure of the SL ; some because it has already been included elsewhere in the text, and some because of shared information in the communication situaation.

In addition to that, reseach problem two indirectly is answered through table five and table three. Based on the table three, there are two categories which are dominant in that level. They are phrase become Ø and pharase become phrase. It means that, implicitation was occur in the translation of PLLT since the category changes from phrase become Ø and pharase become phrase. Larson (1988) states that some information is left implicit because of the structure of the SL.

The accuracy of translation had been rated by *inter-raters-reability* with three raters which have different knowledge background. The first rater is profesional translators from *Himpunan Penerjemahan Indonesia* (HPI). The second rater is a profesional translation from flitto. The last rater is reseracher himself who has knowledge on linguistics.

The impact of cohesion shift in the level of explicitness which is higher than ST on Translation accuracy can be seen in the following table.

**Table-7.** The Impact of SITLOE which is Higher than ST on Translation Accuracy

Percentage of	Accuracy			Σ
	R1	R2	R3	
Score 3	82%	87%	62%	77%
Score 2	18%	13%	3%	11,33%
Score 1	0%	0%	35%	11,66%
Average	2,67			

Based on the table above, the first rater indicate the percentage of translation which categorized accurate is 82% and less accurate is 18%. The second rater indicate that 87% translation is categorized accurate while 13% is categorized less accurate. The third rater states that 62% translation in this level is categorized accurate, 3% is categorized less accurate and 35% is categorized not accurate.

Based on these calculations above, the average of translation accuracy is 77%, the average of translation which less accurate is 11,33% and the translation which categorized not accurate is 11,66%. It is to indicate that 77% from 60 cohesion shifts in this level is categorized accurate. This accuracy since the dominant changes of category from word to phrase. In the range from 1 upto 3, the score of translation accuracy is 2,67.

The next impact on translation accuracy since shift in the level of explicitness can be observed in the following table.

**Table-8.** The Impact of SITLOE which is Lower than ST on Translation Accuracy

Percentage of	Accuracy			Σ
	R1	R2	R3	
Score 3	84%	76%	49%	70%
Score 2	8%	20%	3%	10%
Score 1	8%	3%	48%	20%
Average	2,50			

Obviously, the first rater states that 84% cohesion shifts on this level is categorized accurate, 8% is categorized less accurate and 8% is categorized not accurate. The second rater states that 76% is categorized accurate, 20% is categorized less accurate and 3% is categorized not accuratte. The last rater argues that 49% is categorized accurate, 3% is categorized less accurate and 48% is not accurate.

Based on these findings on translation accuracy based on rater perspective, the average of this translation which is categorized accurate in 70%, 10% is categorized less accurate and 20% is not accurate. Cohesion shifts on this



level consist of 161 data, it means that 113 pairs of translation were translated accurately. The score of the translation accuracy is 2,50 in the range of 1-3.

The impact of cohesion shift in the level of explicitation through translation on translation accuracy can be observed in the following table.

**Table-9.** The Impact of SITTM ST Changes into Explicit Through Translation on Translation Accuracy

Percentage of	Accuracy			$\Sigma$
	R1	R2	R3	
Score 3	88%	87%	70%	82%
Score 2	10%	12%	5%	9%
Score 1	2%	2%	25%	10%
Average	2,72			

The table above indicate the first rater categorized 88% the translation is accurate, 10% is less accurate and 2% is not accurate. The second rater states that 87% the translation is categorized accurate, 12% is categorized less acceptable and 2 % is not accurate. The last rater states that 70% is accurate, 5% is less accurate and 25% is not accurate. Based on raters' perspective on translation score, it is concluded that translation is categorized accurate 82%, less accurate is 9% and not accurate is 10%. The impact of this cohesion shift level is positive (2,72) on translation accuracy.

The last level on cohesion shift is implicitation which have impact on translation accuracy. The description about the impact can be seen in the following table.

**Table-10.** The Impact of SITTM ST Changes into Implicit Through Translation on Translation Accuracy

Score	Accuracy			$\Sigma$
	R1	R2	R3	
3	80%	73%	47%	67%
2	11%	22%	3%	12%
1	9%	5%	49%	21%
Average	2,45			

Based on the third raters above, it is concluded that 67% the translation is accurate since cohesion shift in the level of explicitation, 12% is categorized less acceptable and 21% is not accurate. While, the accuracy of translation is categorized fair, it means that not too bad and good. It can be seen from the average score, it is 2,45 in the range of 1 upto 3.

## 5. Conclusion

Related to the research findings, it can be concluded that, there are 562 data which experience cohesion shift. Obviously, table 6 indicates that cohesion shift in the level of implicitation is a dominant cohesion shift than the other level. It's to describe that translators of PLLT textbook left many source information through translation. The implicit cohesion shift level played a negative impact on translation accuracy, it can be observed on table 8. It's concluded that implicitation is a bad strategy to achieve the accuracy of translation.

In addition to that, the dominant changes of implicitation level is caused by the linguistic changes on category phrase become Ø; 36 shifts and phrase become phrase; 36 shifts. Based on the findings above, the researcher concludes that cohesion shift on explicitation level is a well strategy to attain the accuracy of translation. The description about it can be seen in the following table.

**Table- 11.** The Impact of Cohesion Shift Levels on Translation Accuracy

	Cohesion Shift Level			
	Higher	Lower	Exp	Imp
Score of Translation Accuracy	2,67	2,50	2,72	2,45

**Note:** Exp : Explicitation Imp : Implicitation

Based on the table above, the higher of cohesion shift level is recommended strategy after explicitation level. While the implicitation and lower cohesion shift level are not recommended on translation activities since the accuracy of translation are categorized less accurate.

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