



Translation Techniques of the Responses of Refusal Speech Act in Percy Jackson the Last Olympian

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v6i6.1171>

Abstract

This study is about the analysis of English refusal strategies, the responses and how the sentences accommodating the response are translated into Bahasa Indonesia. The data were taken from the last series of Percy Jackson & Olympians series entitled Percy Jackson and the Last Olympian and its translation version Percy Jackson dan Dewi Olympia Terakhir. The aims of this study are to find out the types of refusal strategies in the original novel, what speech act accommodates the response of refusal, and to identify what techniques applied to translate sentences accommodating the response of refusal speech act. This study used refusal strategies theory proposed by Beebe et al (1990) in order to analyze the refusal strategies as the linguistic data. Meanwhile, translation techniques theory proposed by Molina and Albir (2002) was used to identify the translation techniques applied by translator.

Keywords: *Translation; Translation Techniques; Refusal Speech Act; Refusal Strategies*

1. Introduction

Translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language as it is intended by its author (Newmark, 1988). Translation, however, is not simply transferring the messages from the source text into the target text due to its process of getting the messages is not an easy feat. Every language has its own way to package its meaning. The meaning components are packaged into lexical items but the way it is packaged is different from one language to another as stated by (Verity & Larson, 1986). Even though translation is basically a change in form transferring message from one language into another is not as simple as merely transforming the form of the part of the language. It is thanks to the translation process involves two different language which are not only in form of system, which is surface structure, but also in its deep structure.

As translation is not simply changing the form of the language in order to transfer its messages, translation needs other disciplines to work with messages. In the process of transferring messages, some apparatus to identify meaning are needed. Linguistics is a discipline which bridges to understand the messages behind both the source and the target text.

Text can only be approached through interpretation as simply transferring word for word during translation process can cause its messages meaningless and illogical. It is due to the correspondence between orthographic words and element of meaning are different from one language to another (Baker, 1992). Therefore, involving context in understanding the meaning is a must. Context comprises situational and cultural. Situational context is who speaks to whom, where, in what condition, and for what reasons an utterance appears (Homeidi, 2005). A single utterance, however, may convey different meaning in different situation and cultural background which then leads to opposite interpretation depending on the context in which it is processed. Cultural context, on the other hand, comprises all the values, belief system, and also the history that shape a society. Thus, understanding both source and target language cultural background is essential for a translator. It is in line with Nida (2001) stated that translation is communicative process in a certain social context.

Translation emerges as a written medium and useful connection to communicate in different language, culture and background (Fitria, 2015). Translation can also help people to share any perspective of this world – as well as information, knowledge, ideas. Translation requires two or more languages so there must be a differences on it like the structure, culture, and style. Therefore, translation is very useful as it can bridge those who do not have good ability in understanding particular language.

The structure of utterance in target text (TT) which reflects difference is refusal strategy. Refusal is a negative response to an offer, request, invitation and suggestion (Searle, 1969). It becomes important because sometimes the speaker cannot always agree or must give positive response to the hearer. There are two main types of refusal strategies as proposed by Beebe et al. (1990) including direct and indirect refusal. Furthermore, the formulas have been classified as direct and indirect refusal strategies. They also include adjuncts to refusals under the indirect refusal. However, the way people use refusal strategy tends to be different. For example, Western culture tends to be direct while Eastern one seems to be indirect. These differences may render difficulties to translator in transferring meaning. Furthermore, the way translator transfers meaning is known as translation technique. It aims to know how the translator in translating SL into TL to understand the reader of view from translation products. For example:

Data 04/TLO/DOT

Situational context

Percy suggests that they should wait a little while longer.

Percy: “Maybe we should wait. Try to fight without—”

Nico: “No!” “It has to be now!”

ST: “No!” “It has to be now!”

TT: “*Nggak!*” “*Harus sekarang!*”

The example shows that Nico directly refuse the suggestion Percy made. It is then being translated as what it was intended in ST. Both in ST and TT, Nico uses negative willingness/ability as a direct refusal strategy.

Therefore, this study will analyze what refusal strategies applied and what is the response from the refusal. Moreover, this study also tries to reveal how translator reproduces the sentences accommodating the response of refusal speech act.

2. Methodology

This study used descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative descriptive study typically implemented an eclectic but reasonable combination of sampling, data collection, and analysis. This method is used to describe linguistic phenomena, particularly on the the sentences accomodating refusal speech act collected from the novel *Percy Jackson and the Last Olympian*. Both English and bahasa Indonesia data were then compared in order to get the translation techniques – as it is a research based on translation studies. The data were obtained through content analysis. The data were sentences accomodating refusal speech act in *Percy Jackson and The Last Olympian* and *Percy Jackson dan Dewi Olympia Terakhir*. Translation techniques theory proposed by Molina and Albir (2002) was used in order to formulate what techniques translator used to translate the refusal.

3. Findings and Discussion

3.1 Refusal Strategies in the Last Olympian

Based on the categories of the part of speech, there are twenty-three utterances which accommodate the refusal speech act found in the first twenty-three chapter of the novel. The utterances, then, are categorized based on the refusal strategy which then come to the following table.

Table 1. Distribution of the Refusal Strategy

No.	Refusal Strategy	F	%
1.	Direct	8	34,78
2.	Indirect	15	65,22
Total		23	100

It was found out that indirect refusal strategy is the most refusal strategy applied in the refusal speech act in *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Last Olympian*.

Data 03/TLO/DOT

Situational context

Rachel's father suggests that Rachel should go to doctor because he felt like Rachel is not healthy.

Directive : "We could call Dr. Arkwright, he helped you get through the death of your hamster."

Refusal act : "I was six then, and **no, Dad, I don't need a therapist.** I just . . ."

Data 01/TLO/DOT

Situational context

Kronos orders Krios to guard Mount Othrys as he would go to attack Percy and his army.

Directive : "Krios, you shall remain and guard Mount Othrys."

Refusal act : "**I always get the stupid jobs. Lord of the South. Lord of Constellations. Now I get to babysit Atlas while you have all the fun.**"

The bold on data 03 describes how Rachel refuses her father suggestion. She applies direct refusal strategy and shows her negative willingness/ability. In data 01, on the other hand, it shows that Krios uses indirect refusal strategy. He shows his lack of enthusiasm to follow what Kronos had ordered. That refusal strategy is acceptance that function as refusal of indirect refusal strategy.

3.2 Response of the Refusal Speech Act

Based on the prior analysis on the applied refusal strategy, the study finds out that assertive speech act is dominantly used to respond the refusal speech act. It is shown in the following table.

Table 2. Speech Acts Accommodating the Response of Refusal Speech Act

No.	Speech Act	F	%
1.	Assertive	18	78.26
2.	Directive	4	17.40
3.	Expressive	1	4.34
Total		23	100

From the table above, there are three speech acts of the sentences accommodating the response of refusal speech act. First, assertive is the most dominantly used as a response to refusal (18 data). While directive (4 data) and expressive speech act (1 data) respectively are the other speech acts used as a response to refusal.

Data 01/TLO/DOT

Refusal : "I always get the stupid jobs. Lord of the South. Lord of Constellations. Now I get to babysit Atlas while you have all the fun."

Response : "**As for you, Krios, do your duty.**"

Data 04/TLO/DOT

Refusal : "No! It has to be now!"

Response : "**Um, you sure you're okay?**"

Data 12/TLO/DOT

Refusal : "I cannot."

Response : "**Then you don't care!**"

The examples above shows what speech act accommodating the response of the refusal speech act. Data 01 is assertive speech act. Eventhough Krios refuses his order, Kronos still insist that Krios should follow what he had ordered. Data 04 is directive speech act. It shows that Percy was confused with what Nico did. Nico clearly refuses Percy's suggestion and he seems mad with what Percy suggested so Percy responded with questioning whether Nico was okay or not. The last example, data 12, is an expressive speech act. The way Nico responded Hermes' refusal is showing that he was angry with what Hermes said.

3.3 Translation Techniques

After obtaining the sentences accommodating the response of refusal speech act in English and Indonesian versions, they are compared to reveal translation techniques. As Molina & Albir (2002) suggested, they are 18 techniques of transferring meaning from SL to TL. In this study translator only uses 9 techniques dominated by established equivalent as follows.

Table 3. Translation Techniques of Sentences Accommodating the Response of Refusal Speech Act

No.	Translation Techniques	F	%
1.	Established equivalent	59	60.82
2.	Variation	15	15.46
3.	Pure borrowing	8	14.03
4.	Explicitation	7	7.21
5.	Implication	3	3.09
6.	Modulation	2	2.06
7.	Transposition	1	1.03
8.	Linguistic amplification	1	1.03
9.	Paraphrase	1	1.03
Total		97	100

From the table above, there are 97 translation techniques used to translate 23 data of sentences accommodating the response of refusal speech act. The most dominant translation techniques used is established equivalent (all 23 data). While variation (10 data), pure borrowing (7), explicitation (7 data), implication (3 data), modulation (2 data), transposition (1), linguistic amplification (1), and paraphrase (1) are the other translation techniques used, respectively.

Based on the explanation above, there are nine translation techniques which then is classified into four more categories, namely single, couplet, triplet, and quartet variant strategy. The single variant uses established equivalent. The couplet variant consists of the combination of established equivalent & variation, established equivalent & modulation, established equivalent & explicitation, established equivalent & implication, established equivalent & pure borrowing, and established equivalent & paraphrase. Furthermore, the triplet variant consists of established equivalent & pure borrowing & variation, established equivalent & pure borrowing & explicitation, established equivalent & variation & implication, established equivalent & variation & modulation, established equivalent & variation & transposition, and established equivalent & transposition & linguistic amplification. The last, quartet variant, consists of established equivalent & pure borrowing & variation & explicitation.

First, established equivalent as a single variant translation techniques refers to using the familiar terms or phrases (based on dictionary or language in daily used). For example:

Data 13/TLO/DOT
 ST : “Too late,”
 TT : “**Terlambat**,”

From the example above, *terlambat* is a familiar word and usually used in daily life. It is also a dictionary word for translating the expression too late.

Second, couplet variant refers to the combination of two translation techniques. For example:

Data 07/TLO/DOT

ST : “You have to”

TT : “**Kau harus melakukannya**”

From the example above, *kau* is the variation of the translation of you, which normally translated into *kamu* as its standardized version. While *harus melakukannya* uses established equivalent translation techniques.

Third, triplet variant refers to the combination of three translation techniques. For example:

Data 06/TLO/DOT

ST : “You mean you don’t trust me anymore,”

TT : “**Maksudmu kau nggak memercayai lagi,**”

The word *maksudmu* uses transposition technique as its position of head and modifier is reversed. The normal established equivalent translation will be *kamu bermaksud*. While *kau* and *ku* use variation techniques as they have standardized form which are *kamu* dan *saya*. Furthermore, *nggak*, *memercayai*, and *lagi* use established equivalent as the translation technique.

Fourth, quatlet variant refers to the combination of four translation techniques. For example:

Data 19/TLO/DOT

ST : “You’re the last Olympian, and the most important.”

TT : “**Anda adalah dewi Olympia terakhir, dan yang paling penting.**”

From the example above, the word *anda* uses variation translation techniques as it has standardized word for it, *kamu*. This translation also uses explicitation technique in the word *dewi*. In ST the word Olympian means God and it has no specific gender but it is translated into *dewi Olympia* which the word *dewi* represents female gender. The word Olympia itself uses pure borrowing as it is translated into the same Olympia in the TT. Moreover, established equivalent is the last translation translation technique used for translating the words *adalah*, *terakhir*, *dan*, and *yang paling penting*.

Conclusion

Refusal is one of speech act express to refuse offer, suggestion, request or invitation from others. This is usually expressed directly and indirectly. This study found that the dominant refusal strategy in the novel *Percy Jackson and the Last Olympian* is the writer tends to exploit indirect refusal strategy than direct one. After obtaining the refusal strategies, this study tried to find out the response of the refusal. This study found that there are three speech acts accomodating the response of refusal speech act, namely assertive, directive, and expressive. Besides, by comparing those response in English and Indonesian versions, the study reveals nine translation techniques used by translation for handling the sentences

accommodating the response of refusal speech act. They are established equivalent, variation, pure borrowing, explicitation, implicitation, modulation, transposition, linguistic amplification (1), and paraphrase. From those translation techniques used, translator frequently uses established equivalence which is considered as a familiar translation and usually used in daily life. Henceforth, translation of sentences accommodating the response of refusal speech act in *Percy Jackson and the Dewi Olympian Terakhir* reflects familiar and usual translation.

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