

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Translation

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Abstract

Language as a fundamental part to communicate with other people becomes crucial since it engages other disciplines. Many of the communication products are in English which might bring difficulties to understand or interpret the meaning due to the language variations. SFL can bridge the meaning and context which usually becoming a problem faced by the translators. This article aims to depict a brief concept of SFL and translation and attempts to figure out the relationship among linguistics and translation, especially the implementation of SFL in translation field. The article elaborates ideas from several experts in linguistics, specifically in SFL and translation. This revealed that SFL promoted by linguist named M.A.K Halliday linked and can be applied in translation. It is crystal clear that SFL also has a role in developing the theory of translation that can be proved by Juliana House in the book *A Model for Translation Quality Assessment* (1977) and Roger Bell in book entitled *Translation and Translating: Theory and Practice* (1991).

Keywords: language; SFL; translation

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a way of people interacting with others. It means that the basic competencies in which people use to make a relationship. Language is one of fundamental part of social life. Furthermore, language has strong engagement with field of other disciplines. For examples, there are so many articles, books, and literary works deal with language. Unfortunately, some fields of these products of language are written in English form. There will be so many readers who find difficulties to interpret or understand the content of the text since it writes in English language. Aminudin and Hidayati (2021) explained that the gaps among languages have an effect on the need of translation due to variations in the languages that many people used to interact with others or convey meaning. This what makes the role of translator is very crucial as well as the translation process (Sholihah et al, 2018). It can be assumed that the role of translators will provide translation forms from foreign language into first language or target language. This will be so helpful for all the readers who reading the article, journals or books as the references. The readers will be easier in understanding the context of what they are reading about. According to Nida (1974) as cited by Jiraphatralikhit *et al.* (2005), believes that translating consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and second in terms of style.

It can be assumed that translation means to retell the meaning itself. Moreover, translating is not an easy activity. Being a translator should be able to master the foreign language and the first language culture either lexical or grammatical form. This means to help in constructing the ideas or authors' point of view. As possible, translators must be able to make the result of translation as good as possible in order to amuse the readers that consciously they are reading a translation form. Besides, Barnwell (1983, p. 23) stated that a good translation should be able to scope in terms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability. In other words, to achieve good translation, the translators should master either the foreign language or foreign language. Translators translate from more concrete meaning to the abstract meaning such as context, culture and ideology.

Systemic Functional Linguistics is a theory which highlighting language as a media to construct the meaning and context (Egins, 2004, p. 327). Meaning and context are the faced problem by the translators. SFL can bridge both meaning and context in which engaging with broad meaning of linguistic and a wider context. For instance, some researchers have conducted about translation analysis by using SFL approach to analyze their data. In this paper, the writers will focus on some points of the theme. Thus, there are some objectives of this paper as follows: first, to introduce and define about brief concept of SFL and its figure of translation fields. Second, this paper aims to know the relationship among linguistics and translation. Third is to know about the implementation of SFL in translation field. The last is to find out some translation theories which influenced by SFL.

2. Systemic Functional Linguistics

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is firstly proposed by Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday or commonly called by M.A.K Halliday. SFL is a theory of language, which highlights the relationship between language, text and context (Halliday & Hasan, 1989). SFL is a functional theory of language, which describes how people use language to make meanings in context (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). Systemic means meaning making or sense making in context. Functional means a description of language functions. It can be assumed that, this approach tends to find out ways of language used by human beings which arranged into different contexts (context of culture and context of situation).

Systemic Functional Linguistics investigates language as a sign which can be analyzed based on the structural or the use of language. The language use is closely related to why and how language is used. SFL takes into account a set of linguistic choices and meaning potential to make meanings differently (meaning & impact). These language choices and potential rely on three strands of language meanings (meta-functions): The ideational function (Field-Experience), the interpersonal function (Interaction/Engagement), and the textual function (Organization of Discourse) (Hodgson-Drysdale, 2014). Besides, in Systemic Functional Linguistics fields, Halliday could not be separated from these three figures namely; Malinowski, Firth, and Whorf.

3. Relationship between SFL and Translation

The relationship among SFL and Linguistics could not be denied. Some of the theorists believe that linguistics has important role in translation fields. An English linguist, P. Fawcett ever stated that without tight engagement with linguistics, a translator seems working without any complete tools (Fawcett, 1997). At this case, this will provide the proof that SFL can be useful for the theory and practical in translation field. This also presents the reason of choosing functional grammar as the tools to analyze the text. Regardless of skillful in two languages either foreign or first language, translators implies having so much knowledge and gets them master to a certain subjects depending on the translated text. Although, the common problem faced during translating is about vocabularies and the expression, yet the problem is not only about the vocabularies. The grammatical structures also contribute to the crucial roles. Depending on the important role of translation, C. Taylor Torsello stated:

...grammar should be a part of the education of a translator, and in particular functional grammar since it is concerned with language in texts and with the role of grammar plays, in combination with lexicon, in carrying out the specific functions and realizing specific types of meaning (Taylor Torsello 1996, p. 88).

Based on the statement above, it can be said that grammar plays important role in translation fields. Functional grammar is more focusing on defining language in the sides of the use and text and its context. Since functional grammar engages with language and how language is used in a certain text, so that functional grammar is in accordance with the objectives of translation. Then, what text is actually. Text is a fragment or the culture that produce it (Miller, 2005). Whilst, Halliday and Hassan defined text is as a unit of language in use (1976, p. 1). The aims of this study are to find out the linguistics theory which investigates language as a dynamic communication tool and semiotic social (Halliday, 1978). SFL deals with how language works, how to construct language, and its social function. In other words, SFL is a theory which orientating with contextual and socio-linguistics in which viewed language constructed from the culture. The meaning itself will only be understood based on the socio-culture. This will be so clear enough if faced with translation fields. The translator does not only know and understand the social context and different culture related to the text sources, but also he/she should be able to translate the meaning within different environment to the target text.

In other words, translators are always dealing with different two cultures, either the culture of the sources or the target itself. Translators also used to find difficulties in knowing the specific culture so that the translators should find appropriate way to retell it to the target readers. As the result, an approach is focusing on the language engaging with the context is believed able to prove that that approach becomes a significant of help in translation process.

4. The Relationship between Linguistics and Translation

The relationship between translation and linguistics are inevitable existence. The theorists believe that linguistics has a very large role in translation. A linguist from the UK, P. Fawcett once said that without holding on linguistics, translator as someone who works without complete equipment (Fawcett, 1997). Among many approaches science, not many theorists who completely deny the linkage relationship between linguistics and translation.

Based on C. Taylor, "... translation is undeniably a linguistic phenomenon, at least in part" (Taylor, 1998, p. 10). Fawcett states (1997, p. 2), the relationship between linguistics and translation can practically the same money. On the one hand, the findings can be applied linguistics the practice of translation; On the other hand, linguistic findings may be used to build a linguistic theory of translation. Bell even found translation very valuable for linguistic: "... as a vehicle for testing theory and for investigating language use" (Bell, 1991, p. xvi).

So now the question is, why would linguistics and theory SFL discussed are functional? Here will be explained the proof about SFL which can be useful for the theory and practice of translation and grounds the selection of functional grammar as a tool to analyze the text. Regardless of proficiency in the two languages, the source and target, translation implies a lot of knowledge and demanding the translator for knowing any other disciplines, depending on the text translated. Although the most obvious problems that arise when doing translation may seem a matter of words and phrases, a translation problem is not merely a matter of selecting the vocabulary; grammar also has a role that is extremely important. Indeed, functional grammar prefers to talk in terms of lexical-grammar, which includes good grammar and lexis (Halliday, 1978, p. 39).

With reference to important role in the translation, an expert, Torsello states that grammar should be a part of the education of a translator, and in particular functional grammar since it is concerned with language in texts and grammar with the role plays, in combination with lexicon, in carrying out specific functions and Realizing specific types of meaning (Taylor Torsello 1996, p. 88). After reading the statement, to say the newly discovered pretty convincing answer to the question: why SFL? However, even better if the discussion continued gradually to the realm functional grammar is the best way to describe, step by step, why SFL can be said to be relevant to translation. Focus the main functional grammar becomes clearer when viewed from theory Halliday stated by himself:

It is functional in the sense that it is designed to account for how the language is used.

Every text [...] unfolds in some context of use [...]. A functional grammar is essentially a 'natural' grammar in the sense that everything in it can be explained, ultimately, by reference to how language is used (Halliday, 1985). Functional Grammar tend to be explained in terms of language used and centered around the text and context. Due to the grammar functionally related to the language and how language is used in a text, it can be said functional grammar in line with the objectives of interpreters; translating text. (Torsello, 1996, p. 91). Then whatever is the text? Miller defines it as

"[...] A fragment of the culture that produces it" (Miller, 2005). Halliday and Hasan itself defines the text as "[...] a unit of language in use" (1976, p. 1). The purpose of this study is to look for linguistic theory which viewed language as a dynamic communication tool and as "social semiotics" (Halliday, 1978). And SFL indeed with regard to how language works, how compiled language, and social functions are contained. In other words, SFL is a theory-oriented and socio-linguistic contextual looking language embedded in the culture, and where meaning can be understood only by refers to the cultural environment. All this is even more evident when dealing with activity translation, when the translator must not only recognize and understanding the social and cultural context that is different in the source text, but also should be able to translate the meaning in a very different environment in target text. In other words, the translator is always in contact with the two cultures different, the culture of the source language and the target language culture.

Translators also often have difficulty in recognizing the privilege of a culture so the translator must find the right way to deliver that privilege to the target audience. As a result, an approach centered on the language attached to the context is believed to prove that such an approach is a significant aid in the process translating. When dealing with the translation of a text, whether literary texts or any custom text, the translator is expected to implement a translation process Bottom-Up, from the realization to the introduction of Lexicalgrammatical meanings in the text as well as reorder the "context of situation" and "culture" that activates the meaning and wording of the sort. Then the translator is also expected to translate appropriately, taking into account the context of language source and target languages. It is also important to note that, in the SFL, the use of the word "Context" does not refer to "the level of text surrounding the text" -that which the terms for it is "co-text". "Context" in SFL refers to the concept of a define and specific that will be discussed later.

Malinowski, a Polish anthropologist, was the first to sparked the idea "Context Situation" in 1923. Halliday states the trail that Malinowski insight of his work on problem-problems in translation, especially issues relating to text "exotic" or "primitive", and culture gathered during his research in Melanesia (Halliday, 1992, p. 24). The idea was later Malinowski developed by Firth (Halliday and Hasan, 1985, p. 8) and subsequently functional grammar incorporated into the model by Halliday.

5. The Theory of Translation Influenced by SFL

After a discussion of the theoretical basis that connects between SFL and translation, this section will discuss how SFL can be applied to the practice of translation. This will be described theories translation influenced by SFL. In translation, there are many translation theorists who develop Functional approach promoted by M.A.K. Halliday's; some of them are Juliane House in his book A Model for Translation Quality Assessment (1977) that is in twenty years later is revised become Translation Quality Assessment: A Model Revisited (1997) and Roger Bell in his book entitled Translation and Translating: Theory and Practice (1991).

5.1 Juliana House

The theory's concept in theory introduced by House analysis registers and the notion of 'equality', because of the translation, according to theorists, definitely tied to either the source or target text reader. The task of the translator is to maintain meaning in two "linguacultures" different. (House, 1977) In her first book, House (1977) introduced the theory analysis detailed registers using the dimensions of the situation. On each parameter, House distinguishes between syntax, lexical and textual meaning. Step comprises on (1) the analysis of the source text and the function of the statement; (2) a comparison between the text source and target text, followed by analysis of "mismatches." In the book, House (1977) distinguishes two types of translation, namely the "overt" and "covert." In the first book, House also introduced the notion of "cultural filter." In the second book, House (1997) still carries some theories on the previous book, but this time House combines with theory analysis is register Halliday (Field, Tenor and Mode) as depicted in the following scheme:

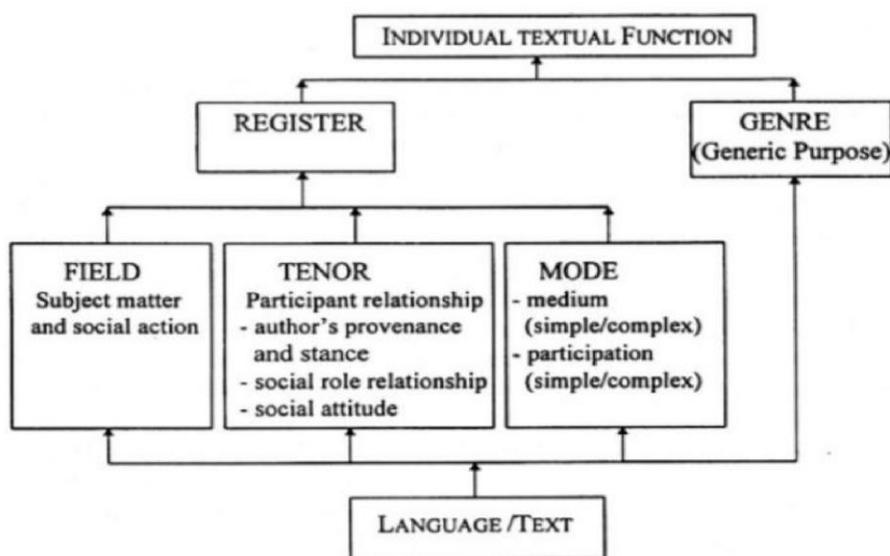


Figure 1 Halliday's Register Analysis: Field, Tenor and Mode

Schemes that carried House to analyze and compare the source text and target text. House (1997) made a model with reference to the assumption of the close proximity between text and context, between linguistics and textual realization and context situation, which is determined by the Field, Tenor and Mode.

In the dimension Field, House describes "what is happening", for instance, on whether the text? or what is happening in the text? or what the topic? Tenor refers to "who participated", and also the nature addresser and addressee, their relationship in terms of social roles, social attitudes also tiers emotional and intellectual. Tenor dimensions according to House also includes geographical origin, and social writer. Then on the dimensions of fashion, House explains how the text embodied, in particular the

communication media used, and the level of participation between addresser and addressee involved. For each sample text, source text analysis performed register. Main dimensions Context Situation - Field, Tenor and Mode - and its sub-categories analyzed in terms lexical, syntactic and textual meaning. Then House also gave a description 'Genre', description of the types of text in a cultural context and purpose.

Synthesis, each containing three major levels: syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic. In its model, an analysis of the clause in the source text is "Change" first into a "language-free semantic representation" (Bell, 1991), which will be used as the foundation of its translation into other languages, as summarized in the following figure:

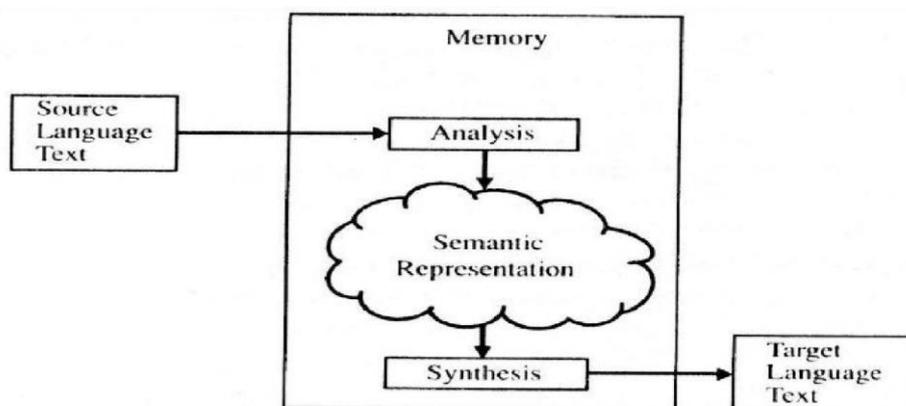


Figure 2 Synthesis Analysis of SL Text to TL Text

5.2 Bell

The analysis is done through a functional and pragmatic categories clause structure, propositional content, thematic structure, feature registers, illocutionary force and speech acts (Bell, 1991, p. 21). Synthesis, on the other hand, includes the objectives, thematic structure, style, and strength illocutionary before obtaining syntactic synthesis (Bell, 1991, p. 58-60).

In the model promoted by Bell, the meaning of the first type, namely, 'Cognitive', or whether the text, expressed by 'macro function ideational', by pulling on the systems and networks "transitivity" or transitivity to make propositions that deliver the user experience of the outside world senses and the world of the mind "(Bell, 1991, p. 121). "Interactional '(or' functional speech') means carried by "macro function interpersonal", by pulling on the system and network "mood" to create a sentence that carries content from the cognitive and logical propositions and featuring speakers' relationships with other people to whom the message is being addressed "(Bell, 1991, p. 121). At the last, "discoursal" meaning expressed by "macro function textual", with interesting systems and networks "Theme" to create and the realization of speech (or text) in the context of actual communicative ". Utterances not only bring propositional content, but also ordered

cohesively and coherently in accordance with the context of use (Bell, 1991, p. 121). Macro function textual meanings set discursial with put both cognitive and interactional meaning in context and make "The difference between the language [which] is suspended in a vacuum and language Operational "(Halliday, 1978, in Bell, 1991, p. 148). Without this macro function, the speaker will only produce a sentence at random. Then how this model can be used by a translator? The translator must first understand the three layers of meaning through analysis their linguistic embodiment. Bell, referring to the kind of meaning that is known, to distinguish between propositions, sentences, and words, in which the proposition is universal, the sentence is specific language and speech related to the context (Bell, 1991, p. 106-108). Bell stated that, among these three things, the proposition is that the most important for the translator: that is not tied to a specific language, have a role the central communication and offer clues fundamental to the process translation. The first task of the translator then was "to outline specific language"of the source text "propositional content into the universal "(Bell, 1991, p. 109). With deduce the structure of the proposition underlying the text, translator "makes sense" of the text source- "major prerequisite for translate"(Bell, 1991, p. 130). While the clause 'explicitly present ', and the proposition is only implicitly (Bell, 1991, p. 129).

Bell stated that, transitivity system is universal, while mood system is languagespecific, because different languages set structure different clauses (Bell, 1991). It is essential thing for translators to know differences in mood system. Modalities are also specific language. For example, the language English verbs additional capital or means to express opinion. "... It is fundamental for the translator to be able to recognize the strength with the which the writer of the [ST] holds an opinion and to be able to render that in an appropriate manner in the [TL]"(Bell, 1991, p. 146). In explaining this aspect,

Bell offers some examples of translation between English and German. As well as system different themes in different languages; in particular, language has a way different to mark the theme. Bells shows some examples of language English and French. Then added that the theme system operates through two systems, that is, schematization and information, but the latter with regard to speech. From what has been outlined above, it is clear that Bell has moved away from a formal approach to the language and begun to embrace functional.

6. CONCLUSION

In light of the discussion above, it can be concluded that the SFL promoted by linguist named M.A.K Halliday linked and can be applied in translation. In fact, SFL can not only be applied in translation, but also has a role in developing the theory of translation. This is evidenced by Juliana House in his book *A Model for Translation Quality Assessment* (1977) that in twenty years and then revised again be *Translation Quality Assessment: A Model Revisited* (1997) and Roger Bell in his book entitled *Translation and Translating: Theory and Practice*. (1991).

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