

## THE TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH IMPLICIT SITUATIONAL MEANING OF CONTEXT INTO INDONESIAN

Romel Noverino (1), Ati Sumiati (2), Anita (3)  
Fakultas Sastra, Jurusan Sastra Inggris Universitas Gunadarma (1) & (3)  
Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris  
Universitas Negeri Jakarta (2)  
[romel@staff.gunadarma.ac.id](mailto:romel@staff.gunadarma.ac.id) (1), [a\\_sumiati@yahoo.com](mailto:a_sumiati@yahoo.com) (2),  
[anita\\_dj@staff.gunadarma.ac.id](mailto:anita_dj@staff.gunadarma.ac.id) (3)

### **Abstract**

*This research aimed at investigating the translation of English implicit situational meaning of context into Indonesian. This is a descriptive analytical study on how English implicit situational meaning of context is translated into Indonesian by analyzing English implicit situational meaning of context found in the novels *One Two Buckle My Shoe* by Agatha Christie and its Indonesian translation *Satu Dua Pasang Gesper Sepatunya* by Alex Tri Kentjono. This research the researcher conducted can belong to ‘qualitative research’ as there is a description of data from the source as well as from the product of the translation of implicit meaning in the novel. The result of this research is that English implicit situational meaning of context should be translated into Indonesian by way of giving contextual description toward the source contexts so that the intended meaning can be rendered clearly and understandably.*

**Keywords:** *Implicit Situational Meaning, Translation, Pragmatics, Context*

### **Introduction**

Where the communication takes place, when it takes place, the age, sex, and social status of the speaker and hearer, the relationship between them, the presuppositions that each brings to the communication, the cultural background of the speaker and the addressee, and non-verbal communication and many other situational matters result in situational meaning. Implicit situational meaning of context means the understanding of meaning taken from the context of the sentences or utterances.

A text may be completely unintelligible to someone who does not know the culture in which the language is spoken because there is so much situational meaning (Larson, 1984). When translating into another language, the original situational meaning may need to be included in a more overt form if the same total meaning is to be communicated to the readers. For example, in a sentence *I really love Jodie Foster in The Silence of The Lambs*. *The Silence of The Lambs* is a well-known American movie and Jodie Foster is the leading actress of the movie. For people who do not know who Jodie Foster is or what *The Silence of The Lambs* is, the sentence may be meaningless or even confusing and for a translator, such sentence may have to be translated explicitly by giving explanation of the implicit situational meaning of the text. However, for people who do, the sentence is understandable and for a translator, such sentence may be translated implicitly by assuming that the readers understand the implicit situational meaning of the text.

## Theoretical Review and Method

### Theoretical Review

In pragmatics (interpreted in the broadest sense of the term), the boundary between 'language' and 'the world' is blurred, such that meaning is found in *the use of language in the world*. Thus, pragmatics is defined as the study of *meaning as language use*. In the words of Wittengstein (1968), 'meaning is use'. Since 'use' presupposes the context in which language is used, we can also say that pragmatics studies 'language in context'.

One aspect of pragmatics which is very important in relation to this study is implicature. Based on Grice's theory, communication is a cooperative activity, and any utterance is assumed to comply with the principles of cooperative interaction. Grice's conversational implicature is derived from a general principle of conversation plus a number of maxims which speaker will normally obey. The general principle is called the Cooperative Principle (1975). The conversational conventions, or maxims, which support this principle are as follows: (Brown and Yule, 1983)

- I. *Maxims of Quantity*: 1. Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the exchange). 2. Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.
- II. *Maxims of Quality*: 1. Do not say what you believe to be false. 2. Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence
- III. *Maxim of Relation*: Be relevant.
- IV. *Maxims of Manner*: Be perspicuous. 1. Avoid obscurity /of expression. 2. Avoid ambiguity. 3. Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity). 4. Be orderly.

Another aspect of pragmatics in relation to this study is speech acts (Austin and Searle): Language is not only used to make statements about the world. Other functions include naming, promising, asking, ordering, etc. Searle (1969) distinguishes five basic kinds of speech act:

1. **Representatives**, which commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition (paradigm cases: asserting, concluding, etc.)
2. **Directives**, which are attempts by the speaker to get the addressee to do something (paradigm cases: requesting, questioning)
3. **Commissives**, which commit the speaker to some future course of action (paradigm cases: promising, threatening, offering)
4. **Expressives**, which express a psychological state (paradigm cases: thanking, apologizing, welcoming, congratulating)
5. **Declarations** (= performatives), which effect immediate changes in the institutional state of affairs and which tend to rely on elaborate extra-linguistic institutions (paradigm cases: excommunicating, declaring war, christening, firing from employment).

All utterances are thus seen as having functions beyond that of their literal meaning. Each utterance has:

1. **a locutionary meaning** (its semantic, logical meaning)
2. **an illocutionary force** (its function as a speech act)
3. **perlocutionary effects** (i.e. its effects on the receiver)

Thus, *You're going to regret this* has a locutionary meaning predicating future regret of you, has the illocutionary force of a threat, and may have the perlocutionary effect of scaring you.

Since there are many different ideas as to what "context" is and since implicatures are context-based, a brief explanation points out three essential properties of this notion as understood in relevance theory. First, context is a psychological notion; it is a subset of all the information accessible to a person. It is thus a very comprehensive notion, including the surrounding text or co-text as well as any socio-cultural, historical, situational or other kind of information assumed to be available. So it includes what others refer to as "situation", "setting", etc. Secondly, context is not "given", but is selected (Sperber and Wilson 1986). Thirdly, "the selection of a particular context is determined by the search for relevance" (Sperber and Wilson 1986); more specifically, context is that set of information which allows the text or utterance to be "optimally processed" (Wilson and Sperber 1986).

## **Method**

The method used is descriptive qualitative. The data are gathered from two novel versions (English and Indonesian); *One Two Buckle My Shoe* (OTBMS) by Agatha Christie and its Indonesian translation *Satu Dua Pasang Gesper Sepatunya* (SDPGS) by Alex Tri Kentjono. Here the writer read the English novel and identified sentences containing implicit situational meaning of context and then within the Indonesian novel, the writer identified the translations of those implicit situational meaning of context.

## **Analysis and Discussion**

### **Analysis**

The Translation of Implicit Situational Meaning of Context into Indonesian

1. "Mr. Morley?" (OTBMS, p.7)

"Mr. Morley ada?" (SDPGS, p.17)

In this sentence, the context is that Mr. Poirot was going to the dental office. After passing through the entrance door, he saw assistance and asked him "Mr. Morley?". So, the implicit meaning of this utterance is to find out whether Mr. Morley is seeing patients or not. The translation becomes "Mr. Morley ada?" to make a clear and understandable context of the utterance.

2. ", to their **Hitlers** and **Mussolinis**." (OTBMS, p.12)

" , bagi para **pendukung Hitler, Mussolini, ...**" (SDPGS, p.25)

In this sentence, the context is that Mr. Morley was examining Mr. Poirot at his dental office. In doing so, he commented the pleasure of living in England, the existence of Alistair Blunt, Mr. Morley's patient, who meant so much for England financial stability and how democratic the king and Queen of England were and gave criticism to their **Hitlers** and **Mussolinis**. So, the implicit meaning of this utterance is about sympathizers of **Hitlers** and **Mussolinis** who fond of their ideology. The translation becomes "**pendukung Hitler, Mussolini**" to make a clear and understandable context of the utterance.

3. He **drinks** too much. (OTBMS, p.28)

Ia terlalu banyak **minum**. (SDPGS, p.46)

In this sentence, the context is in the word **drinks** has implicit meaning of a habit of consuming alcoholic beverages. The sentence *he drinks too much* implies negative habit. The translation must transfer the implicitness of such bad habit. The Indonesian context of the word *minum* also implies a habit of consuming alcoholic beverages. So, the translation of **he drinks too much** into **Ia terlalu banyak minum** is clear and understandable in transferring such implicitness of negative habit.

4. "M. Hercule Poirot?"

"**Speaking.**" (OTBMS, p.90)

"M Hercule Poirot?"

"**Ya, saya sendiri.**" (SDPGS, p.132)

In this sentence, the context is that this is a phone conversation between Jane Olivera and Hercule Poirot. The question "*M. Hercule Poirot?*" conveyed by Jane Olivera implies a confirmation whether the person speaking to her on the other side of the phone is Hercule Poirot or not. Hercule Poirot replied the question with the expression of "**speaking**" which implies that the person speaking to her on the other side of the phone was indeed him and none other. The translation of "**speaking**" into "**Ya, saya sendiri.**" Implies such confirmation intended in the context in the sentences.

5. "What about Mrs. Chapman?"

"What indeed? 'Who is Sylvia' (**Her name's Sylvia**, by the way). (OTBMS, p.108)

"Bagaimana hubungannya dengan Mrs. Chapman?"

"Bagaimana, ya? Siapakah Sylvia (**Sylvia adalah nama kecil Mrs. Chapman**). (SDPGS, p.158)

In this sentence, there is an implicitness of context in the sentence **Her name's Sylvia**. This is a conversation between Poirot and Japp, talking about a Mrs. Chapman. From the context of the conversation, Poirot asked Japp "What about Mrs. Chapman?". Japp replied "What indeed? 'Who is Sylvia' (**Her name's Sylvia**, by the way). It is clear from the context that Japp answered Poirot's question of a Mrs. Chapman by raising question about the same person with different reference 'Sylvia'. In the bracket, there is an explanation **Her name's Sylvia**. There is anaphoric entailment of reference '**her name Sylvia**' to possessive reference of Mrs. Chapman. In other words, '**her name's Sylvia**' means the name Sylvia belongs to Mrs. Chapman. Confusion may arise here as a name is used as an indicator of a name. A name 'Mrs. Chapman' is explained again with a name 'Sylvia'. A clear distinction from the context has to be drawn between the names 'Mrs. Chapman' and 'Sylvia' as 'Mrs. Chapman' is the name she used after she got married and the name 'Sylvia' is her maiden name. The translation of **Her name's Sylvia** into **Sylvia adalah nama kecil Mrs. Chapman** makes such distinction clear and understandable.

## Discussion

Based on the above analysis, context goes beyond the information expressed in the utterance, they are necessarily implicit. Furthermore, since contextual effects are a prerequisite for relevance, as stated by Sperber and Wilson (1986), it follows that implicit information is not incidental but inherent in human communication: to be relevant at all, an utterance must convey some implicit information. Thus in human communication, implicit information is a prerequisite for relevance, and it is recovered in the search for relevance. However, for an utterance to be communicated successfully, it is not enough that it be relevant, but rather that it be optimally relevant in the following sense: it should give the audience an adequate amount of contextual effects, without causing it to spend unnecessary effort. Put somewhat loosely, the utterance should modify the audience's knowledge sufficiently without undue effort.

From the point of view of translation, the understanding in knowing whether the text has overt or covert information is essential in transferring the language to another

language. Covert text must be carefully translated because it contains information which is not explicitly stated. The translation must employ full awareness in understanding what the covert information is about and accordingly able to give clear and accurate translation to the target language.

### **Conclusion and Suggestion**

English implicit situational meaning of context should be translated into Indonesian by way of giving contextual description toward the source contexts so that the intended meaning can be rendered clearly and understandably. Implicit situational meaning should be translated explicitly if it causes ambiguity or vagueness in the target language. An implicit meaning can be translated implicitly if the entailment of references is clear and understandable; if the target language has grammatical system which allows it; if the implicit meaning is familiar and comprehensible by the target readers.

This study can be a useful guidance in having a field research about measuring the tendency of translating implicit situational meaning, whether the tendency lies in translating it explicitly or implicitly. This is considered worthy as the results can be used as foundation in assessing the quality of the translation in terms of accuracy, clarity and readability.

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