Translation of English Passive Sentences into Indonesian

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ARTICLE INFO

Received: December 27, 2018
Accepted: January 15, 2018
Published: January 31, 2019
Volume: 2
Issue: 1
DOI: 10.32996/ijllt.2019.2.1.19

KEYWORDS

Passive structure, translation, English, Indonesian

1- INTRODUCTION

English voice system provides the choice between the active and passive voice because English is a language with strict word order, they are positioned according to their syntactic function. Passive voice involves the placement of the object at the subject position. Passive voice has function to highlight information. Passive voice can serve topicalizing function. The passive is a marked structure. It implies a certain degree of accentuation conveyed by the writer/speaker. English passive is a construction consists of be + past participle. Passive voice describes the whole process of certain event from the patient’s point of view. There are three markers found in the passive voice, namely be, -ed (past participle) and by. Passive can be classified into passive with agent or agentive passive and passive without agent or non-agentive passive. Voice is a grammatical category that provide two ways in viewing the action without changing the reported fact (Quirk, et al, 1973):

1. The butler murdered the detective.
2. The detective was murdered by the butler.

Sentence (1) is in form of active voice and sentence (2) is in passive voice. Was in sentence (2) is the passive auxiliary, while murdered is a passive participle. The subject, The detective is derived from the object of the equivalent ‘active’ sentence (1). The agent, the butler is related to the subject of the equivalent active sentence.

Passive under the voice analysis has meaning which is dealt with the synonymous information found in their active counterparts. However, they have different information structure, in the active construction, the agent presents old information and becomes the theme or topic of the sentence, meanwhile the rest of the sentence becomes the rheme or comment), whilst in the passive the patient is theme and the rest of the sentence is the rheme (see Halliday 1967). Passive voice involves the placement of the object at the subject position. Passive voice has function to highlight information. It can serve topicalizing function. This construction is a marked structure. It implies a certain degree of accentuation conveyed by the writer/speaker.

Indonesian is an SV(O) language, similar to English, Indonesian also has passive construction. Indonesian passive construction is marked by a verb with prefix di-. This di- construction can make agentive constituent and agentless constituent. Agentive passive is a passive with NP agent. The NP in the di- construction can either be generic or non generic.

(3) Pencuri itu ditangkap oleh polisi
Thief that was arrested by the police
That thief was arrested by the police.

Passive with di- construction showed that the subject of the sentence (3), pencuri itu ‘that thief’ is not as the actor but as one who got an action which is expressed by the predicate, ditangkap ‘was arrested’. Beside the agentive di- construction, there is also agentless di-. The absence of agentive constituent in this construction is acceptable due to two possibilities, first, the agentive constituent is never present formatively, second, the agentive constituent is (optionally) deleted in a certain context.
(4) Sepeda Andi dicuri tadi malam.
Andi’s bicycle was stolen last night.

The doer in the sentence (4) is completely unknown. We completely do not know who stole the bicycle. This kind of passive form is used to express the information that experienced by the subject of the sentence (sepeda andi ‘Andi’s bicycle’) that is stolen, even though the doer is not known or express in the context, this sentence still acceptable. The existence of passive construction in both English and Indonesian is interesting to be discussed from translation point of view.

2- PERSPECTIVE ON TRANSLATING ENGLISH PASSIVE INTO INDONESIAN

Passive is a construction that have syntactic and semantic properties which can be predicted from the verb found in the sentence. Passive sentence can have different looks, namely passive with or without thematic subject, with or without by-phrase, and with or without auxiliary verb. Similar with the English passive voice, Indonesian passive voice has subject as the recipient of the action. Passive voice is an alternative construction to be chosen when the new information is what happened to the subject, who or what did an action, and how the action was done. Passive voice is also chosen when there is unspecified agent in the sentence, the Indonesian has both active and passive construction which marked by certain forms of verb. Indonesian passive showed the movement of the noun phrase functioning as an object to the position of the subject. It is also involved the existence of passive verb, such as verb with prefix di-, ke-, and ter-. Prefix ter- is chosen when there is unintended factor influenced an action found in the sentence. Indonesian passive sentence can be resulted from active sentence with direct object. In this case both active and passive construction used different forms of verbs. The verb of active sentence uses prefix me-, while the passive used prefix di-.

Lisa mengirimkan surat (active)
Lisa sends a letter
NP1 V NP2

Surat dikirimkan oleh Lisa (passive)
Letter is sent by Lisa
NP1 V NP2

In the active structure, the actor/the subject indicates that the subject conveys the active implication, meanwhile its passive construction shows the beneficent plays the role of the sentential subject. This implies the passive construction. The Indonesian passive is not only confined by the existence of the di-verb (dikirim) but disseminates through the whole sentence. The translation of the English passive construction can be done by translating the passive sentence into Indonesian passive as found in the following example:

(5) Some large profits are made by the buyers of the early issues
Keuntungan besar diperoleh para pembeli terbitan pertama

Sentence (5) is an English passive marked by the auxiliary are and past participle made. The existence of elements be and past participle, marked that this sentence is English passive construction. The Indonesian translation of the sentence (5) was also in form of passive construction. The subject of the sentence, keuntungan besar as the counterpart of some large profits, indicates the transformation of the noun phrase functioning as an object to the position of the subject. It was supported by the existence of di- verb, diperoleh as the marker of the passive construction. Prefix di- shows that the doer of this sentence intends to perform the action. As the predicate of the sentence followed by the doer of the action marked by the Indonesian preposition oleh as the agent marker of the Indonesian passive. This conveyed that both SL passive and TL passive are passive agentive.

(6) Some dividend has been paid by every company since at least 1940
Sejumlah dividen dibayarkan oleh perusahaan setidaknya sejak tahun 1940.

Sentence (6) marked by the VP has been paid which is translated into di- verb, dibayarkan in the target language. the doer in this sentence, namely every company intends to perform the action showed in the predicate, therefore this sentence was translated into Indonesian passive construction marked by di- prefix. The choice of this kind of passive construction influenced by the action conveyed by the action, whether the action was done intentionally by the doer or it is an unexpected action will influence the verb chosen in the target language. another alternative of Indonesian passive voice can be seen in the sentence (7).

(7) Some of these were badly affected by the financial squeeze in 1970.
Sebagian dari perusahaan-perusahaan tersebut terkena pengaruh buruk tekanan pada 1970.
Some of these is a NP that fills the position of the syntactic subject, which canonically the object of the sentence. Semantically, this NP is not the agent of the action. Another NP occurred after preposition by, the financial squeeze is the logical subject that refers to the logical subject of the action. The action can be found in the predicate of the sentence (6) in form of VP were badly affected. This VP is in form of past participle as the marker of English passive construction.

The SL passive construction is translated into passive in the target language. There is another marker of Indonesian passive construction found in the target language, namely the form of verb with prefix ter-. As presented in the Indonesian passive sentence, there is a verb with prefix ter-, terkena found in the TL. This Indonesian translation is in form of passive sentence marked by prefix ter-. Verb with prefix ter- is the predicate of the sentence which is used to express the sudden and unexpected action. This form shows that the subject is the receiver of the action which is unexpected thing in the context of the sentence, since none of us ever expect a financial squeeze.

(8) Much attention has been given by practicing analysts to the problem of valuing growth stock.

Para analis mulai banyak memerhatikan masalah penilaian growth stock.

This sentence showed another option in translating English passive into Indonesian that is in form of active construction. The Indonesian active construction was marked by the verb memerhatikan. This verb is prefix men- verb that uses as the marker of Indonesian active construction which the subject of the sentence is the agent of the action showed in the predicate, memerhatikan (notice/pay attention). This active verb was derived from the translation of the English subject of sentence (8) attention which was undergone morphological transformation from a noun into a verb in the target language. This active sentence conveyed similar message as found in the SL. Based on this translation result, it can be concluded that the English passive construction can be parallel with the Indonesian active sentence since the translator intentionally translated the passive SL into an active TL. The translation of this sentence showed that any kind of tenses can be translated into Indonesian active construction marked by prefix men-.

The distribution of men- as found in Indonesian active construction and di- verb (in passive) is complementary, and each of them carries different verbal nuance. Men- verb is focused on the agent meanwhile di- verb is focused on the patient of the sentence. Indonesian structure suggested that Verb with prefix di- can be found in both agentive and agentless passive however the data provided in this paper only in form of agentive passive. The agentive di- can either be generic or nongeneric depends on the context of the sentence.

3- CONCLUSION

Both English and Indonesian have passive constructions. Because of the existence of passive construction in Indonesian, translator mostly chose passive structure in translating English passive into Indonesian. The choice of verbs in the Indonesian passive sentence was determined by the action conducted by the doer found in the sentence whether it was intentionally or unintentionally done by the doer. When the doer did the action intentionally, the verb with prefix di- will be applied whereas unintentional action is marked by prefix ter-.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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