

**ANALYZING THE ROLE OF GOOGLE TRANSLATE IN
COMPREHENDING ENGLISH TEXTS FOR THE 5th
SEMESTER OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF FKIP UKI
TORAJA**

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to determine the role of Google Translate in comprehending English text for 5th-semester students of the English Department of FKIP UKI Toraja. This study used qualitative methods in the form of observation checklists and interviews. To analyze the data, the researcher used the theory of Miles and Huberman. The source of data in this study is 5th-semester students majoring in English. UKI Toraja consists of ten students as research respondents. Through the results of the study, the researcher found the role of Google Translate in comprehending English text, namely the speed and ease of translating Google Translate can provide an initial picture of a text, although it is limited in translating cultures, norms, and social contexts. Based on the results above, the researcher concluded that Google Translate plays a role and is significant in comprehending English texts. Its role and significance include providing ease in the translation process, providing quick translation, allowing students to quickly get an overview of the text they are reading, creating time efficiency, and facilitating cross-cultural communication.

keywords: google translation, comprehending English texts

INTRODUCTION

English comprehension is a necessary ability in the globalized world of today (Siregar, 2023; Rusmiyanto, Huriati, Fitriani, Tyas, Rofi'I, & Sari, 2023). Many people pursue English as a second or foreign language for a range of reasons, including education, employment, or international communication. However, some people may find it difficult to understand English, particularly if they have not studied the language extensively.

Global user adoption of automatic translation technologies, like Google Translate, has increased in recent years. Google Translate is a machine translation system that translates text between languages using artificial intelligence (AI) technology (Benbada & Benaouda, 2023). A method known as statistical translation is used by Google Translate to translate between languages. Google Translate translation system requires two parallel text connections with a combined word count of over a million words in each language, as well as two additional text collections with a combined word count of over a billion words in each language (Wang, Wu, He, Huang, & Church, 2022). English to Indonesian can be translated using Google Translate, and vice versa. Google Translate is available for free on Google's website and mobile app, supporting over 100 languages.

According to Hampshire & Salvia (2010), “Google translate is one of the most common online resources for translation”. It was a free multilingual machine translation service developed by Google to translate text, speech, images, sites, or real-time video from one language into another.

Although Google Translate offers numerous translation advantages, translation still requires specialized knowledge and skills held by translation experts. Proficiency in translation demands a deep understanding of both the source and destination languages, as well as the social and cultural context of the content being translated (Federici, 2020; Durmus, 2023). For a variety of reasons, translation specialists, however, are dubious of Google Translate's ability to produce accurate and trustworthy translations. First of all, although Google Translate's algorithms can recognize context, machine translations often fail to capture the complexities inherent in specific languages and cultures (Adda, Azouze, & Chaabane, 2022). Second, there are words that Google Translate finds challenging to translate, such as terms that have no counterpart in another language (Yulianto, &

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Supriatnaningsih, 2021). Third, Google translate cannot provide complete, context-specific translations, which are required in many professional contexts (Sutrisno, 2020).

As such, translators must understand how Google Translation fits into their whole translation process. In some cases, Google Translation may be able to produce a fairly good translation (Plyth & Craham 2023). However, in certain challenging cases, including translating legal or medical documents, professional translation performed by trained and experienced human translators remains the best option. Human translators continue to be essential in ensuring translation accuracy and consistency, even though technology can be a useful tool in their field of work.

Based on the observations of the researcher in the lecture process, especially in the English study program, most students used Google Translate to facilitate translation. This process allows them access to sources of knowledge in a foreign language, such as articles, papers, and books, that may have previously been understood, but once again it was reiterated that Google Translate is not a perfect tool. Google Translate can have errors and flaws, especially in more complex or cultural contexts (Vieira, O’Sullivan, Zhang & O’Hagan, 2023).

Based on the background above, the researcher chose the following title: **“ANALYZING THE ROLE OF GOOGLE TRANSLATE IN COMPREHENDING ENGLISH TEXTS FOR THE 5th SEMESTER OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF FKIP UKI TORAJA”**. The topic of this title was the use of Google Translation as a translation tool by English Department 5th-semester students to translate words, sentences, or even paragraphs from the original language into English and vice versa.



METHOD

The writer conducted this research at the English Department of FKIP UKI Toraja. Participants in this research had the following criteria: active students at UKI Toraja, students of the English Language Education study program in the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, and students of the class 2021. The writer used a purposive sampling method to determine the participants, who were 5th-semester students consisting of 10 participants. The instruments used were an observation checklist and an interview. In this research, the observation aimed to know the role of Google Translate in comprehending English texts. In order to gather more in-depth information for the study, the researcher observed the participants and conducted interviews with them, asking pertinent questions about their perspectives, experiences, and opinions on the topic at hand. When data was reduced, the field was summed up, the key points were selected, the most important points were given attention, and themes or patterns were looked for. Field reports are therefore easier to handle because they are shorter, simpler, and more logically organized when used as raw materials.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Roles of Google Translate

Automatic translation

The definition of translation was the re-translation of a source language into a target language that has the closest and most reasonable equivalent to the source language, firstly in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of linguistic style” Nida (1969) in (Kim 2004). Based on the research that has been done, researchers provide an understanding of automatic translation. Automatic translation refers to processes that help simplify and speed up the translation process. Google Translate services such as automatic translation have become a very useful tool for students in this digital era. One of the main advantages is the ease and speed of use, where students

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can access this translation service without special skills in the target language. With just a few steps, they can translate text from one language to another without any difficulty. The translation results produced by Google Translate can provide an overview to students, thus helping them gain an initial understanding of the text they are reading.

Based on data from Hidy Maulida's research (2017), students' perceptions of the use of Google Translate in translating English material are positive. They see that Google Translate helps them in translating faster and completing their tasks. These findings support previous research into the speed and ease of use of Google Translate which provides benefits for students.

In Bayu (2020) “Google Translate's role in translation practice was as a translation tool. This tool can assist in doing translation work quickly and efficiently” By utilizing machine translation technology, Google Translate can generate translations in seconds, allowing users to more easily understand text in a foreign language. Despite the challenges associated with automatic translation, especially with regard to speed issues affected by internet connection conditions, the translations generated by Google Translate remain a very useful tool for students. Its ease of use, speed, and ability to provide an overview of both short and long texts in seconds make Google Translate a tool that helps students understand English texts in this digital age.

Equivalence of meaning

According to Eugene Nida & Charles Taber(1960) in (Pym 2014) the purpose of translation was to achieve equivalence or equality of meaning between the source text and the translation. A good translation was considered an equivalent replica in the target language. Based on the findings, researchers concluded that Equivalence of meaning refers to a concept in translation where the translation must maintain the same meaning and message as the original text. In the context of translation,



achieving equivalence of meaning is a key goal, as it ensures that the message conveyed in the original text can be accurately understood by the reader or listener in the translated language.

A study conducted by Zahra & Rosyidah (2021) entitled "Equivalence Errors in Google Translate-Based Translation" shows that although Google Translate does not always speed up the translation process, it can provide a summary of meaning in the source language. Based on the results of the study, researchers compared it with the findings of previous researchers. There seemed to be a discrepancy between the findings found in this research and those obtained from previous research. From the findings, in the previous point, namely automatic translation, it was explained that Google Translate provides convenience and speed in producing instant translations and can give an overview of a text quickly. From the researchers' findings on equivalence of meaning, researchers concluded that Google Translate tends to provide fairly accurate translation results for simple or general texts, but less satisfactory when handling more complex or specific text.

Based on the results of the study, and by relating it to the theory, the findings in this study seem to be in line with several aspects such as the ability of Google Translate to provide a summary of meaning and also limitations in handling complex sentences/idioms. In this study, most respondents appreciated Google Translate's efforts in understanding the general meaning of text and providing translations that are quite easy for readers to understand.

Cultural acceptance

Bennett (2017) "Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity" states that cultural acceptance involves the ability to understand and appreciate cultural differences as well as to communicate effectively among different cultures. Cultural acceptance is the recognition and appreciation of various norms, values, and

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traditions in society. Based on the results of the research that has been done, researchers concluded that Google Translate not only has a significant role to play in cultural acceptance, but also shows that there are challenges in ensuring consistency of translation with cultural values, social context, and norms in the source language.

Werner Rotzoll(1990) in (T Hanitzsch, F Hanusch, J Ramaprasad 2017) this approach emphasizes the importance of considering cultural differences between source and target languages. Translations must take into account social context, norms, values, and cultural assumptions in order to be well-received by the target audience. Based on the findings and by adhering to the theory proposed by Warner Rotzol, it appears that These findings did not support the findings from the theory. The view emphasized by Werner Rotzoll also underscores the importance of considering cultural differences between source and target languages. This includes understanding the social context, norms, values, and cultural assumptions so that the translation can be well received by the target audience. Interviews with 10 respondents suggested that Google Translate is not always able to properly account for these cultural differences, which can affect the quality of translations.

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that Google Translate can vary in providing translations, depending on the complexity of the text or the type of information contained in the text to be translated. The results of this study indicate that Google Translate has a significant impact on cultural acceptance, despite challenges in ensuring consistency of translations with cultural values in the source language. This highlights the importance of a more careful and critical approach in using automated translation tools in cross-cultural contexts.

Comparison of the text

Text comparison is a detailed analysis of two or more texts, aiming to highlight similarities and differences in structure, style, theme, or context (Gerald Prince).



Based on the results of research that has been done, researchers interpret the comparison of the text as the process of comparing two or more texts to identify the suitability of sentence structure and grammatical suitability.

In research conducted by Defina, Aisah, and Adam S. H (2019) "Language Analysis of Translation Results Abstract Speak English into Indonesian With Google Translation," found that there are errors in the translation results produced by Google Translate, especially in terms of sentence structure and proper word selection. These findings did not support the findings from previous, in extract 8 R1 states "Google translate *tends to pay attention to the suitability of sentence structure, but sometimes there are inaccuracies, especially in complex or ambiguous sentences. The same thing was also conveyed by several other respondents such as R9 "Google Translate has paid attention to the suitability of the structure of sentence or tense because... Google Translate used sophisticated language modeling techniques to understand and maintain sentence structure and tense in its translations.*

Based on the results of the study, researchers found that Google Translate tends to pay attention to the suitability of sentence structure in its translation. Although sometimes inaccuracies still occur, especially in complicated or ambiguous sentences. Although most of the translations produced by Google Translate still match the sentence structure of the translation.

Significance of Google Translate

Ease of Use and Speed of Translation

In the context of Google Translate, the simple interface and features such as direct typing and photo features provide an intuitive user experience. The views of Donald Norman, a leading design expert, support this approach by emphasizing the importance of "good usability", i.e. design that allows users to easily understand

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how to use it without much learning. As such, Google Translate meets design principles that prioritize ease of use, ensuring that users can quickly and efficiently use the app without significant barriers. In addition, the emphasis on intuitive layout and the use of clear icons also increases accessibility for users with varying levels of expertise in technology.

Linguist Deborah Cameron highlights the role of speed in cross-language communication to improve the effectiveness of information exchange. In the context of Google Translate, the high speed of translation allows users to obtain English information in seconds, creating a smooth and efficient experience. This is in line with the principles put forward by Cameron, who emphasized the importance of speed in facilitating effective cross-language communication. Thus, Google Translate not only meets user expectations in terms of translation quality but also makes a useful contribution to the efficiency of cross-language communication. In addition, the continuous adaptation of Google's translation algorithm based on usage data provides an added advantage in improving translation speed and accuracy.

Efficiency in comprehending text

Noam Chomsky, an expert on communication and technology, underlined the key role of technology in facilitating cross-cultural knowledge exchange. In this regard, Google Translate plays an important role by providing wider access to English information. With ease of use and speed of translation, In this digital age, Google Translate has become a useful tool for many people in understanding texts from foreign languages. The concept of automatic translation helps in simplifying and speeding up the translation process, allowing users to easily access these services without specific skills in the target language. With just a few simple steps, users can translate text from one language to another without any significant difficulties.



The algorithms and natural language processing used by Google Translate allow the recognition of patterns and structures in the original text, resulting in a fairly adequate translation in a short period of time. It helps the students and learners in understanding English texts quickly, increasing their learning efficiency, especially at the advanced semester level. While not always perfect, Google Translate tends to provide fairly accurate translations for simple or common texts. It provides a general idea of the meaning of the original text, thus helping the reader in understanding the text quickly. However, for more complex texts, the translation may be less satisfactory, and users must take additional steps to understand the context more deeply.

In addition, Google Translate also helps in understanding and appreciating cultural differences through access to texts from different cultures. While not always perfect at maintaining meaning equivalence or accounting for cultural nuances precisely, Google Translate remains a useful tool for expanding cross-cultural understanding.

Thus, Google Translate provides benefits in helping to understand text quickly and easily in this digital age. Although users need to consider critically the quality of translations and potential distortions of meaning or cultural context, Google Translate remains a useful tool in facilitating communication across languages and cultures.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research that has been conducted, it can be concluded that Google Translate has a role in helping 5th-semester students majoring in English FKIP UKI Toraja in understanding English texts. Those roles include providing ease in the translation process, providing quick translation, and allowing students to quickly get an overview of the text they are reading Google Translate can be a



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useful tool in supporting the English text comprehension process such as time efficiency and facilitating cross-cultural communication. However, users should still be careful and understand the limitations and potential errors that may occur, especially in more complex or diverse texts.

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