

EXPLORING CATFORD'S THEORY AND SKOPOS IN TRANSLATING THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY NOVEL BY MATT HAIG

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the types of translation shifts and the factors contributing to their occurrence in the English–Indonesian translation of *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Based on J.C. Catford's theory of translation shifts, the study identifies five categories of linguistic adjustment between the source and target texts: structure, unit, class, level, and intra-system shifts. Furthermore, Skopos Theory, as proposed by Hans J. Vermeer and Katharina Reiss, is employed to explore the functional motivations underlying these shifts, particularly through the principles of Skopos, Coherence, and Fidelity. This research adopts a qualitative descriptive method by analyzing selected utterances from both the original and translated texts. The findings reveal that structure shift is the most dominant type (31.42%), followed by unit shift (22.86%), class shift (20%), intra-system shift (14.29%), and level shift (11.43%). The linguistic and semantic distinctions between English and Indonesian, which reflect the requirement to adapt different grammatical and systemic structures, are the main cause of these shifts. Furthermore, the application of Skopos Theory shows that translation shifts are deliberately used to improve communication efficacy and guarantee reader comprehension rather than only being motivated by structural limitations. Eventually, the shifts contribute to a translation that is both faithful to the original text and functionally equivalent, appealing to Indonesian readers.

Keywords: Translation, translation shift, skopos theory, the midnight library, novel

1) INTRODUCTION

Translation has become a common yet significant role in communication and world literature. In terms of communication, translation can be defined as one type of communication tool that connect two or more different languages (Febriani et al., 2020). In other word, the translator modify language from source to target language that can comprehensive by the readers. Translation used to communicate a text from its original into translated text in order to transfer the text's context (Muamaroh & Hanggraningtyas, 2021). Meanwhile, according to Catford, translation is the process of converting a text from a Source Language (SL) to an equivalent Target Language (TL). To summarize, the process of converting the source language into the target language equally is known as translation. It also focuses on the

relationship between the original and target texts, and has a detailed description of the transformation process occurring at all levels. This is an important guiding method for translation practice (Xie, 2023).

The field of translation is very broad. It includes not only legal records but also literary works such as novels, poems, movies, etc. Newmark (1988) asserts that literary translation is the most testing type of translation. Translators need to understand the text's context in addition to pragmatics and translation. The translator must therefore comprehend and proceed beyond translation shift and translation methods. (Ali, 2023) conveys that literary translation is not without its challenges. Translators often face the daunting task of capturing the nuances of the source language, including cultural references, wordplay, and figurative language, while conveying the intended meaning and emotions in the target language.

Catford defined translation shift as a shift of translation from formal correspondence in process of changing text from Source Language into Target Language. Nida and Taber (1982) stated that common shift is modification that included specific and generic meaning. It can be differed into two types: meaning shift from general to specific meaning and meaning shift from specific to general meaning. (Muamaroh & Hanggraningtyas, 2021).

Machali (1998) proposed translation shifts into two major types, obligatory shift and optional shift. Optional shift is a shift caused by the wisdom of the translator. Moreover, Catford (1965) also proposed translation shift into two major kinds, level or rank shift and category shift. Level or rank shift refers to language item that equivalent in a different level from source language into target language. Category shift refers to departure from formal correspondence in translation.

These shifts are not only caused by linguistic differences, but also by semantic and pragmatic considerations. Besides linguistic factors, semantic factors also play a crucial part in the occurrence of translation shifts. "The relation and the meaning of the source and target language need to be in a harmony since the translation needs to transfer the meaning and information from the source to target language (Sari et al., 2020)". Differences in the meaning system between the source language and the target language may cause translators to make adjustments to convey equivalent messages.

Language and culture are two interrelated things, because these two things have characteristics in communication and have a vocabulary in each country (Ulfiyatuzzuhriyyah & Hilman, 2022)." For instance, the target language may not directly translate abstract or cultural

concepts found in the source language, thus the translator must figure out how to communicate the meaning in a way that the intended reader can comprehend. “Translating expressions with figurative meanings presents a significant challenge for translators because before finding the equivalent, they need to grasp the context embedded in the source language (Cahya & Setyaningsih, 2024).” “Skopos theory puts the main emphasis on the target text instead of the source text. Skopos, another word of purpose, focuses on purpose or goal in determining any translation process, which the purpose refers to the communicative purpose aimed to the target text in the target situation (Nugroho & Asmarani, 2020).

To understand and analyze the translation shift more deeply, the Skopos theory developed by Hans Vermeer (1978) can be used as a theoretical framework. This theory emphasizes that the purpose (scopos) of translation determines the strategies and methods used by the translator. “The top-ranking rule for any translation is the Skopos rule, which means that a translation action is determined by its purpose” (Vermeer, 1989). In this context, translation is regarded as a goal-oriented action, where the translator's decision is based on the function to be achieved in a specific cultural context and communication situation. Three principles of Skopos theory are Skopos Rule, Coherence Rule, and Fidelity Rule. As Skopos theory focuses primarily on the intended purpose of translation, target audience's need and its cultural and social circumstances, thus most of the above-mentioned elements could more likely be ignored as a result of which quality of translation would also be compromised (Ravinder, 2024).

The study aims to examine translation shift and skopos theory in Matt Haig's novel *The Midnight Library* compared to its Indonesian translation *Perpustakaan Tengah Malam*. This novel is one of best seller novel in the world and has been translated in many languages. Further reason for picking this novel is that the researcher fascinating in exploring and comparing the English-Indonesian translation because they are from different language and culture. Thus, it can be said that translating literary work, especially novel is more complicated than translating other literary works (Latifah et al., 2022).

Numerous studies that were relevant to the current topic were found by researchers. Ondok & Tambunsaribu, 2020 conducted the first study “Analysis of Translation Shift in a Novel (English-Indonesian Translation). The objective of this research is to find out the class shift and structure shift in the simple sentences of *Turtles All The Way Down* novel by John Green (2018). The researcher found There are ± 46 shifts of pronoun to noun; ± 15 shifts of adverb to adjective,

5 shifts of preposition to verb, 2 shifts of verb to adverb, 3 shifts of verb to pronoun, 1 shift of noun to adjective, 2 shifts of adjective to verb, 1 shift of verb to adjective, and 1 shift adverb to verb. For structure shift, the writer chose 3 simple sentences for each types of structure shift. For class shift, the writer chose 1 simple sentence for each types of class shift.

Furthermore, Alshahrani et al., 2023 conducted the study “Investigating Translation Shift and Modulation in Literary Translation: A Case Study”. The objective of this study is to examine translation shift and modulation in the American Novel *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk and its Arabic translation. This study used theory of shift proposed by Catford (1965) and theory of modulation proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995). The researcher found that all types of shifts are employed with a noteworthy frequent use of structure shifts, both optional or obligatory and argues about the structural divergence between English and Arabic. There are not so many modulation examples.

Deng & Li, 2024 investigated “The Application of Skopos Theory in News Translation”. This study aimed to analyze applications of the Skopos Theory in the China-English news translation at the three principle: the Skopos Rule, the Coherence Rule, and the Fidelity Rule. The researcher found that the Skopos Theory is widely used in news translation and has a high degree of adaptability. The application of the Skopos Theory can solve most of the problems encountered in news translation, and similarly, it can also solve most of the problems in applied translation. Moreover, Gong, 2020 did another study entitled “Translation Strategies of *The Strange Days* Under Skopos Theory”. The objective of the study is to analyze the advantages of Skopos Theory in the selection of translation strategies for the translation of *The Strange Days* from the perspective of the principle of skopos, coherence, and fidelity. The researcher found four steps to gain some enlightenment of translation strategies.

Since it affects the translation effort, the shift in translation becomes a crucial topic to look into. Numerous research have examined the evolution of innovative translation over time. In the meantime, the current study looks into skopos theory and new translation shift. The results of this study are very different from those of earlier studies due to the variety of research sources used

2) METHODS

Descriptive qualitative research was performed in this study. The researcher employed note-taking and documenting as data collection methods. Matt Haig's book "*The Midnight Library*,"

published by Canongate Books in 2020, and its Indonesian version, "Perpustakaan Tengah Malam," by Dharmawati, published by Gramedia in 2023, served as the sources of the data. Words, phrases, clauses, and sentences make up the data, which is examined according to its skopos and translation shift. Vermeer's theory of Skopos and Catford's theory of translation Shift and Reiss were used by the researcher to examine the data.

The researcher followed several steps during the data collection process. First, to gain understanding about the novel, the researcher read both of English version and Indonesian translation thoroughly. Second, mark the translation shift and translation procedures in the novel. Third, relevant word, phrases, clauses, and sentences that aligned with research objectives and Catford's theory of translation shift and Reiss and Vermeer's theory of translation procedures were identified and made a table analysis.

3) RESULTS

Based on the analysis, it was found that there were five types of shift found in the English-Indonesian translation of the book "The Midnight Library". There were unit shift (8 data), structure shift (11 data), level shift (4 data), class shift (7 data), intra-system shift (5 data). The categories of translation shifts, the quantity of data discovered, and the percentage are displayed in Table 1

Table 1. Types of Translation Shift

No	Translation Shift	Data	Percentage
1.	Unit Shift	8	22,86%
2.	Structure Shift	11	31,42%
3.	Level Shift	4	11,43%
4.	Class Shift	7	20%
5.	Intra-system Shift	5	14,29%
Total		35	100%

Table 1 shows that the greatest translation shift found was Structure shift with 31,42%, then Unit shift (22,86%), Class shift (20%), Intra-system shift (14,29%), and the last is Level shift with 11,43%. The following describes the way the topic is organized according to the different sorts of unit shifts.

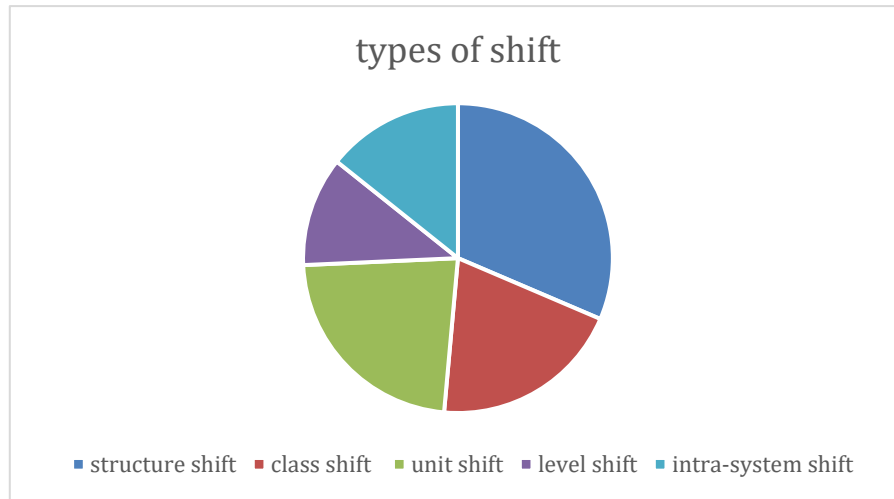


Figure 1. Distribution of translation shift

4) DISCUSSION

4.1 Translation Shift

4.1.1 Unit Shift

According to Catford (1965), unit shift occurred when a unit at one rank has a different translation shift between the source and target languages, this is known as unit shift. For instance:

4.1.1.1 Phrase translated to word

Data 1

Source Language: “Nora forced a smile.” (Matt Haig, 2020:169)

Target Language: “Nora memaksakan diri tersenyum.” (Matt Haig, 2023:226)

Data 1 shows an example of phrase translated to word. In the SL “a smile” is a phrase. Meanwhile in the TL “tersenyum” is a word. Therefore, the unit shift from phrases to words occurs.

4.1.1.2 Sentence translated to phrase

Data 2

Source Language: “It was such a betrayal.” (Matt Haig, 2020:171)

Target Language: “Pengkhianatan besar.” (Matt Haig, 2023:228)

Data 2 shows an example of sentence translated to phrase. In the Source Language “It was such a betrayal” is a sentence. Meanwhile, in the TL “Pengkhianatan Besar” is a phrase. In this case, this shift is happened because the choice of the translator.

4.1.2 Structure Shift

According to Catford (1965), when two languages—the source language and the target language—have differences structural elements and formal correspondence, a structure shift may occur. For example:

4.1.2.1 Modifier Head translated into Head Modifier

Data 3

Source Language: “The younger guy added, stoned-face.” (Matt Haig,2020:170)

Target Language: “Tambah laki-laki yang lebih muda, dengan muka datar.” (Matt Haig, 2023:228)

Based on its context, Because the word order in the two languages differs, the data above indicates a structure shift. The word order formula in the original language is Modifier Head (MH), which displays "face" as the head and "stoned" as the modifier. In contrast, the Head Modifier (HM) word order formula in the Target Language displays "muka" as the head and "datar" as the modifier. The disparity between the source and target languages' linguistic systems is what caused this change.

4.1.2.2 Shift in Sentence Structure

Data 4

Source Language: “Was this what fame was like?” (Matt Haig,2020:171)

Target Language: “Seperti inilah rasanya ketenaran?” (Matt Haig, 2023:229)

The structural transition occurred at the sentence level, depending on the context. The sentence's equation is "auxiliary verb + subject + predicate" in the SL. In the meantime, "seperti inilah rasanya ketenaran?" in the target language "Prepositional phrase + question particle + subject/predicate" is the sentence's formula. The change happens because SL and TL have different syntactic structures.

4.1.3 Level Shift

A level shift, according to Catford (1965) occurs when a source text item at one linguistic level has a translation equivalency at a different level in the target text. Typically, the level shift is from grammar to lexical. For instance:

4.1.3.1 A phrasal verb translated into a verb

Data 5

Source Language: "Nora tried to think of away she could get out of this interview." (Matt Haig, 2020:170)

Target Language: "Nora berusaha memikirkan cara untuk kabur dari wawancara ini." (Matt Haig, 2023:226)

Data 5 shows an example of phrasal verb translated into a verb. In the SL, "get out" is a phrasal verb. Meanwhile, "kabur" in the TL is a verb. Because the target language changes from the grammatical form (phrasal verb) to the lexical form (single verb), the phrase "get out," which translates to "kabur," has a level shift. This change is consistent with Catford's theory's concept of a level shift.

4.1.3.2 Untranslated Past Simple Form

Data 6

Source Language: "She wrote all of them." (Matt Haig, 2020:169)

Target Language: "Dia yang menulis semuanya." (Matt Haig, 2023:226)

The SL sentence in data 6 uses the verb "wrote" in the past simple form, indicating that the action was finished at a specific point in the past. In the target language, the verb was rendered as "menulis." The verb in the SL is equivalent to the translation in the TL. However, the time element and the precise time when the action occurs are not conveyed in the Indonesian translation.

4.1.3.2 Untranslated Past Perfect Form

Data 7

Source Language: "She had retired at twenty-eight." (Matt Haig, 2020: 93)

Target Language: "Ia pensiun umur 28 tahun." (Matt Haig, 2023:124)

The past perfect form "had retired" was converted to "pensiun" in data 7. An experience or event that occurred in the past but is still connected to the past is referred to with the past perfect. The Indonesian translation, however, could not convey the sentence's perfect form from the source language. It is an illustration of a level shift from a Source Language grammatical formulation to a Target Language lexical item.

4.1.3.3 Untranslated Past Continuous Form

Data 8

Source Language: "He didn't tell me he was coming." (Matt Haig, 2020:23)

Target Language: "Dia tidak memberitahuku dia berencana datang." (Matt Haig, 2023:29)

Data 8 Shows an example of level shift. The source language's "was coming" past continuous tense was converted to the target language's "datang." The structure of the past continuous tense is subject + was/were + verb 1 + ing. It alludes to a continuous activity at a certain point in the past. The comparable tense for pas continuous does not exist in the Indonesian language. It follows that the level shift in this data was caused by the various grammatical systems of Indonesian and English.

4.1.4 Class Shift

According to Catford (1965), when the translation equivalent of an item in the source language belongs to a different class than the original, this is known as a class shift. When the word class changes when the source language is at a different level in the target language, this is referred to as a class shift. For instance:

4.1.4.1 Pronoun Translated into Noun

Data 9

Source Language: "She hovered at the intersection of tears and laughter." (Matt Haig, 2020:170)

Target Language: "Nora terbelah antara ingin menangis dan tertawa." (Matt Haig, 2023:227)

Data 9 indicates that the word "She" in the Source Language is a member of the pronoun word class. In contrast, "Nora," the Indonesian translation in the target language, is a noun. When the English pronoun "She" was converted to the Indonesian noun "Nora," a class shift took place in this particular case.

4.1.4.2 Adjective Translated into Noun

Data 10

Source Language: "Dan was very jealous." (Matt Haig, 2020:170)

Target Language: "Dan sangat pencemburu." (Matt Haig, 2023:227)

The class transition from adjective to noun class is also displayed in Data 10. The Indonesian noun "pencemburu" is the translation of the term "jealous" from the source language. In this

instance, the target language has changed the English adjective into a noun. Class shift is a translation phenomenon that happens when an adjective is changed into a noun.

4.1.5 Intra-system Shift

Catford (1965) asserts that when the language systems of the source and target languages diverge, intra-system shift may occur. For instance:

4.1.5.1 Intra-system Shift of verb (Verb-Ing Translated into Verb)

Data 11

Source Language: "I might be working in a shop." (Matt Haig, 2020:172)

Target Language: "Aku mungkin bekerja di sebuah toko." (Matt Haig, 2023:230)

In data 11, the phrase "be working" was translated into "bekerja" in Target Language. The English phrase "be working" menyatakan aktivitas yang sedang berlangsung atau kemungkinan aktivitas sementara di masa kini atau masa depan. Sesuai dengan definisi Catford bahwa system gramatikal ada di SL dan TL, tetapi bentuk atau opsinya yang dipilih dalam terjemahan berbeda.

4.1.5.2 Intra-system Shift of Noun (Plural Noun Translated into Singular Noun)

Data 12

Source Language: "I think 'feathers' is my favorite track, said Marcelo, as the drinks arrived." (Matt Haig, 2020:?)

Target Language: "Kurasa 'feathers' adalah lagu favoritku, kata Marcelo, sewaktu minuman datang." (Matt Haig, 2023:226)

The term "drinks" in the Source Language was converted to "minuman" in the Target Language, illustrating an intra-system shift of nouns in Data 12. The word "drinks" is a plural noun, as is well known. The translating word "minuman" in the target language, however, displays a singular noun. In this instance, "minuman-minuman" or "banyak minuman" should be used if the plural form is maintained in the translation of the original language. Nevertheless, the target language did not adopt the plural form. Intra-system of nouns is the term for this phenomena.

4.2 Translation Shift Causes and Functional Justification Based on Skopos Theory

4.2.1 Linguistic factors causing Translation Shift

There are several factors that stem from the differences between the English and Indonesian language systems such as the first, differences in syntactic structure. For example, passive vs active sentences. Second, differences in word classes, for example, the class of nouns

changes after being translated into verbs. Third, differences in morphological systems, for example, tenses and affixes. For instance:

Data 1

Source Language: "Nora forced a smile."

Target Language: "Nora memaksakan diri tersenyum."

Analysis: In SL, "forced a smile" uses a transitive construction, while in TL the form changes to reflexive. This shows a structural adjustment because in Indonesian, phrases like "forced a smile" sound unnatural.

Data 2

Source Language: "She wrote all of them."

Target Language: "Dia yang menulis semuanya."

Analysis: TL uses an emphasis structure (cleft sentence) to emphasize the agent. This is a grammatical adjustment to make the message more emphatic according to the narrative context.

4.2.2 Semantic Factors Causing Translation Shift

Semantic factors include differences in meaning, cultural context, and idiomatic expressions such as indirect lexical meaning (idioms, metaphors), cultural context and pragmatic meaning, and differences in connotation or emotional intensity. For instance:

Data 3

Source Language: "It was such a betrayal."

Target Language: "Pengkhianatan besar."

Analysis: There is a narrowing of the form. Expressive sentences are turned into phrases to match the intensity and structure of the target language.

Data 4

Source Language: "She hovered at the intersection of tears and laughter."

Target Language: "Nora terbelah antara ingin menangis dan tertawa."

Analysis: The complex metaphor of SL is translated into a direct expression. This is an example of shifting meaning to maintain clarity and understandability (coherence rule).

4.2.3 Functional Justification Based on Skopos Principles

4.2.3.1 Skopos Rule

Skopos means "purpose" in Greek. According to skopos theory, the goal (skopos) of the translational activity is the fundamental principle that governs the translation process. The definition of any action includes the concept of intentionality. Nord (1997). We can infer from the previous introduction that skopos is a technical term for the goal or objective of a translation. The concepts of aim and purpose are distinguished in Vermeer's thinking. Nord goes on to clarify this. The main point of Vermeer's talk is that purpose is a temporary phase in the process of accomplishing an objective, while aim is thought of as the ultimate outcome that an actor attempts to get through an action. For instance:

Data 5

Source Language: "She felt like she was drowning in sadness."

Target Language: "Ia merasa tenggelam dalam kesedihan."

Analysis: In data 5, the purpose of this sentence is to describe a very depressive state of mind. The translation retains the main metaphor of "drowning in sadness" in accordance with the literary scopos that conveys the reader's emotional feelings.

4.2.3.2 Coherence Rule

A translator is in a position to produce a text that is meaningful to target –culture receivers. In Vermeer's terms, the 'TT' should conform to the standard of 'intratextuality coherence'. This is explained in his book in collaboration with Reiss (Reiss and Vermeer, 1984). For a text to be communicative and understandable, it has to be coherent with the receivers' situation. Being 'coherent with' is synonymous with being 'part of' the receivers' situation and context of use. For instance:

Data 6

Source Language: "Nora had seen her life as a series of mistaken."

Target Language: "Nora melihat hidupnya sebagai serangkaian kesalahan."

Analysis: Data 6 shows that the translation is grammatically coherent where the choice "a series of mistaken" can be understood clearly and naturally from the SL translated to the TL.

4.2.3.3 Fidelity Rule

Since a translation is an offer of information regarding an earlier offer of information, it is important to note that there is a link between a ST and TT. Vermeer refers to this link as "fidelity" or "intertextual coherence" (Nord 1997). The relationship between source and target texts is one of intertextual coherence. The translation skopos and the translator's interpretation of the ST determine the form of this coherence. For instance:

Data 7

Source Language: "She wanted to undo her past decision."

Target Language: "Ia ingin mengubah keputusan-keputusan masa lalunya."

Analysis: According to data 7, it shows that there is a slight semantic shift of the word "undo" to mean "cancel" or "negate", not just "change". However, this shift is natural and fits the context, so it remains functionally fidel.

5) CONCLUSION

Five different kinds of shift were identified in the translation of the book "The Midnight Library" based on the investigation. Unit shift, structure shift, level shift, class shift, and intra-system shift were the translation shifts. Structure shift was the most prevalent translation shift, followed by level shift, intra-system shift, class shift, and unit shift. Because the source and target languages have different linguistic systems, this change can be required. In addition, translation shifts in "The Midnight Library" are caused by linguistic and semantic differences between English and Indonesian. However, these shifts mostly strengthen the communication function in the target language. Principles in skopos theory: Skopos Rule, Coherence Rule, Fidelity Rule explain that shifts are made to achieve communication effectiveness and reader comprehension, not merely because of language structure limitations.

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