

EFL Students' Perception in Using Machine Translation in the Learning Process

A Skripsi

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Abstract

With the development of technology, translation can also access from the computer. One of the technologies of translation is Google Translate. In one of private universities, the students also use GT to help them in the learning process. This research is aimed to know the students' perception on the advantages and disadvantages in using machine translation in the process of English language learning. This research employed descriptive qualitative research design. This research was conducted in one of private universities in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. In gathering the data, interview was used in this study. The participants are three students who are in the last semester when this study was conducted. The finding showed that there are six advantages and five disadvantages. The advantages included; GT assist students in reading, GT helps students to pronounce the words correctly using speaker function, GT triggers their cautiousness and understanding about grammar by fixing the grammatical error, GT helps students who cannot write correctly to write the words in correct spelling, GT makes the students easy to enhancing retention of words. The disadvantages included; GT makes the students confuse, GT sometimes cannot translate with the correct meaning and dangerous for students who have low understanding about the translation result, GT reduces the practice in writing, the grammatical error in GT makes students put more effort.

Keyword: Machine translation. Google Translate. Students' perception.

Background of the Study

In language learning aspect, translation tools have been commonly known as a way to help learners during their learning process. Mart (2013) argued that a useful tool in the learning process of English Second Language (ESL) learners is machine translation, and it also helps increase the learner's capability in learning the foreign language. Currently, translation is not only accessed from a printed dictionary. It can also be accessed with more modern tools. Many students use translation technologies such as Machine Translation in their learning process. With the development of technology, the technology itself also plays a role in the other parts of the education system, including foreign language (FL) class as machine translation helps them translate quickly (Farzi, 2016) . Nowadays, people have already familiar with one of online machine translation such as Google Translate. According to Bahri and Mahadi (2016), Google Translate is a service of free machine translation to serve a translating process of the text and message from a language to another language provide by Google Company.

Based on the researcher's experience, machine translation which students most commonly use in the English Education Department in one of the universities in Yogyakarta is Google Translate. They use GT to help them in the learning process whether for classroom activities or take-home assignments. In using GT, the students might find confusion and difficulties. Thus, they have their own perception about the use of GT in their learning process regarding to advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, The researcher interested in investigating the students' perception in using GT in their learning process, and their perceptions on its advantages and disadvantages. In the other hand, the students' perception on the advantages and disadvantages in using GT in the learning process in one of private universities in Yogyakarta has not been investigated yet.

Methodology

The researcher used a qualitative research design to facilitate the researcher to investigate the participants' views, beliefs and opinions with a more detailed fashion. Then, the descriptive design under qualitative research was applied to obtain a deep understanding of the students' perception in using machine translation based on their experiences. Cresswell (2013) stated that descriptive design is the procedure under qualitative research to collect the knowledge about the present existing shape. This research has been conducted at one of private universities in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The participants are three students batch 2014. The instrument for collecting the data was interview.

Finding and Discussion

The Students' Perception on the Advantages of Using Machine Translation (Google Translate) in Learning Process

GT assists the students' understanding in reading.

In understanding the text in journal and textbook, the students sometimes found a lot of words are unfamiliar and too difficult. The students use GT to help them easier understanding the text when they got the task to read the textbooks. The students believed that GT helps the student to gain understanding from journal and makes them easier to assist the reading. The students use GT to read the text by translating the text then they tried to read the text in their language.

GT helps students to pronounce the words correctly by using the speaker function.

GT has some features such as Live Visual Translation, synonyms and definition words, and also Audio or Speaker Function. The speaker function in GT provides the native speaker who pronounces word in a right way or sentences as a model. Thus, participants conveyed the same

statement that they get advantage from this speaker function. They use the speaker function to ensure the pronunciation and learn it with the proper model of speaker. Related to the pronunciation, the participants also answered that GT helps them to learn when presentation.

GT triggers students' cautiousness and understanding about grammar mistakes by fixing the grammatical errors. When translating the text from L1 to English, GT sometimes contains some grammatical error. It triggers the student cautiousness and understanding about grammar mistakes by fixing the grammatical errors. This finding revealed that grammatical error in GT is not always giving negative impact to the students. In contrary, it becomes advantage to the students such as the students can be more cautious in grammatical errors. This particular finding applied for those students who have higher level of proficiency.

GT makes students learn and understand how to match the sentences in the right context by using Thesaurus feature. One of the function features which the users often use is synonyms or thesaurus. Thesaurus in GT provides the synonyms of a word which enable the users to choose the suitable word that the users want. The participants argued that students can learn and know how to match the sentences with the context from the result of the translation. When the machine suggests some alternative meaning of words, the students just need to choose the word which fits with the context that he wants.

GT helps students to write the words which have the difficult spelling. From the result of the interview, the students often use GT as a guideline when they write. Students sometimes forget and do not know how to spell a word when writing. The students use GT by writing the word in Bahasa Indonesia, and the result from GT is English word with correct spelling. This finding also supported by Jin and Deifell (2013) who found that some participants in their study said that they

use Google Translate to help them in checking the spelling of a word and recalling the spelling of the word.

GT makes students easy in enhancing retention of vocabulary mastery. The participant believed that it is easy to memorize what they had translated by themselves, because they experienced by themselves when they use GT. they added that GT makes her easier to find new words. According to Hummel (2014) connecting a new word with other words associated with it in form, meaning, and context can guide students in deeper word processing leading to better memory performance.

The Students' Perception on the Disadvantages of Using Machine Translation (Google Translate) in Learning Process

Translation produced by GT makes the students confused. There are many factors of GT's weaknesses as a MT which makes the students confuse in using GT in the learning process. Explicitly, GT makes them confused with the grammatical structure which sometimes does not showed the right sentence structure from the target language. Then, the participants also believed that this multiple meaning can be disadvantages for low level learner because low level learners sometimes do not take more effort on the synonym. The last is that a word has more than one meaning and sometimes the result showed from GT has not in accordance with the context, so the students must understand.

GT sometimes cannot translate with the correct meaning and it can be dangerous for students who have low understanding about the translation result. The second result is that GT sometimes cannot translate with the real meaning and it can make a disaster for students with low understanding about it. The participants believed that low level students sometimes take

for granted because they do not have enough knowledge about it, they might ignore the sentence without care about the meaning, besides it is not the real meaning of the sentence of idiom. The participants also believed that students with low understanding commonly believe in GT that it is the best choice for them to solve their problem in learning process without they know that they learn something wrong from it. Sometimes, the students also believe entirely the result from GT because they lazy to fix the result. Then, they just copy paste the result.

GT reduces the practice in writing. The third finding discussed about GT which reduces the student's practice of writing. When the students used GT in writing, they sometimes feel that writing is an easy thing. In a long term, they will continuously rely on GT to write, thus his writing skills will not be trained properly. This is in line with Sukkhwan (2014) explanation. Sukkhwan (2014) stated that students' effort in reading and writing English were diminished when they used GT. It is because GT affects the students' ability to think when they are rely in GT while writing.

The grammatical error in GT makes the participant put more effort. The students' purpose in using MT such as GT is mostly to make their works faster and easier. The grammatical errors in GT can makes the students put more effort because they feel doubt and have to correct the errors in grammar. As Korošec (2012) stated that another problem faced when using MT are encountered when correcting grammatical mistakes and composing a time-consuming. Korošec added that even when the students are able to edit the grammatical error of the output of the text, the editing and correcting process takes too much time. In some cases, there are so many grammatical rules and the students cannot understand at all.

Conclusion

The purpose of this research is to know the students' perception on the advantages and disadvantages in using machine translation in the process of English language learning. This purpose guided the researcher to conclude the finding below.

The first is about the students' perception on the advantages of using machine translation (Google Translate) in the learning process. The first advantage that students feel is GT makes the students easier to find the translation of some words while reading the material such as textbooks and journal in the learning process. Then, the advantage of GT in learning process is students feel that the speaker function provided by GT helps them to pronounce correctly based on the standard pronunciation. The third, they feel that the advantage of GT is grammatical error that provides in GT triggers their cautiousness and understanding about grammar mistakes by fixing the grammatical errors. The fourth is that, GT makes the students learn and understand how to match the sentences with the right context by using thesaurus in GT which provides the synonyms of a word enabling the users to choose the suitable word that the users want. Then, students' perception about the advantages of GT is that GT helps students to write the words which have difficult spelling. The last advantage is GT makes the student easy in enhancing retention of words.

The second is about the students' perception on the disadvantages of using machine translation (Google Translate) in the learning process. The result showed that there are five findings about the disadvantages. The first disadvantage in using Google Translate based on the students' perception is GT makes the students confused. The second result is that GT sometimes cannot translate with the real meaning and it can make a disaster for students with low understanding about it. It means that students without enough knowledge about GT basically take for granted the result from GT. The third, GT reduces the student's practice of writing.

Then, the grammatical error in GT makes the participant works twice. The last result is GT makes the students believe entirely and only copy and paste it.

The finding above implies the students obtain some advantages from GT if they use it with attitude and full knowledge about GT. The attitude means that the students do not only take for granted the result and also use it with the right portion as the students. For example, the students get the knowledge in using thesaurus in GT which means the students also has the knowledge about the synonym of words. Thus, they can use GT as their tools only for helping them, not as a source in the learning process. Beside this, the fact is that the students' writing skill is reduced when they depend on GT too much. This means that GT also has disadvantages when the students use GT too much and very dependent on it. Many students consider that GT as the main thing so they are too depend on GT. The students should realize that GT created is not only for the students. Therefore, they need to gain sufficient knowledge so they can reduce to get the disadvantages.

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