The Use of Machine Translation for Legal Documents of University Students in English Department Class

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Abstract: Machine translation is one of the translation tools that are widely used nowadays for different translation areas in translating legal document. This research is aimed to describe the use of machine translation in translating legal documents. It focuses on how students use machine translation and their perception about the effects of using machine translation in legal documents translation both in the translation process and the translation results. This research is qualitative-descriptive research. The subject is 10 sixth-semester students of translation for legal documents class G, English Department of State Islamic Institute of Kediri. In collecting the data, the researchers used open-ended questionnaire consisting of seven items. The result showed that students frequently use machine translation in translating legal documents and they all had positive perception. Students used machine translation for different kinds of reasons. The kind of machine translation that used was various such as Google Translate and CAT tools. Machine translation is also very beneficial for them because it really helps them in translating legal documents although sometimes the results of the translation are inappropriate for legal documents translation area.

Keywords: machine translation, legal documents.

Introduction

English is international language used to communicate by people around the world both in form of written and spoken. In order to be able to use English language, people use various ways such as by doing translation. As the improvement of technology nowadays, there is also an improvement in translation area that is the existence of machine translation (MT). Shuttleworth and Cowie (in Marito and Ashari, 2017) state that Machine Translation (MT) or Automatic Translation is a translation that is performed by computer in fully or partially. Nowadays, we can see that people use machine translation as the translator in many fields. Some previous studies have investigated the use of machine translation in the process of translation. Research by Marito and Ashari (2017) to analyze EFL students' perceptions of machine translation (MT) in translating foreign language found that

students' are familiar with machine translation and they have already used machine translation. Another study with the same topic conducted by Sujarwo (2020) about students' perceptions of machine translation (MT) has the same result as the first study. This study also found that students also use machine translation to learn pronunciation and sounds.

As Indonesian people, translation activities from Indonesian into English is also unavoidable to widely use and one of them is the activities of translating Indonesian legal documents into English. Legal document is the part of legal writing (Stepanovienė, 2014). It is used in professional area like law or another legal institution. Therefore, in translating legal documents, it should be accessible and categorically stated in form, formulated clearly, and based on sufficient, reliable, and current information (Stepanovienė, 2014). According to Camelia (2014), there are many things that consider as legal documents and need legal

translation including application letters, birth certificates, technical patent confirmation, financial statement, deposition records, evidence documents, business contract, and litigation materials. However, translating legal documents is not an easy task to do. It is one of the most difficult among all translation work and it needs correct and accurate translation. Translators must be experienced in statutory requirements and understand the legal intricacies of foreign cultural and also legal systems. If the translator only has knowledge of legal terminology it will not enough (Camelia, 2014). Another thing that makes legal translation difficult is the legal terminology. Every country has its own legal terminology and also legal system. Therefore, translators should have competencies in target language writing style, familiar with the general knowledge and legal system of both source language and target language. When translating legal documents, there is no room for word for word translation. Translators should consider the cultural adjustment.

As the difficulty of translating legal documents, based on the researchers' observation in translation for legal documents subject classes, most all of the students are using the help of machine translation while they are translating legal documents. The kind of machine translation that is used by student is various. It means that the need of machine translation to help students in translation process is unavoidable. It also has been proved by the previous research that machine translation is useful and helpful in translating English text in general. However, it will be different if we talk about translating legal documents because as what has been explained, it is one of the most difficult among all translation work. There are some things that should be considered by the translator. Therefore, the researcher then conducted a research to analyze the use of machine translation

by students in translating legal documents and students' perception about the effect of using machine translation in translating legal documents.

Methods

This research applied qualitative-descriptive method. This method was used because the researcher aims to describe the use of machine translation in translating legal document by students. In collecting the data, the researcher gave open-ended questionnaire to 10 sixth-semester students of translation for legal document class G English Department IAIN Kediri. The questionnaire consisted of 7 open-ended questions modified from Sujarwo (2020) with two indicators those are the use of machine translation by students in translating legal documents and also their perception about how it affect them in the translation process and result. Open-ended questionnaire was used because it gave the respondents an opportunity to give a full and meaningful answer using their own knowledge and feelings (Yanti and Meka, 2019). It also gave the possibility to discover spontaneous response that is given by individual to avoid bias rather than giving suggested answers to the respondents (Reja et al., 2003). After the researcher got the data, the data then was analyzed qualitatively and presented descriptively.

Results and Discussion

The Use of Machine Translation in Translating Legal Documents

First, for the frequency of using machine translation, most of the students those are five students stated that they always use machine translation whenever they translate legal documents. Another five students stated that they are usually, sometimes, and often use machine translation while translating legal documents.

Table 1. The results of students' frequency of using machine translation.

Students	Answer
NAS	I always use machine translation to translate legal documents.
DI	I usually use machine translation but sometimes I also use CAT tools.
ANF	I use machine translation sometimes while translating legal documents.
IL	I often use machine translation.

Second, for the kind of machine translation used by students, all of the students answered that they use Google Translate and some of them collaborate it with online dictionary application such as U-Dictionary.

Table 2. The results of the kind of machine translation used by students.

Students	Answer
IYR	I use google translate.
WAM	I use Google translate and U-dictionary.
ANF	I use Google Translate and sometimes I also use online dictionary application…

Third, for the machine translation usage time, the results show that most all of the students answered that they use machine translation when they have problems with vocabulary and when they find difficult and unfamiliar words of source language while translating legal documents. Other students also use machine translation in different situation.

Table 3. The results of machine translation usage time.

Students	Answer
NAS	If I have some problems with vocabulary.
WAM	When I find difficult words, or in a hurry situation to translate documents.
RAK	To be honest, I always use machine translation for my task because I sometimes doesn't trust myself with my ability in English.
DI	I use machine translation when I do word processing process and then I do post editing for more maximal results. I also use machine translation when I find difficult words that I can't translate.
ANF	I use machine translation when I find difficult words and sometimes when I'm unsure with my manual translation result.
IYR	When I find difficult words that I don't know.

Fourth, related to the problems of using machine translation, from the results of the questionnaire, it is found that students have some kinds of problems in using machine translation to translate legal documents. Some students have the same problems and the other have different kind of problem. One student said that she does not have any problem.

Table 4. The results of students' problems in using machine translation.

Students	Answer
NAS	I find problem like the meaning doesn't make sense.
WAM	Some problems in using machine translation such as can't adapt the culture from original language to the target language so most of the words that appear don't match or the use of grammar sometimes has errors.
DI	Sometimes I find problem that is I need to check the results word by word to make sure the grammatical accuracy because I know that machine translation isn't fully accurate.
ANF	Sometimes I find problem and sometimes I don't find any problem. The problem in using machine translation is because of the internet connection and also the accuracy of word choice.
IL	Sentences or words do not match what is translated and sometimes after being translated the results is different.
IYR	Sometimes the results of translation are inappropriate with the context so we should always recheck.
AR	When I use machine translation, the result of the translation is still in messy form.
RAK	As far as I use google translate, I don't find any problem.

Sixth, about the way students overcome the problems of using machine translation, the students use various ways to solve the problems they have in using machine translation to translate legal documents based on the kind of problems and most of them by rechecking the result of machine translation.

Table 5. The results of the way students overcome the problems of using machine translation.

Students	Answer
WAM	I solve the problems by rechecking every word that has appeared, replacing the words that do not match the sentence/paragraph, and checking the use of grammar.
DI	I solve the problems by rechecking and if I'm still unsure, I will look for the words or phrase in Google make sure that they have been existed in Google.
IL	Sometimes when it is hard I don't translate.
NAS	I use post editing to solve the problems.
IYR	I check the result from Google translate in Grammarly then I do post editing.

Students' Perception about the Effect of Using Machine Translation in Translating Legal Documents

First, for the helpfulness of machine translation, the results show that all of the students stated that machine translation is helpful for them in translating legal documents with different reasons. Here are some answers from the students.

Table 6. The results of the helpfulness of machine translation.

Students	Answer
DI	Machine translation is very helpful because it can make us easier in the translation process. We can do copy paste from source language and automatically the result of translation will available. It is also faster and we just need to recheck the grammar.
IYR	It is helpful because it's very fast and practical.
AR	It is helpful because it makes it easier to do legal documents.
ANF	Machine translation is helpful because it makes us easier in doing translation for legal documents and also we don't need to translate word by word and after that we just need to do proofread.
ACA	Machine translation is helpful for me because it can make out my problems especially in grammar.
RAK	Machine translation is helpful because sometimes there are still some words that unfamiliar to me so I must search the meaning.

And the last, for the advantages of machine translation, students have different perception about the advantages and disadvantages of using machine translation in translating legal documents both in the translation process and result.

Table 7. The results of the advantages of machine translation.

Students	Answer
AL	Using machine translation to translate legal documents save my time and make the results of my translation better.
RAK	It translate my legal document very fast so it can save my time.
DI	Machine translation make my translation process easier and faster.
ANF	Machine translation is easy to use to translate legal documents both in HP or PC besides it is easy to access as long as there is internet. By using machine translation in translating legal documents I can translate the documents easily, practically, and fast.
AR	Machine translation can simplify and speed up the process of translating documents.
ACA	Machine translation is fast and make my results of the translation better.

Table 8. The results of the disadvantages of machine translation.

Students	Answer
NAS	The disadvantages sometimes the result from machine translation doesn't make sense.
WAF	Machine translation will give quite confusing results.
DI	Machine translation sometimes gives inaccurate result of legal documents translation and the translation result is out of context because it is just a tool that doesn't have feeling like human.
ANF	Sometimes the result of the translation of legal documents from machine translation has wrong order, the words choice is incorrect, in legal documents we need formal words but the result is informal words or incorrect, the abbreviation can't be translated completely so I need to look for the other references.
IYR	There are so many result of translation those are out of context and also have grammatical errors.
AR	The translation results are still in a messy form because the process of translating legal documents is by copying the text to a machine translator, then the machine translator will automatically translate the text that has been copied.

Discussion

From the result of the questionnaire, it is found that students use machine translation to help them while translating legal documents. The kind of machine translation used by students is various such as Google Translate and online dictionary applications such as U-Dictionary. Besides, all of the students use Google Translate as the main machine translation. Students require the use of machine translation while translating legal documents in various reasons. They use machine translation when they have problems with vocabulary such as when they find difficult and unfamiliar words of source language. They also use it when they are unsure with the results of manual translation that they have done or because they do not believe in their translation ability. Another reason is because they are in a hurry situation to translate legal documents. This is also in accordance with Gumartifa et al., (2022) who found that the majority of students utilized Google Translate for a variety of objectives such as translating words, phrases, and paragraph sentences. It means that the use of machine translation in the process of translating legal documents is important because students need machine translation to help them in translation process.

Although students always use machine translation while translating legal documents, they also find some problems in using machine translation both in the process and the results of translation. Their problem in the process of translation is because of the internet connection. Because when we use Google Translate or online machine dictionary we need internet connection and if the internet connection is bad we will have problems in translating. Another problem is related to the result of translation. The results from machine translation is sometimes does not make sense, does not match with what is translated, have different meaning after being translated, and it is out of the context. Besides, the results are also have grammatical errors and the form is so messy. This is in line with Kuswardani & Iftitah (2021) who found that Google Translate is not very good at translating. Some of these shortcomings include grammatical problems, inappropriate words or phrases, lack of meaning, inability to translate acronyms, and word-for-word translation. However, related to the context of legal documents, sometimes the word choice is not appropriate and also machine translation cannot adapt the culture of source language. It is because legal documents is related to formal area thus it needs formal words translation and adjustment of source language culture and machine translation have not been able to do that. Even though students have some problems, they also have their own way to overcome their problems. Students do not directly use the results from machine translation because they know that machine translation is not fully accurate. They do post-editing process after getting the results from machine translation. They recheck the vocabulary and the use of grammar manually or by using grammar checker application like Grammarly. They also make sure that the words they use is

appropriate with legal documents area like by doing proofread with the help of Google. That make sure that the legal terminology they used have been available and approved in Google.

Based on the results related to students' perception on the effects of using machine translation in translating legal documents, students stated that machine translation is really helpful for them with different kind of reasons and it gives them some advantages. Machine translation is easy to access and it helps them to make their process in translating legal documents easier, faster, and more practical. Machine translation can automatically translate from source language to another language thus they do not need to translate word by word and after that they just need to do post-editing. Thus, by using machine translation in translating legal documents, it will save their time and make the results of their translation better rather than just depends on manual translation. However, students also get some disadvantages from using machine translation in translating legal documents and all of them is related to the problems of using machine translation for the results of translation. The result of the legal documents translation is sometimes does not make sense, inaccurate, and out of the context. It is also have grammatical errors, have incomplete translation of abbreviation, and the form is still messy thus it is needed to be rechecked again.

Comparing to the results of previous researches, the research by Marito and Ashari (2017) and the research by Sujarwo (2020) have very similar results. Both of the research found that students have positive perception on the use of machine translation in translating foreign language. According to students, machine translation is very useful and helpful. Students use machine translation to translate words, phrases, sentences, and paragraph. They also use machine translation as dictionary. The results from Sujarwo's research (2020) even found that students use machine translation to learn sound and pronunciation. The translation results from machine translation are used as general description and consideration to make the real meaning because the results sometimes have errors in grammar, structure, and meaning. Thus, the results then rearrange and

recheck by students themselves to get a good translation. This research also found that students have positive perception on the use of machine translation. However, the previous researches are related to translation for regular English text and this research is related to translation for legal documents. The results of this research showed that students use machine translation when they have problems with vocabulary or because they do not trust their ability in translation. For legal documents context, sometimes the translation results from machine translation are out of content and cannot adapt the culture from source language. However, students also do not use the translation results from machine translation directly and they do post editing to the results first.

Conclusion

Machine translation is unavoidably used in the legal documents translation. Students use machine translation for different kind of reasons such as when they have problems in vocabulary that is to look for the meaning of unfamiliar or difficult words and when they do not believe in their ability in manual translation. The kind of machine translation that is used is various such as Google Translate and CAT tools. However, students also face some problems in using machine translation like the results have grammatical errors, the meaning does not make sense, out of context, and does not appropriate with the legal documents area. Although they have some problems, they also have their own way to solve their problem that is by doing post editing and proofread with Google.

Students also have positive perception on the use of machine translation in translating legal documents although it also has some disadvantages. It is very helpful for them both in the process of translating legal documents and for the translation results. It makes the process of translating legal documents easier, faster, and more practical. Besides, it makes their results of legal documents translation better rather than just depends on manual translation. Nevertheless, students sometimes still get some disadvantages of using machine translation such as the result of the

translation is inaccurate with the legal documents translation area thus they still need to recheck the translation results manually.

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