

## A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSLATION STRATEGIES FOR THE WORD *LIKE*

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### Abstract

The process of transferring the word *like* into Indonesian includes in the focus of descriptive analytical study. The main issue of this analysis is: What is the translation of the word *like* in Indonesian and what are the strategies applied in translating the word? The main goal of this study is to find out the translation of the word *like* in Indonesian and the strategies applied in translating the word. The sources of the data in this research were “It Ends with Us” novel by Colleen Hoover and its translation. The data were the words *like* found in the English version of this novel and the Indonesian translation. This study employed mixed methods, they were quantitative and qualitative with descriptive analytical approach. The result revealed that out of 75 data analyzed, only nine translation strategies were used in the analysis of the data; they were: literal translation (14 data), unit shift (3 data), transposition (16 data), antonymy (1 data), synonymy (11 data), paraphrase (22 data), emphasis (3 data), repetition (4 data), and clause structure change (1 data). The most dominant strategy used in the analysis is paraphrase. Moreover, out of six principles of translation, there were three kinds applied, namely meaning, form, and idiom.

**Keywords**—the word *like*, translation strategies, principles translation, it Ends With US

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### Introduction

In translation, a translator is required to have a good understanding related to the meaning of the text before transferring it into different language(s). (Newmark, 1988) explained that translation means expressing the meaning of a text in another language while keeping the writer’s original message. However, some difficulties may arise due to the inadequate understanding of both the source language and its target languages. These concerns might include language aspects such as grammar, meaning, word order, culture, and other related issues.

The word *like* according to the history of language has been developed over time. In this modern era, *like* can be defined into several meanings based on the purposes of context. (Meehan, 1991) stated that *like* is termed as grammaticalization. Grammaticalization explained by (Lehmann, 1982) is the action of gradual change which is not only concerned with the lexical change and grammatical item, but also concerned with the grammatical shift.

The word *like* is sometimes considered multi-meaning. When a translator tries to translate the word *like*, he/she needs to know the function and the implementation of the word, whether it is used as adjective, verb, noun, and so on. In addition, the word *like* can have various meanings and it can cause obstacles in translating the word correctly in the target text. This problem occurs if the translator does not have grammatical knowledge of the word.

This research is considered important to discover how the word *like* is translated from the English into Indonesian. In addition to that, there might be some contrasts in translating the word. Given the difficulty of rendering the English word *like* into Indonesian, this is considered essential for a translator to firstly comprehend the original meaning of the sentence in its source language before attempting to render it in the target language. It is in line with the stages of translation process, such as

analysis, transfer, and restructuring. In this case, the researchers are curious to find out how a translator translated the English word *like* into Indonesian.

There are some relevant researchers conducted by researchers concerning some similar English words. (Yunita, 2016) explored how the word *as* is translated into various grammatical unit and found two strategies applied in transferring the text. (Mahanani, 2018) focused on the ability of using *have* as verb and auxiliary in students' writing and discovered that the students are still confused with most of the sentences. Another research is from (Sigurd, 2013) who analyzed verb phrases and suggested a two-part solution in which the auxiliary verb is considered one unit and the main verb group is viewed as another.

On the other hand, this research is a descriptive analysis that investigates the word *like*. This study focuses on analyzing how the word "*like*" is translated into Indonesian and identifying the strategies used in the translation process. Furthermore, the researchers focus on examining the word *like* into Indonesian and how it is translated. The researchers have chosen the English novel "It Ends with Us" written by Colleen Hoover as the source of data and its translation novel "*Akhir di Antara Kita*" translated by Anggraini Nur. This novel was chosen mainly because it has been highly praised by the author of *After*, Good Read Review, and The New York Times Book Review. In conclusion, this research focuses on how the English word "*like*" is translated into Indonesian in the novel *It Ends with Us* and what translation strategies are applied in the process.

## Literature Review

### Translation

It is proposed by (Hatim, 2004) that translation is the act of conveying a text from the original language into the target language. In some cases, descriptive analytical is chosen as the way of conducting the translation research. It is used because it aims to analyze and discuss the status of current phenomenon and then gives a detail analysis and explanation on how the translation occurs.

### Translation Strategies

According to (Chesterman, 2016), there are three main categories into which translation techniques can be divided: syntactic strategies, semantic strategies, and pragmatic strategies. The first category, known as syntactic strategies, involves transformations at the structural level of language, focusing on modifications in form. This group includes techniques such as literal translation, loan, calque, transposition, unit shift, phrase structure change, clause structure change, sentence structure change, cohesion change, level shift, and scheme change. In contrast, semantic strategies concentrate on alterations related to meaning at the lexical or clause level, which Chesterman refers to as manipulating meaning. Strategies in this category encompass synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, converses, abstraction change, distribution change, emphasis change, paraphrase, and trope change. The third group, pragmatic strategies, is primarily concerned with choices related to the communicative purpose and information structure in the target text, essentially manipulating the message to suit the target audience. These strategies include cultural filtering, explicitness change, information change, interpersonal change, illocutionary change, coherence change, partial translation, visibility change, and trans-editing.

### Meaning Variations of *Like*

The word *like* according to the history of language has been developed over time. In this modern era, *like* can be defined into several meanings based on the purposes of context. Since this research is concerned with the translation of the word *like*, (Meehan, 1991) stated that *like* is termed as grammaticalization. Grammaticalization explained by (Lehmann, 1982) is the action of gradual change which is not only concerned with the lexical change and grammatical item, but also concerned with grammatical shift. For instance, the change of *like* from verb into adverb, there is a grammatical shift that changes the grammatical form, such as in the form of suffix, part of speech, compound words, and comparative sense. Moreover, Suffix is a part of bound morpheme which consists of one or more letters at the end of word. Part of speech is called a traditional term that describes the role of word in a sentence

(noun, verb, preposition, etc). Furthermore, the word *like* in language can be classified into verb, adjective, and noun. On the other side, compound word is compounding more than one morpheme that creates new word and meaning. Lastly, comparative means comparing one thing and another thing that has similarities that represent each other. The term *like* can also be used as comparative that refers as similar to which means *in the same manner* or *to the same extent as*.

## Research Method

The method of the research was Descriptive Analytical Study which reveals the data both quantitatively and qualitatively. Quantitative data were used because the researchers provided data findings. Then, the data were analyzed qualitatively related to the principles of translation, translation strategies and theories used in translating the English word *like* into Indonesian. In this descriptive analytical study, the factual data were examined and explained in order to provide a critical evaluation. By using this method, the researchers tried to analyze what was the translation of the word *like* into Indonesian along with empirical, description, and evaluation.

Moreover, the sources of the research data were the novel “It Ends with Us”, written by Colleen Hoover and was published in 2016 and its translation “*Akhir di antara Kita*”, translated by Anggraini Nur and was published 2019.

The main focus of this research was the final outcome of translating the word *like* into its target language, Indonesian, as found in the source data. The researchers collected 150 data. However, there were only 75 data to be analyzed. Those 75 data are known as sample. In short, the sampling technique that will be used in this research is random sampling. Creswell (2009) states that random sampling is a method in which every individual has the same chance of being chosen from the population, making the sample representative of that population.

## Results and Discussion

The researchers translate 150 data contained the word *like* from the novel “It Ends with Us”. From those data found in the source book, 75 data have been analysed. Each datum has been analysed and described to find out the principle and strategy of translation that had been used by the translator. The 75 data were chosen and analysed randomly in the hope to be fairly representative. The principle of translation and translation strategies found in the source book could be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1. Translation Principles found in translating the novel “It Ends with Us”**

No.	Translation Principle	Data	Percentage
1	Meaning	52	69%
2	Idiom	22	29%
3	Form	1	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>		75	100

As seen in Table 1, the translation principle of Meaning is the most dominant, with 52 occurrences, representing 69% of the total data analyzed. This indicates that the translator prioritized preserving the semantic accuracy and intended meaning of the word *like* rather than focusing on structural or idiomatic equivalence. The Idiom principle appears 22 times (29%), making it the second most frequently used principle. This choice reflects an attempt to maintain the naturalness and cultural appropriateness of the translation, especially when *like* functions as a discourse marker or informal expression in spoken dialogue. Meanwhile, the Form principle is the least applied, with only 1 data (2%). This indicates that formal or structural equivalence was rarely prioritized.

In this translation strategies, the researchers use nine strategies in translating the *like*. Further, the outcome of the explanation is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2. Translation strategies found in translating the novel “It Ends with Us”**

No.	Category	Translation Strategy	Amount	Percentage
1	Syntactic Strategy	Literal Translation	14	19%
2		Transposition	16	21%
3		Unit Shift	3	4%
4		Clause Structure Change	1	2%
5		Cohesion	4	5%
6	Semantic Strategy	Synonymy	11	15%
7		Antonymy	1	1%
8		Emphasis Change	3	4%
9		Paraphrase	22	29%
<b>TOTAL</b>			75	100%

As for the translation strategy in Table 2, the researchers found 9 out of 30 strategies translation proposed by Chesterman. They are literal translation (14 data), transposition (16 data), unit shift (3 data), clause structure change (1 data), repetition in cohesion change (4 data), synonymy (11 data), antonymy (1 data), emphasis reduced in emphasis change (3 data), and paraphrase (22 data). This shows that the most dominant strategy is paraphrase with 22 data, indicates that the translator frequently reformulated the expression of like to produce a more natural and contextually appropriate rendering in the target language.

In contrast, clause structure change and antonymy, each appearing only once, represent the least frequently applied strategies. This suggests that structural reformation at the clause level and meaning reversal were rarely required in translating the word *like*, possibly because its function in the data analyzed was more semantic-pragmatic rather than structural in nature. In addition, the following are the translation strategies found in the novel “It Ends with Us”.

#### Example 1: Literal Translation

ST: I *like* my life enough to want to see it through.

TT: *Aku lumayan suka hidupku dan bertekad menjalaninya sampai selesai.*

In the original text the word *like* contains a function as a verb. According to Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (2015), the word *like* as a verb means the action of enjoying something pleasant or attractive according to their own standard. According to *Kamus Inggris Indonesia* by Echols and Shadily (2014), the word *like* means *suka, gemar, menghendaki*. The word *...like...* in the source text is translated literally as *...suka...* in Indonesian, thus the strategy is called literal translation.

## Example 2: Transposition

ST: Jesus. He has to stop saying things *like* that.TT: *Ya Tuhan. Ryle harus berhenti mengatakan hal-hal **semacam** itu.*

The word ... *like*... in the source text is an adverb and it is translated into ...*semacam*... as an adjective. The word ...*like*... as an adverb can be used to ask somebody's opinion of somebody or something. According to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia Daring*, the word "*semacam*" in the target text functions as an adjective meaning *sejenis*, *seperti*, or *serupa*. Therefore, there is a shift in word class from a preposition to an adjective. This type of translation strategy is known as Transposition.

## Example 3: Unit Shift

ST: I *liked* tonight.TT: *Aku **tadinya suka** malam ini.*

The unit shift found in this data is categorized as a change from a single word to a phrase. The word ...*liked*... in the source text is a verb in the simple past tense, while in the target text, it is translated as ...*tadinya suka*... which functions as a verb phrase. Since the Indonesian language does not have a simple past tense form, the suffix -d in ...*liked*... is represented by ...*tadinya*... to show that the verb ...*suka*... refers to an action that occurred in the past. This shift occurs because the translator aims to maintain the meaning of the source text consistently in the target language.

## Example 4: Clause Structure Change

ST: I told him we had to start some kind of charity, or at least donate to the ones Marshall and Allysa *like*.TT: *Aku bilang padanya kami harus membuat satu kegiatan amal, atau paling tidak menyumbang ke badan-badan amal yang **disukai** Marshal dan Allysa.*

In the original text, the word ...*like*... is expressed in the active voice, whereas its passive form is ...*are liked*... In the target text, it is rendered as ...*disukai*... which is in the passive voice. This indicates a shift from active to passive construction during translation. Such a shift may occur because not all active verbs carry an active sense, and not all passive verbs convey a passive meaning. Consequently, the translation strategy used in this case is classified as clause structure change.

## Example 5: Cohesion

ST: The tourists treat you *like* a local; the locals treat you *like* a tourist.TT: *Para turis memperlakukanmu **seperti** penduduk setempat; penduduk setempat memperlakukanmu **seperti** turis.*

In the source text, the word *like* appears twice and is translated into *seperti* in the target text, also repeated twice. Although repetition can sometimes occur in careless writing, it may also serve a functional purpose when used intentionally to create a specific rhetorical effect. In this case, Ryle, as the speaker, was explaining to Lily about the behavior of tourists and locals in Boston to someone new to the city. Therefore, the repetition is used to emphasize the contrast between the tourists and the local Boston behavior. As a result, the translation strategy applied here is repetition in cohesion change.

## Example 6: Synonymy

ST: I just really *like* this moment and it saddens me that we couldn't spend the entire pregnancy full of moments *like* these.TT: *Aku sangat **menyukai** momen ini dan aku sedih karena kami tidak bisa mengisi seluruh waktu kehamilanku dengan momen-momen **seperti** ini.*

In the source text the word ...*like*... is mentioned twice. The first ...*like*... in the sentence “I just really *like* this moment.” is translated into ...*menyukai*... in the sentence. The second ...*like*... in the sentence “it saddens me that we couldn’t spend the entire pregnancy full of moments *like* these.” is translated into ...*seperti*.... Synonymy used in the translation to avoid repetition. Hence, this strategy is called synonymy.

#### Example 7: Antonymy

ST: I know you’re **nothing like** my father,” I say.

TT: *Aku tahu kau sama sekali berbeda dengan ayahku,” ujarku.*

In this data, the translator translated the source text ...*nothing like*... into ...*berbeda*... instead of ...*tidak seperti*... Nothing is identified as negation element and it is transformed into positive because it is not translated in the target text. The translator selects an antonym to translate the word *like* into *berbeda*, which emphasizes that this translation strategy is called antonymy.

#### Example 8: Emphasis Change

ST: He looks at me. **Like** really looks at me.

TT: *Dia memandangu. Benar-benar memandangu.*

The word *like* can be used interjectionally in informal speech often to emphasize a word or phrase. Lily as the utterer in the source text used the word ...*like*... to emphasize the word *look* and to tell the reader that Ryle was looking at her very deep because Ryle was curious with her story. In the target text, the translator did not translate the word ...*like*... because the word *really* which translated into *benar-benar* is enough to emphasize the word *look*. This strategy involves adding, reducing, or modifying the emphasis or thematic focus of a text for certain reasons. Therefore, it is referred to as emphasis change.

#### Example 9: Paraphrase

ST: For the first time since he picked me up last night, I **feel like** talking about it.

TT: *Untuk pertama kalinya sejak dia menjemputku semalam, aku merasa ingin membahas kejadian ini.*

The expression *feel like* doing something functions idiomatically in English, conveying the nuance of wanting or being ready to perform an action. In the context of the dialogue, Lily initially experiences shock due to Ryle’s rude behaviour and Atlas’s sudden intervention. In Indonesian, the expression *feel like* can be rendered as *ingin* or *merasa ingin/rasanya ingin*, which carries a similar sense of desire or emotional readiness. In this case, the idiomatic form ...*feel like*... in the original text is rendered into the non-idiomatic structure ...*merasa ingin*... in the target text. Rather than maintaining an idiomatic equivalent, the translator chooses to reconstruct the meaning in a more direct and explicit form. Therefore, the translation strategy used in this data is paraphrase.

In addition, the analysis shows that among the translation principles identified, meaning is the most applied principle with 52 occurrences, while form is the least applied, appearing only once. In terms of translation strategies, paraphrase emerges as the most frequently used strategy, with 22 data found, whereas clause structure change and antonymy are the least used strategies, each appearing only once in the data.

The research reveals that translating the word *like* consists certain challenges, particularly when it functions beyond its literal meaning and carries pragmatic or idiomatic nuances. In this case, finding the closest natural equivalent in Indonesian without removing the original intention becomes a key concern. These difficulties, however, can be addressed through the use of suitable translation strategies. The analysis indicates that the translator seems to rely on paraphrase more than other strategies, as it allows the meaning to be conveyed more naturally in the target language, especially when dealing with spoken expressions. At the same time, the dominance of the meaning principle suggests that maintaining accuracy and clarity for the reader is prioritized than maintaining the exact form of the source text.

## Conclusion

This study focuses on a single research question, which is the ways in which the word “like” is rendered in Indonesian translation. From a total of 150 collected samples of the word *like* found in *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover and its Indonesian version translated by Anggraini Nur, only 75 data were selected for analysis.

The findings show that nine translation strategies were applied: literal (19%), transposition (21%), unit shift (4%), clause structure change (2%), repetition in cohesion change (5%), synonymy (15%), antonymy (1%), emphasis reduced in emphasis change (4%), and paraphrase (29%). In addition, three translation principles were identified: meaning (69%), idiom (29%), and form (2%).

From these results, it is evident that paraphrase is the most frequently applied strategy, while meaning stands out as the most dominant principle applied by the translator in rendering the word *like* into its target language.

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