



Department of Digital Business

Journal of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Business (RIGGS)

Homepage: <https://journal.ilmudata.co.id/index.php/RIGGS>

Vol. 4 No.4 (2025) pp: 561-571

P-ISSN: 2963-9298, e-ISSN: 2963-914X

The Translation Of Complex Sentences In “Cantik Itu Luka” Novel

Alexander Goldy Orlando¹, Ni Made Verayanti Utami², Putu Devi Maharani³

Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati University Denpasar

goldy.orlando@gmail.com¹, verayanti.utami@unmas.ac.id², devi.maharani@unmas.ac.id³

Abstract

This study investigates the sentence structures found in the novel and the acceptability of their translations in the target language. The data were collected through direct observation and analyzed using a descriptive qualitative method. The study was conducted because English exposure in countries where English is not the native language does not guarantee that people can fully understand and use it accurately. The analysis identified seven intentional complex sentences that were translated into corresponding complex sentences in the English version of the novel. The original author predominantly used the subordinators “untuk” and, in several parts, “agar.” In the English translation, a variety of subordinators were employed to maintain grammatical and contextual equivalence. The structural distribution shows that Independent–Dependent constructions appeared in 75% of the data, while Dependent–Independent constructions accounted for 25%. This indicates that the translator generally preferred maintaining the source text’s syntactic pattern, ensuring readability and coherence in the target language. Based on the questionnaire responses, approximately 88% of the translated complex sentences were considered easily understood by respondents, indicating high translation acceptability. However, according to Larson’s (1984) theory of Translation Acceptability, two sentences failed to meet the acceptability criteria due to minor issues in meaning equivalence and naturalness. Overall, the findings highlight the importance of syntactic and semantic accuracy in literary translation to preserve the author’s intent and maintain fluency in the target language, especially when translating complex sentence structures across linguistically distant languages.

Keywords: Complex Sentence, Translation, Acceptability

1. Introduction

Sentences is a form of a linguistic expression that built by components that grouped into a meaningful word (Wikipedia, n.d.). Every language has their own grammatical structure that makes them a sentence. In English, chain of words might be considered as a sentence if it consists of at least a noun and a verb. In Indonesian, a sentence needs at least a subject and a predicate. Over decades, linguists have worked on differing sentences by some categories. Sentence divided into many kinds, with various type of distinction (e.g. by structure, by function, by forms, etc.). One of them might be identified by the grammatical structure that includes a subordinator that connects an independent clause with dependent clause. This kind of sentence was named as complex sentence. Complex sentence includes the independent clause, dependent clause, and subordinator (Simmons, n.d.). The independent clause could stand by itself, yet the dependent clause must be attached into independent clause to make them meaningful. The structure could be altered, whether independent first, or dependent first. Subordination have been also utilized in many written texts. Many sides of the complex sentences open up unto a profound understanding to reveal. As humans grow by each of the decades with various changes in how people use language, the study of complex sentence would always remain new forward alongside of the era.

The complex sentences, as broad as itself, are having wider scale of phenomenon in its translation towards another language Translation is a transferring process from the source language into target language (Jayantini, 2019 : 5). Translation between languages has become an ordinary occurrence, since people in current status quo already exposed with numerous languages in their daily activities. People might even unconsciously often build a translation in our brain. In theoretical manner, based on Nida and Taber view (1969), translation would progress over 4 steps, including analysis, transfer, structure, evaluation, and revision. Although translators passed the evaluation and revision of the equivalence in the target language, the acceptability of the translation would still be questionable and can be thoroughly studied. Acceptability of translation indicates how people receiving the translation understand and able to drain out the meaning of the translation (Larson, 1984). This transferring language activity might exist in almost every form of literature works. Novel is one of the forms that

bridged over many languages. The acceptability of the translation in novel is something vital in order to keep the acceptance of the readers in the target language.

Novel entitled “Cantik Itu Luka” written by Eka Kurniawan, published in 2009 was used in this research. The translation published in English by the title “Beauty is a Wound”, Translated by Annie Tucker. This novel tells about the story in colonial era, where a woman forced to prostitute herself. She then became a mother of 3 children, and she hopes for the youngest to have an extremely ugly face. And at last, her prayer fulfilled and named her cantik (in English : Beautiful). The focus of this research is the complex sentences that occurred in this novel, especially those implying a purpose, hope, or intention.

Translation of Complex sentence structure might not be the most concern in many researches. However, problems and phenomenon might be found the occurrence of researches about translator methods in transferring language, whether by word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation. In the other hand, the thorough research in the simplest structure yet has an impact towards the acceptability that translated into another language are often abandoned. People might feel the structure of complex sentence whether independent or the dependent does not hamper the understanding, yet the acceptability of the structure would become something that hamper the readers that still in the intermediate understanding of the language. The status quo in Indonesia, citizens although exposed with many English words or expressions, may found some words hard to understand in a glance. A comment found in a YouTube video that shows jaksel accent that mix English into Indonesian. The commenter said that as he/she working in the bar, he/she managed to meet jaksel guests and talks to them in full English, only to realize that they still stutter and influent of using full English. This could be one of the examples that although English has become the part of people’s mouth, yet the total understanding might still lack in many citizens. Hopefully, starting with studying with Novel as the data source that meant to be lightly understood, this phenomenon can be studied deeper. The lack in the thorough research of simple structure yet has an impact and the status quo that people who use English does not generally mean master English motivates the researcher to find out and expand the knowledge in the acceptability of the language, and the complex sentence translation was be used to see the acceptability align with the purpose of this study.

2. Research Methods

This research’s data source was collected from an Indonesian-English translated novel. Indonesian-English translated novel was taken from a novel entitled *Beauty is a wound*, translated by Annie Tucker. This novel originally entitled *Cantik Itu Luka*, written by Eka Kurniawan (2002). The original version has the total of 537 pages, and the translated version has the total of 384. The original version is published by Penerbit Jendela Gramedia Pustaka Utama in Jakarta, and the translated version published by New Directions Publishing in New York City. The data were collected through direct observation method. There were three steps in collecting the data. They are:

- 1) Reading the two version of “Cantik Itu Luka” and “Beauty is a Wound”
- 2) Note taking the complex sentences found in Indonesian version novel and its translation in English
- 3) Transfer the complex sentences to the table to make it easier to analyze
- 4) Preparing the question in questionnaire
- 5) Distributing the questions to tables

This research’s questionnaire was conducted with close-ended questionnaire. The respondents are the people with intermediate capability level in English. The students from 4th semester in Mahasaraswati University in 2022 were chosen for this study. The students would read the translation result and answer the question of whether it could be easily understood by them or not. After the data collected, they were analyzed. This research was conducted with descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the data. There were three steps in analyzing the data. They are:

- 1) Analyzing the types of the complex sentence structure based on the theory proposed by Simmons (n.d.) of complex sentence structure in English and Sneddon et al.(2010 : 349) in Indonesian, and the identifications of English complex sentence that shows purpose, hope, or intention would use the theory by Quirk, R., & Greenbaum, S. (1973 : 328), and theory by Nardiati et al (1996 : 37) and some other authors for the identification of Indonesian version.

- 2) Classifying the sentences based on the types of complex sentence structure found in both versions of the novel.
- 3) Analyzing the phrases type of complex sentence structure found in both version of the novel by the types of phrase theory proposed by Ismail (2019) in English and both theories from Tarmini & Sulistyawati (2019) and Sneddon et al. (2010) in Indonesian.
- 4) Identifying the most likely used complex sentence structure by the translator and its reason. In order to identify the most likely used complex sentence structure, this study conduct the formal method by using percentage. The following formula was used in this study:

$$n = \frac{fx}{N} \times 100\%$$

n = the percentage of one type of complex sentence

fx = individual frequency (one type of complex sentence)

N = number of occurrence (all types of complex sentences)

- 5) Analyzing the result of questionnaire done by 30 respondents with intermediate English capacity.
- 6) Investigating the acceptability of the complex sentence translation from Indonesian into English using the theory proposed by Larson (1984).

This research's finding is being presented with a combination of formal and informal method. In formal method was shown by presenting the data in the form of a table of the types of complex sentences, translation acceptability, and questionnaire result. Meanwhile, informal method was shown by presenting the data descriptively by providing explanation about the complex sentences. The complex sentences occur in the novel both in the original and translation version are analyzed whether they are using Independent – Dependent order or Dependent – Independent order, and the frequency of each order is mentioned in the table and with short description. It is followed by the translation acceptability analysis in form of table, indicating each data found is fulfilling the criteria from Larson (1984) or not. The result of questionnaire by respondents then be provided, and it is summed up in another table with each complex sentence's yes and no answer. Lastly, Every data that has been found is analyzed thoroughly in distinctive problem or phenomenon, and also the phrase translation analysis

3. Results and Discussions

Intentional Complex Sentences Translation Found in Indonesian and English Version Novel

No.	Complex Sentence Structure	frequency	percentage
1	Independent - Dependent	5	71.4%
2	Dependent - Independent	2	28.6%
Total		7	100%

The sentences were not having any shift or changes in the translation process. The translator used the same structure as in the original version both versions used corresponding Independent - Dependent structure in 6 sentences, and used corresponding Dependent – Independent structure in 2 sentences. The percentage of structure usage both in original and translated version is 75% for Independent – Dependent structure, and 25% for Dependent – Independent structure.

Table 4.2 The Translation Acceptability

No.	Parameter of Translation Acceptability	Data 1	Data 2	Data 3	Data 4	Data 5	Data 6	Data 7
1	Uses the normal language forms of the target language.		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
2	Communicates, as much as possible, to the target language speakers the same meaning that was understood by the speakers of the source language.	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
3	Maintains the dynamics of the original source language text.		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

There are seven data of complex sentences found in the novel. They were translated from Indonesian to English. Most of the translations are categorized as acceptable since they use the normal language forms of the target language. The translation also mostly communicates to the target language speakers the same meaning that was understood by the speakers of the source language. They also mostly maintain the dynamics of the original source language text. The translation acceptability analysis is supported by the questionnaire result from 30 respondents. The questionnaire consists of the translated version, and the question whether it can be understood easily or not by the respondents.

Table 4.3 Respondents' Answers of Given Complex Sentences Understanding

Numb.	Participants' initials	"Yes" Answers	"No" Answers	"Yes" Answers Percentage	"No" Answers Percentage
1	PD	7	0	88%	0%
2	KN	7	0	88%	0%
3	GF	4	3	50%	38%
4	BP	6	1	75%	13%
5	RA	6	1	75%	13%
6	RU	6	1	75%	13%
7	SD	6	1	75%	13%
8	AS	6	1	75%	13%
9	AR	7	0	88%	0%
10	KD	3	4	38%	50%
11	MP	6	1	75%	13%
12	SJ	6	1	75%	13%
13	WD	7	0	88%	0%
14	KS	7	0	88%	0%

15	JK	7	0	88%	0%
16	BI	7	0	88%	0%
17	BT	6	1	75%	13%
18	KW	7	0	88%	0%
19	WC	4	3	50%	38%
20	RW	6	1	75%	13%
21	IW	7	0	88%	0%
22	JD	7	0	88%	0%
23	PDP	5	2	63%	25%
24	DL	7	0	88%	0%
25	MDP	6	1	75%	13%
26	BC	6	1	75%	13%
27	VM	7	0	88%	0%
28	DR	4	3	50%	38%
29	DP	6	1	75%	13%
30	AC	7	0	88%	0%
Average		6,1	0,9	76%	11%

From the table 4.3, the average of students answering “yes” for easily understanding the complex sentence is 88%, and the average of students answering “no” for easily understanding the complex sentence is 12%. From the questionnaire we can conclude that the translation of the intentional complex sentence is being accepted by the reader, leaving only one respondent not understanding easily 50% of the complex sentences. 3 respondents could understand 63% of the complex sentences, 2 respondents understand 75% of the complex sentences, 11 respondents understand 88% of the complex sentences, and 13 respondents could understand 100% of the complex sentences.

Table 4.4 Respondents’ Answers of Each Complex Sentences

No.	Complex Sentence	"Yes" answers	"No" answers
1	She divvied up the remaining portion into a number of small envelopes to give to the household servants so that they could survive while looking for work someplace else (p.44)	18	12
2	That was enough to make them laugh a little bit. (p.47)	29	1
3	To reach the prison in the middle of the delta, they would have to cross the water. (p.48)	28	2
4	They threw parties in order to forget all the bad times (p.73)	26	4
5	"You cursed her so that she would lose her child" (p.192)	28	2
6	Now she sat on the veranda in order to wait for the prince who had been promised her. (p.311)	28	2
7	To entertain themselves, they visited one another. (p.316)	26	4

From the table 4.8, It shows that the first complex sentence is the hardest complex sentence to accept by the respondents, with 12 respondents answering “no”. another 7 complex sentences are having high acceptability with less than 4 respondents answering “no”.

Independent - Dependent Complex Sentence Structure

Six intentional complex sentences with Independent-Dependent structure which also translated to the corresponding structure were found in both novel.

Data 1

SL	TL
Sebagian kecil ia masukkan ke dalam amplop-amplop kecil, akan ia berikan kepada semua pelayan di rumah itu, <u>agar</u> mereka bisa hidup dan mencari pekerjaan di tempat lain (Kurniawan, 2002 : 55)	She divvied up the remaining portion into a number of small envelopes <u>to</u> give to the household servants <u>so that</u> they could survive <u>while</u> looking for work someplace else (Kurniawan, 2015 : 244)

First sentences above are determined as complex sentence. In source language, “*Sebagian kecil ia masukkan ke dalam amplop-amplop kecil,*” is the independent clause, “*akan ia berikan kepada semua pelayan di rumah itu,*” and “*agar mereka bisa hidup dan mencari pekerjaan di tempat lain*” is dependent clause. “*agar*” subordinator was used in the sentence. In English version, the independent clause is “She divvied up the remaining portion into a number of small envelopes “, with three different dependent clause “to give to the household servants”, “so that they could survive”, and “while looking for work someplace else”. “*agar*” and “so that” subordinator are indication of the intentional complex sentence.

The phrases analysis based on the theories is presented as :

Sebagian kecil ia masukkan ke dalam amplop-amplop kecil, akan ia berikan

Independent clause

	Num.p	Np	Vp	Pp	AoT	Np	Vp	
	‘Some	small she	put	into	envelopes	small,	will she give	
<u>She divvied up the remaining portion into a number of small envelopes to</u>								
Independent clause								

	Np	Vp	Np	Pp	Sub	
<u>kepada semua pelayan di rumah itu, agar mereka bisa hidup dan mencari</u>						
Dependent clause			Dependent clause			

	Pp	Pp	Sub	Np	Vp								
	to	every	servants	in	house	that,	so that	they	can	live	and	seek	
<u>give to the household servants so that they could survive while looking for work</u>													
Dependent clause			Dependent clause			Dependent clause							

	Vp	Np	Sub	Np	Vp	Sub	Vp	Np
<u>pekerjaan di tempat lain.</u>								

	Np	Pp	
	Job	in place	else.’
<u>someplace else.</u>			

Advp

Data 2

SL	TL
Itu cukup <u>untuk</u> membuat mereka bisa sedikit tertawa. (Kurniawan, 2002 : 59)	That was enough <u>to</u> make them laugh a little bit. (Kurniawan, 2015 : 47)

Second data is a short intentional complex sentence. Likewise, it consists of “*Itu cukup*” as the independent clause, and “*untuk membuat mereka bisa sedikit tertawa*” as dependent clause. In like manner, the target language version it formed “That was enough” as independent clause, and “to make them laugh a little bit.” as dependent clause. The clauses connected with “*untuk*” subordinator for the source language, and “to” subordinator in target language. The word “*Itu cukup*” is considered as a clause since in Indonesian, chain of words consisting of a subject and a predicate can be considered as a clause, without the need of a verb. The adjective itself already become the predicate without the need of the auxiliary verb such as “was”.

The phrases analysis based on the theories presented as :

Itu cukup untuk membuat mereka bisa sedikit tertawa.

Main c. Subordinate clause

Np	Adjp	Sub	Vp	Np	Vp
‘It	enough	to	make	them	can few laugh’

That was enough to make them laugh a little bit.

Main clause Subordinate clause

Np	Vp	Sub	Vp	Np	Vp	Advp
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Data 3

SL	TL
Mereka membuat pesta-pesta kecil <u>untuk</u> melupakan hari-hari buruk yang telah berlalu. (Kurniawan, 2002 : 96)	They threw parties <u>in order to</u> forget all the bad times (Kurniawan, 2015 : 73)

The following sentence is also having the same independent – dependent structure. In source language, “*Mereka membuat pesta-pesta kecil*” is the independent clause, with “*untuk melupakan hari-hari buruk yang telah berlalu*” as dependent clause. It was then translated into the independent clause “They threw parties” and the dependent clause “in order to forget all the bad times”. Subordination of “*untuk*” and “in order to” indicate it as an intentional complex sentence.

The phrases analysis based on the theories presented as :

Mereka membuat pesta-pesta kecil untuk melupakan hari-hari buruk yang

Independent clause Dependent clause

Np	Vp	Np	Adj.p	Sub	Vp	Np	particle
‘They	make	parties	small	for	forget	days	bad that

They threw parties in order to forget all the

Independent clause Dependent clause

Np	Vp	Np	Sub	Vp	Np
----	----	----	-----	----	----

telah berlalu.

Vp
 has pass'
bad times.

Data 4

SL	TL
"Kau mengutuknya <u>agar</u> kehilangan anak." (Kurniawan, 2002 : 276)	"You cursed her <u>so that</u> she would lose her child (Kurniawan, 2015 : 192)

Another short complex sentence was found in both novel. In the source language, "*Kau mengutuknya*" take the independent clause place and "*agar kehilangan anak*" as the dependent clause. It was then translated into "You cursed her" as the independent clause, "so that she would lose her child" as the dependent clause. "*agar*" subordinator was used in source language and "so that" subordinator in target language. Hence, the complex sentences considered as an intentional one.

The phrases analysis based on the theories presented as :

Kau mengutuknya agar kehilangan anak.
 Independent c. Subordinate clause

Np Vp Sub Vp Np
 'You curse her so that lose child'
You cursed her so that she would lose her child
 Independent c. Dependent clause

Np Vp Np Sub Np Vp Np

Data 5

SL	TL
Kini ia duduk di beranda <u>untuk</u> menunggu Pangeran yang dijanjikan. (Kurniawan, 2002 : 465)	Now she sat on the veranda <u>in order to</u> wait for the prince who had been promised her. (Kurniawan, 2015 : 311)

The seventh data has "*Kini ia duduk di beranda*" as independent clause, then "*untuk menunggu Pangeran yang dijanjikan.*" As dependent clause. The target language with corresponding structure has "Now she sat on the veranda" as independent clause, and "in order to wait for the prince" and "who had been promised her." as dependent clauses. Subordinators that were used are "*untuk*" and "in order to", indicating it as an intentional complex sentence. The complex sentence in the source language has the independent clause with "*ia*" as the subject, and "*duduk*" as the verb, and the dependent clause with the omitted "*ia*" and "*menunggu*" as the verb. The target language also then has independent clause with the subject "she" and the verb "sat", followed by dependent clause with the omitted "her" as the subject and "wait" as the verb.

The Indonesian phrases analysis based on Tarmini and Sulisitawati presented as :

Kini ia duduk di beranda untuk menunggu Pangeran yang dijanjikan.

Independent clause	Dependent clause
AoT Np Vp Pp Sub 'Now she sat in veranda to wait prince that promised' <u>Now she sat on the veranda in order to wait for the prince who had been</u>	Vp Np particle Vp 'wait prince that promised' <u>who had been</u>
Independent clause	Dependent clause
Advp Np Vp Pp Sub Vp Np Sub <u>promised her.</u> clause	
Vp Np	

Dependent - Independent Complex Sentence Structure

Two intentional complex sentences with dependent - independent structure which also translated to the corresponding structure were found in both novels.

Data 6

SL	TL
Untuk mencapai penjara di tengah delta, mereka harus menyeberangi sungai (Kurniawan, 2002 : 60)	To reach the prison in the middle of the delta, they would have to cross the water. (Kurniawan, 2015 : 48)

Apart from the independent – dependent structure, this sentence put the dependent clause at the front. Third sentence in source language has dependent clause “*untuk mencapai penjara di tengah delta,*” and has independent clause “*mereka harus menyeberangi sungai*” with “*untuk*” as subordinator. For the English version, it has “to reach the prison in the middle of the delta” as the dependent clause, and “they would have to cross the water” as the independent clause.

The Indonesian phrases analysis based on the theories as :

untuk mencapai penjara di tengah delta, mereka harus menyeberangi
 Dependent clause Independent clause

Sub Vp Np Pp Np Vp 'To reach prison in middle delta, they must cross <u>to reach the prison in the middle of the delta, they would have to cross the</u>	Dependent clause Independent clause
Sub Vp Np Pp Np Vp <u>sungai.</u>	
Np river' <u>water.</u>	
Np	

Data 7

SL	TL
<p><u>Untuk</u> menghibur diri, mereka selalu berkunjung satu sama lain.</p> <p>(Kurniawan, 2002 : 472)</p>	<p><u>To</u> entertain themselves, they visited one another.</p> <p>(Kurniawan, 2015 : 316)</p>

The second dependent – independent complex sentence structure was also found. It consist of “*Untuk menghibur diri*,” as dependent clause, and “*mereka selalu berkunjung satu sama lain*” as independent clause. In target language it became “To entertain themselves,” as dependent clause, with “they visited one another.” As independent clause. “*untuk*” subordinator was used in source language, and “to” subordinator in target language.

The Indonesian phrases analysis based on Tarmini and Sulisitawati presented as :

<u>Untuk menghibur diri, mereka selalu berkunjung satu sama lain.</u>				<u>To entertain themselves, they visited one another.</u>		
Dependent clause				Independent clause		
Sub	Vp	Np	Np	Vp	Np	
‘To	entertain self,	they	always	visit	one	with other’
Dependent clause				Independent clause		
Sub	Vp	Np	Np	Vp	Np	

4. Conclusion

The intentional complex sentence structure is having no shift or changes. All structure of the complex sentence found in the Indonesian version is 100% the same with the translated version. However, there are some differences occurs in the forming of dependent clauses between Indonesian and English version. Independent – Dependent structure dominantly appeared in the novel and Dependent – Independent structure less often appeared. The phrases in the complex sentences have given a various difference between Indonesian and English. The factors are the paraphrasing of the words, grammar difference, and the classification of type of phrases that exist in one language but not in the other, that can cause a different perception in the analysis. Mostly the translations of the complex sentences are acceptable in the target language. They are analyzed through three parameters of the translation acceptability proposed by Larson including uses the normal language forms of the target language, communicates, as much as possible, to the target language speakers the same meaning that was understood by the speakers of the source language, and maintains the dynamics of the original source language text. The translation acceptability is supported by the questionnaire’s result which is responded by 30 respondents. It is found that the translated version could easily be understood. It is remaining only few of the intentional complex sentence hard to understand. Founding that the results in the translation does not alter the clause order of the complex sentence, it can be concluded that the problem of the difficulty to understand the translation falls to the other aspect. It might be hampered by the paraphrasing of words, grammar difference, and clause type classification difference between Indonesian and English

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