The use of translation machine on EFL high vocational students’ writing

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Abstract

This article is about using of the machine translation on EFL students’ writing ability. The writer tries to analyze the students into high vocational students that need more knowledge and skill in English usage in the workplace. It means that they also need more experience in English as Specific Purposes (ESP). The combination between EFL and ESP will be seen in vocational education in which the writing activity of the English can be supported by computer as the translation using machine. Machine translation has many users in the world and the discussion of using it become an interesting object within EFL learning activity and it becomes special study on helping students’ writing ability. Keeping up with the developments, machine translation day by day has become popular in the English as Foreign Language (EFL) students. There is various vendor of machine translation but the most popular are from two corporation are Google and Microsoft. Both are the most machine translation used by people in the world. Nowadays, music can be easy to be heard across the globe in industrial entertainment. Especially for people or students who enjoy music, they can write easily helped by machine translation, someone will understand the meaning or information that include in the lyrics, book, newspaper, etc. This article will discuss about EFL students in around the world not only from Indonesia as the effect of using computerized translation on EFL high vocational students’ nowadays.

Keywords: EFL vocational students; machine translation; writing ability.

INTRODUCTION

In the new era of the recent developing education the learners must be served by an instance access in fulfilling their needs, the English learning today will run with the changing of the time and improving Industrial era 4.0. High vocational 21st students should be well informed with their abilities to the technology nowadays, and the material should be suitable for English for specific purposes (ESP). So that is why we must introduce them to the high-level learning of the translation activity that technically they must to be able to know exactly about English as Foreign Language. The reading and writing activity by students will guide them to the specific usage of English, and it can be an essential part in the translation studies point of view.

Almost of EFL students know that the translation’s activity can be helped by machine translation (MT) that can be defined as that the processing of the translation as
the intervention by people from one language to another helped by the computer system. The combination between EFL and ESP will be found in the vocational curriculum that should be assisted by computer tools. In which using the computer accurate of the kind of awareness that students need to perform their assignments or learning activities especially in doing translation or even writing that the students seem so hard in practicing this. The use of machine translation (MT) means that as time goes by with computer technology that was started in 1949 by Warren Weaver.

The progress of using computer into translation activity or practice of writingability by the students, Sangmin-Michelle Lee (2020) states that it will come to the discussion of Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) which causes the instructors dilemma of what they are trying to share to the students and how their existence as the translator with the human ability in translating and writing the result of translation.

Salem et al (2008) states that Computerized translation is helpful and cheaper than translating manually. There are two parameters that should be aware by human translators are the source language (SL) knowledge (morphology, lexicon, syntax, and semantics) in helping them to understand the signification from the sources. The second is target language (TL) knowledge in helping them in producing comprehension of the text and how to make well-formed text that can be acceptable by the readers.

There are three appropriate aims in developing machine translation system, firstly to result the translation that can satisfy the critic readers. Secondly, to result good quality in context of hindering problem in building machine translation. In the conservative context translation by machine translation is operated manually, in which waste much time, cost and many efforts. So that, the researchers in original language will pay attention seriously in computerized translation. Thirdly, because of corpus-based application is the core so many writers need to customize of their writing. So that, they will check easily of the vocabulary, grammar rules, phrase, and others about language (see Marcu (2001); Richardson et al. 2001; Tahir et al. 2010 and roves 2006).

There was various observation of the recent using machine translation literature that describes the transferring method is more suited to certain languages challenges, Arabic language for example Alsaket, A. J. & Aziz, M. J. A. (2014), because of the advantages of abstractness required is easier in such of the transfer and the level of analysis approach is reachable and it is easier to carry out. The using of transfer-based MT system does not need more time and effort than the traditional translation. The system is introduced to ace achieving better machine translation in a more successful practice.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The discussion about Machine Translation becomes headline topic day by day. The research by Peng (2013), he recommended that machine translation should integrate the variety of translation methods, give the strengthen the semantic analysis in translation method, introducing the linguistic knowledge, constructing the language resource, and strengthening study on evaluation methods. The study by Salem (2009) as the earlier research that focused on direct approaches and continues to rule-based and statistical method, with no syntactic analysis for the source language in direct translation and each word based on the large thesaurus. The research was conducted in the system of Arabic translation into English. The purpose of the study that forming the system measurable
and evoke in the next session to the composite sentences. According to him that Arabic language is very interesting which is the combination of formal language in Middle eastern and African countries. There have been great colonies of Arabic speakers outside the Middle East because of the end of the previous century separately in the United States and Europe.

So that, it is a must to find better machine translation to contribute within people communication. Arabic is prominent for complicated morphology (McCarthy 1985; Azmi 1988; Beesley1998; Ratcliffe1998; Ibrahim 2002). Arabic has been always been a defiance in computerized testing for morphological analysis technologies. In conducting the structural translation from rich language will need multiple steps which are called tokenization (Habash and Sadat 2006).

The origin of Machine Translation

Hutchins (1986) stated that there was a much cost supported MT in United States, from National Science to Defense requirements and other political movement, so at that time most payment came from military and intelligence activities.

There are some definitions of machine translation. According to Hutchins and Somers (1992, p.3), the combined words are machine and translation is one category for the tool that is used to get the result of the translation from source into target language, whether assisted by human or not. Koehn (2010, p.21) stated Machine Translation can work automatically producing the extraction as the result of translation in which from the result we can find much information from original language. Beside that it will entertain the reader because they will understand what other people saying or delivering by the lyric and song.

Vocational Curriculum

According to Maximilian, A. (2020) high vocational students that they study English as Foreign language. It is a must that they must be able in communicating using English. Students’ English reading skill to help them in understanding books because they need to read some sources from the books got and use English language that written in English. Beside that reading instruction also dominate the curriculum in most school including the vocational curriculum.

Reading activity can run together with translation activities by the students and after that they will trying to learn English Translation and at the end of curriculum, they will practice writing. It was an absolutely that using computers for the translation by the students in order to get job after they are graduated from the school.

The approach of Machine Translation

Machine translation can be divided into two categories based on the approach. They are rule-based machine translation and corpus-based machine translation. In rule-based machine translation, the machine’s translation knowledge is based on the grammar rules and dictionary. Peng (2013) stated that in rule-based machine translation, the translation knowledge base consists of dictionaries and grammar rules. Yusliani, Yunita, and Octaviani (2015) stated that Rule-based machine translation (RBMT) used a set of linguistic information to translate source language to target language. In corpus-
based machine translation, the application of the corpus is the core. The knowledge base consists of a divided marked corpus. Whereas in corpus-based machine translation, there is a core of the application that has been created by the creator of machine translation itself.

Rule-based machine translation consists of three methods. They are literal translation method, transfer-based method, and interlingua-based method. The first method is the literal translation method. According to Peng (2013) that Literal translation is called direct translation, a word-based translation, or dictionary-based translation. Literal translation method in machine translation use based on the word translation. The transfer-based method analyzes the sentence structure, based on word-to-word translation, generating the target-language text according to the different linguistic rules of different languages (Peng, 2013). In the transfer-based method, machine translation uses the word-to-word method of translation. The interlingua- based method can be considered as a better choice if compared to the literal method and the transfer-based method. It means the interlingua-based method is better than the literal and transfer based method.

CONCLUSIONS

In this part of the conclusion that the writer tries to inform that it is a must that English as Foreign Language Learners know about why they have use the computerized translation system, especially for high vocational students when they got the result of the translation it is a must for them to check the contextualizing of word by word, because in vocational curriculum that the school in preparing students into workplace activities (school of work), so they have to know how the writing activity will involve in English for Specific Purposes (ESP) so, they can get valuable information in the vocational context for additional experiences for them grow to them in the future time.

In this digital era when almost students know about Internet of Things that the internet become a need for the students, they need to know much about material that derived from English book and trying to practice their writing by making a story or even what they are really need after graduate from the school, writing a job application letter to the companies. So that they can practice of English language in their writing and using machine translation. Beside that they can get much experience to communicate to the company who gives some information using their writing.

REFERENCES


