

ABSTRACT

This study aims to reveal the comprehensibility of machine-translated medical literature by comparing the proposition renditions from English as the source language (SL) to Indonesian as the target language (TL). The medical literature examined in this study comprises twenty introduction sections of twenty academic articles which were translated by Google Translate (GT). This study uses proposition as the currency of translation quality evaluation due to the fact that the replication of surface structure does not guarantee the preservation of meaning in the TL. Based on the total propositions transfer score, the translated texts were categorized into four comprehensibility categories, namely *poor comprehensibility*, *fair comprehensibility*, *advanced comprehensibility*, and *full comprehensibility*. To validate the result of the proposition transfer scores, experts' assessments were also carried out. Further analysis was carried out to identify error occurrences impacting proposition renditions by adopting the American Translators Association's (ATA) taxonomy of error. The linguistic and extra-linguistic factors that affect proposition rendition were also identified and explained. This study has revealed that MT has successfully rendered 77% of propositions across the twenty texts. This finding is also supported by experts' assessment which suggests that MT is able to render 80% of propositions of the source text. However, this study also revealed that the ultimate shortcoming of MT is related to meaning transfer which is proven by the frequent occurrences of errors of the meaning transfer category.

Keywords: machine translation, proposition, comprehensibility, translation quality, medical text