

EXPLORING SYNTACTIC CHALLENGES IN INDONESIAN-ENGLISH INTERPRETING: A STUDY ON EFL INTERPRETING STUDENTS

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Abstract

The study investigates the challenges faced by EFL interpreting students of Universitas Negeri Gorontalo (UNG) in translating Indonesian to English, focusing on the impact of syntactic structures, grammatical accuracy, and lexical choices on interpretation clarity. Using Gile's (2020) syntactic analysis model, the research analyzes students' translations to identify common errors, including tense shifts, inconsistent pronoun usage, and unidiomatic phrasing. The findings reveal that these issues often result from differences between Indonesian and English sentence structure, and limited understanding of English idiomatic expressions. For example, errors such as translating gender-neutral pronouns inaccurately or misinterpreting tense and modal constructions distort the source message's meaning. The study underscores the need for targeted training in syntactic analysis, idiomatic adaptation, and cross-linguistic processing to improve EFL students' ability to produce accurate and fluent interpretations. This research contributes to the understanding of linguistic and cognitive challenges in EFL interpreting.

Keywords: Syntactic Challenges; Indonesian-English Interpreting; English as Foreign Language (EFL).

INTRODUCTION

Interpreting is translating spoken or sign language from one language to another while maintaining the original message's purpose, to facilitate real-time communication between speakers of different languages. According to Pöchakher (2004), interpreting is a mode of translation in which target speech (TS) delivery can only be completed once since the source speech (SS) is only said once. Furthermore, Mobit (2014) defined interpreting as an oral translation process that allows the listener to instantly grasp and comprehend the meaning of the speaker's message. From those opinions, it can be concluded that interpreting is a form of translation that needs an immediate understanding of spoken messages by the listener as an interpreter because it involves real-time speech.

By reason of the need to understand the source speech and then transfer it to the source language without delay, in the EFL context, the process of interpreting is usually considered challenging. Omulu, et. all (2022) in their research discovered some challenges often encountered by EFL students. They are lack of vocabulary, difficulty in finding equivalent words, difficulty in