

The Use of MBIM/MABBIM Glossary in the Translation of Agricultural Science Books by the Translators

Raja Masittah Raja Ariffin

Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication
Universiti Putra Malaysia
rajamasittah@putra.upm.edu.my

Che Ibrahim Haji Salleh

Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication
Universiti Putra Malaysia
Ibrahim@fbmk.upm.edu.my

Zalina Mohd. Kasim

Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication
Universiti Putra Malaysia
zalina@fbmk.upm.edu.my

Abstract

Translation is a process of transfer from a source language to the target language. Through translation readers who are not familiar with the source language will be able to gain knowledge through the target language. In other words, the translated texts can help broaden readers' knowledge and ways of thinking. During the translation process, a translator has to identify and use the appropriate term in the target language in order to ensure that the translated text will be accurate and effective. The objective of this study is to examine the extent to which translators have utilised the terms produced by *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP)/Majlis Bahasa Indonesia-Malaysia (MBIM)/Majlis Bahasa Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia (MABBIM)* in the translation of Agricultural Science books from English into Malay, with particular focus on the accuracy and effectiveness of the translated terms. This study also seeks to identify the problems often faced by the translators in choosing and using the translated terms for texts related to the field of agricultural science. The data for this study is obtained from six Agricultural Science books as well as from interviews with the translators. 332 terms have been gathered from the books and it is found that almost 32% of them are different from the terminologies produced by the DBP/MBIM/MABBIM. This may be due to the internal and external factors that are related to the attitude of the translators as well as the lack of agricultural terminologies when the books were being translated.

Introduction

Terms comprise words, phrases, acronyms, symbols and others, that are formed based on certain principles and methods. The construction of terms involves definitions and explanation in order to avoid misunderstanding. Thus, in determining a term, committees and experts of the field of the given terms will decide if a given term is adequate to capture the knowledge concept and is acceptable to the public. The development of terminology has flourished when *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka* (DBP) was given the responsibility to draft the terms, and this has been its fundamental responsibility in building and expanding the national language i.e. the Malay language. Other institutions are also involved in the construction of terminologies and the outcome of such effort will be coordinated by the DBP before they are submitted to the Standing Committee of Malay Language for approval. Some terminologies will be approved with amendments and circulated to the public through books and glossary of terms. There are also terms that have not been approved as they require further revision by the Language Council of Indonesian-Malay Language (MBIM) which, later became the Language Council of Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia. Thousands of terminologies have been produced in various fields of knowledge for the students and the public, including the civil servants, language enthusiasts and translators. At the beginning, much emphasis was given to the field of general science, followed by other fields and sub-fields, including Social Science and Humanities. Apart from the field of science technology, agricultural science is also an important discipline in the country's development.

A Short History of the Committee of Agricultural Terminology

The Committee of Agricultural Terminology was formed on 22 October 1985 with the main mission to revise and verify agricultural terminologies, and this task was completed on 18 December 1986. The formation and verification of the terminologies in this discipline could not be accomplished without the combination of ideas, effort and time spent by the experts in this field in making this a reality. Members of the committee included university lecturers, representatives from government agencies such as Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), The Federal Agriculture Marketing Authority (FAMA), the Agricultural Department and linguists.

The terminologies of the agricultural field were constructed through several stages. The accumulation of the terms in Agricultural Science was conducted by the experts from the Agricultural Faculty, *Universiti Pertanian Malaysia* (now *Universiti Putra Malaysia*), also known as UPM. The gathered terminologies were then revised and verified at *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka* (DBP) by a committee that consisted of UPM Vice Chancellor, the Hall of Agricultural Faculty, the heads of department of Plant Protection, Agronomy and Horticulture, and all academic staff of the Agricultural Faculty.

The formulation of the Malay terminologies officially began when the Government Committee of Terminology was established in 15 January 1957, followed by the Committee of Science and Technical Terminologies on 19 February 1957. Apart from science and technical terms, DBP has drafted and produced 45 English glossaries that contain 550,000 terms for more than 500

fields and sub-fields. The terminologies in these various fields have been published in order to overcome the problem of terminology shortage which the public often faced especially the translators.

Research Problem

In the effort to establish a supranational language, the DBP and MABBIM have been formulating thousands of terminologies in various fields and modern knowledge for the community which are made up of primary, secondary and tertiary students including those in Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, as well as the schools and tertiary institutions that use Malay language. Thousands of terminologies have been developed over the years, using much money and expertise. In practice however, the extent to which the terms have been used and utilised in everyday tasks remains unclear. In examining this issue, the researchers has focused on the books on agriculture that have been translated from English into Malay.

Research Objectives

1. To examine the extent to which the translators have used the terms produced by the DBP/MBIM/MABBIM in the translation of agricultural science books from English into Malay, especially in the choice of correct, accurate and effective terminologies.
2. To review the similarities and differences of the agricultural science terminologies used by the translators in the translation; and
3. To explain the main problems faced by the translators in the selection and usage of agricultural science terminologies for the translation.

Significance of Research

This research is important for the country's education system and other users including government servants, educators, and in particular, the translators of this field. Accurate and correct use of terminologies will result in effective translated works and books in Malay. The use of sound and effective terms will help to create a supranational language whose usage is consistent at international level.

Research Scope and Limitation

1. This study covers only the terminologies of Agricultural Science that have been translated from English into Malay.
2. The translated materials examined in this study include only those published in book form.
3. The translated book selection is limited to higher and general education books in the field of Agricultural Science.
4. The respondents for this study are translators who have translated books for higher learning.

Data and Methodology

The data for this study has been obtained from the translated books published by DBP and other identified publishers. Data is also obtained through interviews with the translators who can be contacted and additional information through literature review.

The methodology for data collection is as follows:

- i. Selecting the terms from the books that have been identified as follows:
 1. *Soil Fertility and Fertilizers Third Edition (1975) /Baja dan Kesuburan Tanah Edisi Ketiga (1981).*
 2. *Climate, Soil and Crops Production in the Humid Tropics (1970) /Iklim Tanah dan Pengeluaran Tanaman di Kawasan Tropika Lembab (1983).*
 3. *Breeding Field Crops (1959) / Pembiakan Tanaman Jilid 1 & Jilid 2 (1986).*
 4. *Plant Pathology Fifth Edition (1969) / Patologi Tumbuhan Jilid 2 (1993).*
 5. *An Introduction to Agricultural System (1979) / Pengenalan Sistem Pertanian (1993).*
 6. *Guava in Malaysia Production, Pest and Diseases (1990) /Jambu Batu di Malaysia Pengeluaran, Prosak dan Penyakit (1995).*
- ii. The terms were revised based on the agricultural terms contained in the Glossary of Agriculture (*Buku Istilah Pertanian*) published by DBP/MABBIM.
- iii. The terms were isolated and grouped according to similarities and differences in terminology used by the translators in their translation work.
- iv. The terms are semi-similar in meaning will also identified.

Past Research

Among the previous studies done by researchers in relation to the terms in certain fields produced by MABBIM /DBP is the 'Study on the Recognition of MABBIM Terminologies in the Field of Economy and Banking' (2010), which was a joint-research between the Brunei Darussalam MABBIM Research Committee, Indonesian MABBIM Research Commission and Malaysian MABBIM Research Committee based on the results of the 43rd General Conference of MABBIM Council held in Kuala Lumpur on 8-12 March 2004.

This study provides an overview to the extent of the terms agreed upon by Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. Among the goals of this study is to enable MABBIM to review the created terms and to make improvement on terms that are considered less appropriate or less accurate. In other words, the study evaluates the level of localisation and acceptance of the Malay banking terminologies in banking institutions and economic terminologies in tertiary institutions.

Another study has been conducted by the researchers on the critical analysis of the non-scientific terms produced by the translators in 1989. This study covers the humanities, but does not include agriculture. Even until now there have not been any studies done on the translated books in the field of agriculture especially from English into Malay. The researchers seeks to fill this gap by conducting a research in the area of agriculture. The researcher hopes

that this study will present authentic data and analyse the data in order to address the issue and objectives of this study.

Findings of Study

The first objective of this study is to review the extent to which the translators have utilised the terminologies produced by DBP/MBIM/MABBIM in the business of book of translation from English into Malay in Agricultural Science

The researchers has examined and reviewed the terms used by the translators in the six books that have been mentioned earlier, which have been translated from English into Malay. The terms used by the translators, can be seen through the use of the same terminologies in the glossary, which has been the results of a consensus between three countries, namely Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam, and published by DBP.

To determine whether a word found in the six books under review is a terminology or a general word, was one of the constraints faced by the researchers. This is because one is unable to determine the actual number of terminologies in each book. Thus, the researchers have sought to examine the words that denote a particular concept, and then checked them with the glossary. Such revision was not easy since it required a thorough scrutiny. The researcher selected only terms that have been used for the first time. The words that are used repeatedly were not taken into account. Based on the review, the researcher has listed the terminologies that are similar to those published in the glossary used by the translators.

The findings have shown that altogether there are 331 terminologies gathered from the six Agricultural Science books. From the total, 226 terms used by the translators are similar to the terminologies in *Istilah Pertanian* (Kuala Lumpur: DBP, 1989). According to the breakdown, the first book contains 18 similar terminologies, the second book 22 terminologies, the third book 45 terminologies, the fourth book 47 terminologies, the fifth book 16 terminologies and the sixth book 78 terminologies. There are also similar terminologies with slightly different spelling.

The translators are also able to make choices appropriate to the interpretation of the term because the glossary has provided more than one matching words in Malay. Below are some of the words:

Book	English terms (original version)	Matching Malay terms by the translator	Terms used by DBP/MABBIM
3	Lodging	<i>Rebah</i>	<i>Rebah; loging</i>
3	Anther	<i>Anter</i>	<i>Anter/cepu debunga</i>
4	Canker	<i>kanker</i>	<i>Cerana/kanker</i>
6	Topography	<i>Topografi</i>	<i>Topografi/bentuk muka bumi</i>

6	Aphids	<i>Afid</i>	<i>Afid/kutu daun</i>
6	Liming	<i>Pengapuran</i>	<i>Mengapur/pengapuran</i>
6	Defoliation	<i>Peluruhan daun</i>	<i>Peluruhan daun / peranggasan daun</i>

Apart from similar terms, there are also terms that are completely different used by the translators. 105 terms have been found to be different: the first book consists of 14 different terms, the second book 12 terms, the third book 18 terms, the fourth book 16 terms, the fifth book 12 terms and the sixth book 33 terms. The table below illustrate the percentages of terminologies identified in the analysis:

Use of Terms	Book 1	Book 2	Book 3	Book 4	Book 5	Book 6	Total (Percentage)
Similarities	18 (56.3%)	22 (64.7%)	45 (71.4%)	47 (74.6%)	16 (57.1%)	78 (70.3%)	226 (68.3%)
Differences	14 (43.7%)	12 (35.3%)	18 (28.6%)	16 (25.4%)	12 (42.9%)	33 (29.7%)	105 (31.7%)
Total	32 (100%)	34 (100%)	63 (100%)	63 (100%)	28 (100%)	111 (100%)	331 (100%)

Based on the data obtained from the six titles identified, gross statistics have shown that a total of 226 (68.3%) terminologies in the field of Agricultural Science have been used and referred to by the translators in their translation work. They have referred to the *Istilah Pertanian* book in efforts to obtain the correct term, accurate and appropriate to the context of the rendered field. A total of 105 terminologies show differences in the usage by the translators due to certain reasons. Some of the reasons faced by the translators in their translation work are explained as follows:

Translators' main problem in the use of Agricultural Science terms in translation works

In order to obtain data and information to address the above issue, interviews have been conducted with several translators. Initially, the researchers planned to interview those who have translated the selected books in this study. However, the translators could not be contacted since many of them have retired and it was difficult to obtain their addresses. To obtain data and information for this part, informal interviews have been conducted with some of the translators who have translated the books of higher education in the field of Agricultural Science, and this include those who are still working at *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka* and other institutions, as well as those who have been interviewed before.

Based on the findings for the second objective of the study, the number of terms that have been sourced from the DBP glossary and the total percentage obtained indicated that the glossary is still being made as a reference and the terms have been used continuously. In order

to verify the findings, informal interviews have been conducted. The interviews have revealed that:

- i) The majority of translators interviewed have referred to the glossaries published by DBP and used most of the terms in their translation work.
- ii) Only a small number of translators have not fully utilised the terminologies in the glossary. This is because according to them, the terms are not suitable with the context of the translated materials and that their own terms are more accurate and meaningful. They only used the terminologies by the MBIM/DBP if the terms are appropriate with the meaning and context of use of the translated text.
- iii) In the process of translation from English into the Malay language, the respondents said that one of the problems often encountered by them is the unavailability of the terms in the glossary published by DBP. According to them "it is difficult to find the term in Malay". There are those who responded by saying that finding the terms is not the main problem but finding terms whose meanings are matched.
- iv) The inconsistency between the terms in the various fields is another feedback received from respondents. Such inconsistencies are not only found in the field of Agricultural Sciences, but also other related areas, and this is one of the factors that cause problems in the their translation work.
- v) Those who have been a member in the DBP Terminology Committee, and in particular, the DBP translators, tend to have fewer problems in translation since it was easier for them to obtain DBP glossaries as source of reference and use MBIM's glossary in their translation work and they also often receive new information about the terms published by DBP.
- vi) Another new finding of this study that is related to the selection and usage of MBIM terminologies is the grammatical problems in the translation, especially those related to sentence structure and affixes. Difficulties in understanding the meaning of sentences due to grammar is often faced by the translators. Most of the respondents stated that they would resort to using English terminologies when they have difficulties in explaining certain facts in Malay. There are also a few who tried to solve this problem by changing the sentences, that is by translating the definition of a word and explaining it in detail.
- vii) There are also respondents who admitted that they do not own any glossaries as reference or used the available terminologies. Instead, they would use their own terminologies or those used in the university.

Conclusion

Generally, those who have translation experience and qualification in Agricultural Science would have a better understanding of the concepts of the relevant terms used. Problems arise in translation when the translator is not specialised in a given field. However, based on the feedbacks of the respondents, not all would completely agree on the terminologies in the glossary published by DBP. It is without doubt that many translated books (from English into Malay) that were published in the eighties have a number of weaknesses such

as incomplete and inconsistent terminologies, and the use of different terms in the same field. The translation of books for higher education by the DBP flourished during those years as a way to disseminate new knowledge to the students of tertiary institutions. Later however, the translation task was taken over by the Malaysian National Translation Institute (ITNM). Nonetheless, a lot of knowledge in English have been transferred into Malay and used in teaching and learning of Malaysian society in general.

References

- Achmad Baihaki, et.al. 1979. *Daftar Istilah Pertanian Indonesia-Asing*. Jakarta: Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa, Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan.
- Agrios, George N. 1969. *Plant Pathology Fifth Edition/ Patologi Tumbuhan Jilid 2*, translated by Baharudin Salleh, Abd Rahim Omar, Rashidah Abdullah. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, 1993.
- Daftar Istilah MBIM. 1986. (Hasil Sidang ke-7-23 Majlis Bahasa Indonesia-Malaysia) 1974-1985 Istilah Sumber –Istilah Malaysia A-J*. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.
- Daftar Istilah MBIM. 1986. (Hasil Sidang ke-7-23 Majlis Bahasa Indonesia-Malaysia) 1974-1985 Istilah Sumber –Istilah Malaysia K-Z*. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.
- Istilah Pertanian Bahasa Inggeris-Bahasa Malaysia Bahasa Malaysia-Bahasa Inggeris*.1980,1989. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.
- Istilah Teknik dan Vokasional Pertanian, Bahasa Inggeris- Bahasa Malaysia Bahasa Malaysia-Bahasa Inggeris*. 1993. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.
- Kajian Keberterimaan Istilah MABBIM Bidang Ekonomi dan Perbankan*. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.
- Kamus Dewan Edisi Keempat*. 2007. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.
- Kamus Pertanian dan Penternakan Bahasa Inggeris-Bahasa Melayu Bahasa Melayu-Bahasa Inggeris*. Kuala Lumpur: Golden Centre Sdn. Bhd.
- Lim Tong Kwee, Khoo Khay Chong & lim Tong Kwee. 1990. *Guava in Malaysia Production, Pests and Diseases/ Jambu Batu di Malaysia Pengeluar, Perosak dan Penyakit*, translated by Foo Hee Boon, Seo Wei Ming& Tan Bee Leng. Kuala Lumpur: Tropical Press, 1995.
- Poehlman, John Milton. 1959. *Breeding Field Crops/ Pembiakan Tanaman Jilid 1 & Jilid 2*, translated by translator of DBP, 1986.
- Senarai Istilah Sains Pertanian Bahasa Inggeris-Bahasa Malaysia*. 1980. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.

Spedding, C.R/W. 1979. *An Introduction to Agricultural System/ Pengenalan Sistem Pertanian*, translated by Norizan Mohamad. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka,1994.

Tisdale, Samuel L & Werner L. Nelson. 1975. *Soil Fertility and Fertilizers Third Edition/Baja dan Kesuburan Tanah Edisi Ketiga*, translated by translator of DBP. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, 1981.

Williams, C.N. & K.T.Joseph. 1970. *Climate, Soil and Crop Production in the Humid Tropics/ Iklim, Tanah dan Pengeluaran Tanaman di Kawasan Lembap*, translated by translator of Fajar Bakti. Petaling Jaya: Fajar Bakti, 1983.