# A STUDY OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF TRANSLATION RESULT OF THE APPLICATION OF *REKSO TRANSLATOR RELEASE 3 (3.2.4)* PROGRAMME AT WORD, PHRASE, AND CLAUSE LEVELS

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Abstract Artikel ini tentang ciri-ciri hasil penerjemahan program *Rekso Translator Release 3 (3.2.4)* pada level kata, frasa, dan klausa. Data terdiri dari 23 kalimat yang diambil dari 3 buku teks dari 3 bidang ilmu, yaitu, ilmu alam, fisika, dan komputer tingkat SMA kelas 1. Analisa dipusatkan pada berbagai masalah penerjemahan dengan program perangkat lunak. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa ada berbagi masalah pada tingkat kata (meliputi: kelas kata, pilihan kata, kemajemukan, dan kata tak terjemahkan), tingkat frasa (meliputi: struktur pewatas dan kata kepala, inversi dan pilihan pewatas, determinator, artikel, dan kata ganti), tingkat klausa (meliputi: penghilangan subjek kalimat, klausa relativa, imperatif, kongruensi subjek-kata kerja, struktur retrofleks, kala, dan bentuk pasif). Yang lebih utama, analisa menunjukkan perlunya penilaian penterjemah berkaitan dengan kealamian dan keefisienan hasil terjemahan mesin.

Kata kunci: penerjemahan, mesin penerjemahan, penerjemahan tingkat kata, penerjemahan tingkat frasa, penerjemahan, tingkat klausa

#### Introduction

Translating writings from one language into another is a work which is as old as the writings itself and translation has gone hand in hand in a simultaneous development with the writings itself. Since the writings aim to be read, the role of translation is as significant as the writings itself. Translation functions as a practical and efficient means for the message conveyors to deliver their writings to readers with different languages from language being used in their writings (Bambang Kaswanti Purwo, 1990:179). The need of translation has greatly increased due to the needs for information exchange.

Technically, translation can be done with some methods and approach models. In general, there are two means of translating, (1) manual (human skill), (2) machine (translator programme), i.e. translation using certain computer programmes to translate one language into another. Each model corresponds to its own goals and style, such as tending toward more literal (such as holy books) or contextual (such as literary works) translation.

The development of technology in computer has produced a number of computer software products which function to run programmes such as audio-visual English-Indonesian dictionary, audio-visual TOEFL exercise, and also a translator programme. A translator programme is a programme used to translate from one language to another automatically. The translator programme was first created for practical and economic reason to support the manual way in a literal translation. The programme has been continually upgraded to increase their accuracy. The increased accuracy includes at different levels: words, phrases, (including idioms), terms, even context (in some cases)

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(the result has a quality approaching the source language message). An instance of the marketed products of the translator programme is *Rekso*. It was made by Corel Cooperation Company and was marketed worldwide in 2006, and has been developed upgraded from *Rekso Release* 1, 2, and 3 to increase the quality of the translation result. This study focuses on *Rekso Translator Release* 3 (3.2.4) version.

*Rekso Translator* has been promoted as 'smart' and 'instant' software (programme) designed to be an automatic and perfect translator programme with database of a unique and sophisticated dictionary. It has been claimed to have sensitivity to meaning choice, provide brief explanations for technical terms, assist in translating from Indonesian into English or vice versa, in different sizes and length of text and is also promoted with some sensitivity in fields of study such as Basic science, Economy, Business and Telecommunication Engineering, Physics, Philosophy, Monetary, Computer and Theology, Medicine, Pharmacology, Psychology, Law, Military, and files in different word Document, RTF. HTML, formats such as TXT (www.indonesiantranslator.com/kelebihan software rekso translator/2008).

The research then tries to investigate the ability being promoted for the programme and evaluate the accuracy of translation. This study attempts to answer the following questions: (1) What are the characteristics of the translation result of the application of *Rekso Translator Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at word level? (2) What are the characteristics of the translation result of the application of *Rekso Translator Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at word level? (2) What are the characteristics of the translation result of the application of *Rekso Translator Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at phrase level? And (3) What are the characteristics of the translation result of the application of *Rekso Translator Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at phrase level? And (3) What are the characteristics of the translation result of the application of *Rekso Translator Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translation result of the application of *Rekso Translator Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translation result of the application of *Rekso Translator Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translation result of the application of *Rekso Translator Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translator *Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translator *Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translator *Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translator *Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translator *Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translator *Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translator *Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translator *Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics of the translator *Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics programme at characteristics at the translator *Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics programme at the translator *Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at characteristics programme at th

### Literature Review

Transferring a message from the source language to the target language is a process of substitution of language elements such as phonology, syntax to the target language, yet the meaning (message) contained by the source language must not change.Nida and Willie Koen said that translation is considered equivalent if the native speaker of target language could read and understand the result of translation well (1991:12). The target language must have the closest equivalence of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. In addition, the equivalence must be natural which stresses the use or application of expressions or culture of the target language as if it were not a translation result (Yassir Nasanius, 2007:25). The meaning of translation can also be illustrated as the following diagram (A. Widyamartaya, 1991:38):



The big rectangle indicates a cultural background, while the triangle indicates another. Either the small rectangle or triangle inside the big ones indicates that in any culture people interact in their own cultural pattern especially language patterns (e.g. sentence patterns, word choices, expressions). Then, M indicates the message of either the

rectangle or triangle culture. Thus, the process of translation can be illustrated (i.e. the rectangle: SL, the triangle: TL) that the message inside the rectangle is conveyed to the triangle, but the message still remains the same. In other words, translation does not only replace the rectangle into the triangle. However, the culture and pattern of the rectangle must be reconstructed to the triangle. The triangle style (culture and pattern) must be like its origin when the rectangle message is moved to it, or until as though it did not read as a translation.

A translation category is divided into hierarchal linguistics, known as "rank", comprising of units such as sentence, clause, group, word, and morpheme (Munday, 2001:61). Alternatively, Catford's concept of hierarchical linguistic units as follows: phoneme level, morpheme level, word level, phrase level, sentence level, and textual level (Salihen Moentaha, 2006:33). Translation can occur at every level. In this study, theories used to describe the characteristics of the result of translation are only at word and phrase, and clause levels.

According to Moentaha (2006:37), translation determined by a word level means that a word functions as a unit of translation. This type of translation is more frequently used than at a morpheme or phoneme level. However, the use of translation at a word level is limited. Words contain various meanings (polysemous word), and usually, the system of word meaning in languages is not fully the same as the equivalent system of word meaning in others (2006:13). Words also have wider meaning (non differential) and narrower meaning (differential) (Salihen Moentaha, 2006:14), which may lead to difficulty in translation.

A translation type at a phrase level usually is a phrase as an idiom or a phrase construction related to phraseology, because translation per word, in this case, is impossibly conducted and a phrase functions as a whole translation (Salihen Moentaha, 2006:38). Idioms and fixed expressions as well as unfamiliarity with phrase structure rules in both the SL and TL texts may pose difficulties in translation.

Translation at a clause or sentence level is the next step to handle text. At this level, the translation tends to pay attention to the structure and style of a whole sentence (unit), including differences of grammatical categories in both SL and TL to include among others plurality, tense and aspect, voice.

### **Research Method**

This study is descriptive qualitative research whose attempts are to describe, classify, and analyze the data with all its richness as closely as possible to the form in which it was recorded or transcribed (Bogdan, Biklen, 1982:27). The data are taken from three books of the senior high school level: first: *Ilmu Pengetahuan Alam* writen by Puji Asputro, S.Pd and published in 2009 by Cahaya Mentari, chapter 2 *Kejadian di Alam*, sub chapter *Gunung Berapi*, page 21, third paragraph, second: *Fisika* written by dra. Dwi Retno Asminah and published in 2009 by Cahaya Mentari, chapter 6 *Pemuaian Zat Padat*, subchapter *Suhu dan Kalor* page 28, second paragraph, third: *Keterampilan Komputer dan Pengelolaan Informasi* written by Agus Riyanto, S.Pd and published in 2009 by Cahaya Mentari, chapter *an Pengelolaan Scanner*, page 28, second paragraph. The data are inserted into computer on *Rekso Translator Release* 3 (3.2.4) programme to be translated

automatically. Then the data are classified into the levels of word, phrase, and clause and analyzed using criteria for each level.

#### **Result and Discussion**

The discussion in this section is divided into three levels of analysis: word level, phrase level and clause level.

#### 1. Word Level Analysis

The total data of the word level analysis is 53 words. The word level analysis is based on the word class of the data, which includes Noun, Verb, Adjective, and Adverb. At the noun level, the problems being found include word choice, plurality and untranslated words.

One of the problems in word choice is illustrated in the following data.

(1) SL:...gunung berapi <u>'kerucut'</u> (1.2.4a) yang meletus dengan sangat dahsyat,

TL :...volcano <u>'trapeze '</u> (1.2.4a) erupting considerably awful,...

The datum has an incorrect word choice for SL kerucut to TL trapeze. TL trapeze means swing with narrow seat suspended high above the ground (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995:1272). In this context, SL kerucut has a meaning related to shape i.e. the shape of a volcano. The meaning of trapeze has no connection with 'shape'. Alternatively, a closer word to the meaning is cone-shaped. Cone (-shaped) means a solid or hollow thing that has the shape of a cone, e.g., cone-shaped volcano (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995:240). Thus, the appropriate choice is cone-shaped.

Problems in plurality can be illustrated in the following data.

(2) SL:...di antara lempeng-lempeng (1.1.3a) tektonik raksasa...

TL : ...among tectonic <u>plate</u> (1.1.3a) of giant...

The datum has an incorrect plural form for SL *lempeng-lempeng* to TL *plate*. In Indonesian grammar, a plural form is expressed with a repeated noun without any quantifiers, numerals preceding it for countable nouns as the *noun-noun* pattern, e.g., *rumah-rumah, siswa-siswa*. On the other hand, in English, for regular countable nouns, a plural form follows the noun + *s/es* pattern, for instance, *books, foxes*. The problem is that TL *plate* has no *-s* ending while SL *lempeng-lempeng* which is a countable noun including natural things (Abdul Chaer, 2000:87) can be pluralized. Then, the word *plate* is also a countable noun (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995: 883). So, it needs *-s* ending to adjust to the form of the SL. Thus, *-s* ending must be added to the noun to form the plural noun (*plate* +  $s \rightarrow plates$ ). Thus, the more equivalent form is *plates*.

Problems involving untranslated words can be illustrated in data below.

(3) SL : Kebanyakan gunung berapi terbentuk di dekat <u>retakan</u> (1.1.2a) di antara lempeng-lempeng...

TL : Mostly volcano is formed at elbow retakan (1.1.2a) among tectonic plate...

The datum has an untranslated word for SL *retakan* to TL *retakan*. The problem is that the programmme cannot the word translate from SL to TL. It remains the same word for

SL *retakan* = TL *retakan*. In this context, the word is suitably translated into *fault*. *Fault* means a place where there is a break in the layers of rock of the earth crust e.g. earthquakes along the San Andreas fault (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995: 424).

At the verb level, problems consist of word choice, as illustrated in data below. (4) SL : Di titik pertemuan lempeng ini, magma <u>terperangkap</u> (1.3.1b) di bawah tanah...

TL : In this plate impact point, magma is **<u>snared</u>** (1.3.1b) subterranean ... The datum has an incorrect word choice for SL *terperangkap* to TL *snared*. TL *Snare* (past participle: *snared*) means catching something in a snare (*a trap for catching small animals and birds*...) (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 1995:1123), while SL *terperangkap* has a meaning related to a thing becoming fixed on something in this context, i.e. magma becoming fixed under the ground. Thus, TL *snared* is not equivalent in this context. Alternatively, a closer word to the meaning is *stuck*. *Stick* (past participle: *stuck*) means *not able to move or be moved*: ..., e.g., *the boat is stuck in the mud* (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995:1187). Thus, the word *stuck* is more equivalent than the word *snared*.

(5) SL: <u>menghidupkan</u> (3.1.6b) computer ...

TL : <u>animate</u> (3.1.6b) computer....

The datum has an incorrect word choice for SL menghidupkan to TL animate. TL animate means to give life to something/somebody; to make somebody/something more lively e.g. a smile animates her sad face (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995:40). However, in this context, SL menghidupkan means an action of making something on from off (i.e. making the scanner machine on) rather than giving something life, spirit. Alternatively, a closer word to the meaning is turn on. Turn on means making something a radio, a television start functioning by moving a switch, button etc (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995:812). Thus, the word turn (on) is more equivalent than the word animate.

At the Adjective level, similar problems also occur, as illustrated below:

(6) SL: ...magma terperangkap di bawah tanah, sehingga sangat <u>asam</u> (1.3.1b)...

TL :...magma is snared subterranean, so that very <u>sour</u> (1.3.1b)...

The datum has an incorrect word choice for SL asam to TL sour. TL sour means having a sharp taste, such as *lemon or unripe fruit: sour gooseberries, sour mango* (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995:1136). However, in this context, SL asam means the chemical condition of substances i.e. the condition of magma, not a taste for a sense especially the tongue. Alternatively, a closer word to the meaning is acid. Acid means (*chemistry*) having the essential property of an acid (any of a class of substances containing HYDROGEN that can be replaced by metal to form a salt, e.g., some acids burn holes in wood) (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995:10). Thus, the word acid is more equivalent than sour.

At the Adverb level, problems of word choice can be illustrated as follows. (7) SL: ...gunung berapi 'kerucut' yang meletus dengan sangat <u>dahsyat</u> (1.2.2d)... TL: ...volcano 'trapeze ' erupting considerably **awful** (1.2.2d)... The datum has an incorrect word choice for SL *dahsyat* to TL *awful*. In Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, *awful* means *extremely bad or unpleasant; terrible an awful accident/experience*... (1995:71). However, in this context, SL *dahsyat* means a great explosion on erupting volcanoes. Hence, the word *awful* is less equivalent; moreover the word class is an adjective. Alternatively, a closer word to the meaning is *violently*. *Violent(ly)* means *very bad or strong: winds/storms/earthquake* (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995:1329). Thus, the word *violently* is more equivalent than the word *awful*.

### 2. Phrase Level Analysis

The noun phrase analysis is limited into two sections: modifiers and heads and determiners. Each noun-phrase analysis is presented separately.

## **Modifiers and Heads**

The problems of modifier and head structures involve modifier choice and inverted modifier and head, as illustrated in the following data.

(8) SL: Kebanyakan gunung berapi (1.1.a) terbentuk...

TL : Mostly volcano (1.1.a) is formed...

The datum has an incorrect modifier choice for SL *Kebanyakan gunung berapi* to TL *Mostly volcano*. The problem is that the modifier *mostly* is an adverb, while a head is never preceded by an adverb. In English, the classifications of modifiers are determiners (demonstratives, numerals, quantifiers), adjectives, and complements (prepositional phrases, clauses). Hence, to adjust to the word function of English for the modifier, the class of word *mostly* must be changed to the word having one of the classifications above. The choice is *most* for the meaning still has a connection with *mostly* (*kebanyakan*). Then, the modifier *most* is a quantifier used to show more than a half of things and used for either plural count-noun or non-count noun. As the head (*volcano*) is a regular countable noun, it be must be a plural form. Consequently, the word *volcano* needs *-s/es* ending to show a plural form (volcanoes). Thus, the appropriate NP structure is *most volcanoes*.

(9) SL : ...di antara <u>lempeng-lempeng tektonik raksasa</u> (1.1.c) yang membentuk permukaan...

TL: ...among tectonic plate of giant (1.1.c) forming by surface...

The datum has an incorrect modifier position for SL *lempeng-lempeng tektonik raksasa* to TL *tectonic plate of giant*. The function of each word is (tectonic: first modifier, giant: second modifier, plate: head). In this case, the position of the second modifier *giant* is attached behind the noun (head), whereas the structure for this NP is  $2^{nd}$  modifier +  $1^{st}$  modifier + head. The position of the second modifier is in front of the first modifier and the head. Consequently, *giant* (as the second modifier) must be moved to the front of the first modifier (*tectonic*) and *of* must be omitted for it has no function and is never appropriate in any position for this structure. Thus, the appropriate NP structure is *giant tectonic plates* (The noun also needs an adjustment to a plural form, *plates*.).

### Determiners

The problems of determiners involve definiteness and possessives.

(10) SL: ...yang membentuk <u>permukaan bumi</u> (1.1.d),... TL: ...forming by **surface of earth** (1.1.d),...

The datum has a problem for a definite article for SL permukaan bumi to TL surface of earth. The TL cannot supply a definite article for surface and earth. In this case, the head surface needs the (the + surface) since it is known which surface it is that it is already explained by modifier earth. On the other hand, the head earth also needs the (the + earth) for the word earth is a unique thing. Thus, the appropriate NP structure is the surface of the earth.

## (11). SL :...tetapi <u>bentuk dan ukurannya</u> (1.1.e) berbeda.

TL : ... but form and its(the measure (1.1.e) different.

The datum has a problem for a possessive pronoun for SL bentuk dan ukurannya to TL form and its(the measure. The TL cannot structure a modifier (determiner) for both form and *measure*. The determiner for the both heads is put to the second head such as the SL, bentuk dan ukurannya. Then, the TL identifies the Indonesian pattern (as the SL) like form and its(the measure. The problem is the position of its(the as a modifier for the both heads. In this case, the TL gives alternatives for modifier its(the. It must be one as the modifier. However, the both choices are less appropriate. First, the is inappropriate for -nya not only indicates something known but also clearly carries a possessive meaning in this context. Second, its is inappropriate for it is possessive pronoun used for a singular, while it (-nya) refers to volcanoes (The word volcanoes needs an adjustment for plural form). Then, volcanoes is a plural form, so the possessive pronoun is their. Hence, the appropriate is their. In English, the NP structure is modifier  $+ 1^{st}$  head  $+ and + 2^{nd}$  head. The position of the modifier is in front of the first head (their form and measure) (The word form and measure needs an adjustment for a word choice, form  $\rightarrow$  shape, measure  $\rightarrow$  size.). Thus, the appropriate NP structure is their shape and size.

## 3. Clause Level Analysis

At this level, the problems include passive voice, relative clause, missing subject, inverted structure, subject-verb agreement, and imperative and adjustments. The analysis is illustrated below.

(12) SL : *Kebanyakan gunung berapi terbentuk* di dekat retakan di antara lempenglempeng tektonik

- raksasa yang membentuk permukaan bumi, tetapi bentuk dan ukurannya berbeda.
- TL : *Mostly volcano is formed* at elbow retakan among tectonic plate of giant forming by surface of

earth, but form and its(the measure different.

The datum has an incorrect passive pattern for SL *terbentuk* to TL *is formed*. The problem is unable to supply be (*are*) for the plural subject (*most volcanoes*). In the TL, auxiliary *is* is used for a singular subject, while the subject is a plural form in this context. Then, it needs an adjustment to the pattern (S – V agreement), so auxiliary *are* is used for the subject (*volcanoes*) is a plural noun (*are* + *formed*). Thus, the equivalent structure for the passive form is *are formed*.

To summarize the correction of datum 1.1 at word level (correction for *retakan*, *form*, *measure*, phrase level (correction for *mostly volcano*, *tectonic plate of giant*, *surface of* 

*earth, form and its(the measure)*, and clause (correction for *is formed*), the text of datum 1.1 will read:

(12) a. Most volcanoes are formed at elbow fault among giant tectonic plates forming the surface of the earth, but their shape and size different.

Beside the correction from the word, phrase, and clause level analyses, still the above sentence needs further adjustments to fit the appropriate and efficient translation into English. Other elements that need to be adjusted include *at elbow* (become *near*), *among* (become *between*), *by* (omitted), attachment of be (*are*) (S – V agreement) between *shape and size* and *different* (become *shape and size are different*). Thus, a more efficient translation may be as follows:

(12) b. *Most volcanoes are formed near a fault between giant tectonic plates forming the surface of the earth, but their shape and size are different.* 

Another illustration is taken from data from the computer text.

(13) SL : Sebelum menjalankan mesin scanner, pastikan dulu kabel scanner yang sudah disediakan

terhubung antara mesin scanner dengan komputer melalui port USB, mempelajari user manual

scanner, menghidupkan computer.

TL : Before implementing scanner machine, ascertain formerly scanner cable *which had by been* 

*provided* will be be connected between machine scanner with computer passes USB port, study

digitiform user scanner manual, animate computer.

The datum has an incorrect clause structure for SL yang sudah disediakan to TL which had by been provided. The problem is the use of auxiliary had. In this case, had indicates past situation, whereas the situation of the sentence is present. The sentence is a sort of a procedure that carries an imperative meaning, and an imperative tense is always in the form of present time. Hence, the verb used must have a present meaning. To adjust to the situation, had must be changed into has (S + V agreement for scanner cable is singular). Then, it becomes present perfect (has + past participial verb). The word by at the middle of the structure must be omitted for it has no function in this clause. Thus, the equivalent structure is has been provided.

To summarize the correction of datum 3.1 at word level (correction for *implementing*, *formerly*, *study*, *animate*, phrase level (correction for *scanner machine*, *scanner cable*, *machine scanner*, *computer*, *USB port*, *user scanner manual*, *computer*), and clause level (correction for *which had by been provided*), the text of datum (13) will read:

(13) a. Before operating, a scanner machine, ascertain first a scanner cable which had been provided will be be connected between the scanner machine with a computer passes the USB port, learn digitiform user's scanner manual, turn on the computer.

Beside the correction from the word, phrase, and clause level analyses, still the above sentence needs further adjustments to fit the appropriate and efficient translation into English. Other elements that need to be adjusted include *passes* (becomes *through*), omission of *digitiform*, and for more an efficient structure: *ascertain* is omitted and changed by *connect*; *which have been provided* is changed into *available*; *with* becomes *to*). Thus, a more efficient translation may be as follows:

(13) b. Before operating a scanner machine, connect an available scanner cable to a computer through the USB port, learn the user's scanner manual, turn on the computer.

## Conclusion

A study of the characteristics of translation result of the application of the *Rekso Translator Release 3 (3.2.4)* programme at word, phrase, and clause levels from Indonesian into English is interesting and worthwhile due to many problems in the target language at those levels about incorrect translations.

After analyzing the data obtained from the three academic text books consisting of three subjects including basic science, physics, and computer of the first grade of senior high school level, the study shows that the 23 sentences in the data have various problems at word, phrase, and clause levels. The problems at word level which are divided into noun, verb, adjective, and adverb sections, consist of word choices, pluralities, and untranslated SL words. The problems at phrase level (noun phrase level) consist of modifiers and heads (modifier choice and inverted modifiers and heads) and determiners (indefinite articles, definite articles, and possessive pronouns). The problems at clause level consist of missing subjects, relative clauses, imperatives, subject-verb agreement, inverted structures, tenses, and passive voices. In addition, after the analyses at word, phrase, and clause levels are conducted, the translation still remains inefficient. Consequently, adjustments are required to make it more efficient and natural.

The analysis of the data implies that translation machine (programmme) such as *Rekso Translator Release 3* (3.2.4) has a number of limitations, despite its promotion to be able to handle both many aspects of translation at different language levels and technicality of written language.

This study is hoped to widen the knowledge of the readers and also to provide comprehensive knowledge to stimulate the students for a better understanding of the field of translation. The writer hopes that the result of the research of this study is worth for further research in translation.

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