Translation of the Taboo Word 'fuck' as A Linguistic Approach in ELT: The Case of *Everything is F*cked* and *Segala-galanya Ambyar*

Pendi Lestiani Novita Putri
Universitas Gadjah Mada
(pendilestianiputri@gmail.com)

The word 'fuck' is one of the taboo words in English and the research of its translation into Indonesian has been little conducted. This research aims to investigate the translation of 'fuck' and its compounds (e.g.motherfuck) and derivatives (e.g.fucking) into Indonesian. The data are collected from a bestselling book Everything is F*cked by Mark Manson which has been translated as Segala-galanya Ambyar. The method used is a descriptive method by sorting out the variations of fuck and their translation and by analyzing them based on grammatical categories of usage and translation strategies. The result shows variations of fuck are used in 12 grammatical categories: (1) adverbial booster; (2) curse expletive; (3) destinational usage; (4) emphatic adverb/adjective; (5) figurative extension of literal meaning; (6) general expletive; (7) idiomatic "set phrase"; (8) literal usage; (9) predicative negative adjective; (10) 'pronominal' form with undefined referent; (11) personal insult referring to defined entity; and (12) premodifying intensifying negative adjective. The analysis on grammatical structures and the lexical meaning analysis disclose that variations of 'fuck' impart emotive expressions such as dissatisfaction, emphasis, contempt, and excitement. These emotions take part in determining their translation strategies. Further analysis shows that euphemism, discursive creation, transfer, and omission, are the significant strategies used in this case. Essentially, this method of research could be an effective method to teach the usage of English taboo words – especially 'fuck', on lexical and contextual dimensions.

Keywords: taboo word, *fuck*, translation, translation strategies, ELT

INTRODUCTION

Basically, translation is known as a common method used by a teacher to teach English. However, there is such a question about how the use of translation both a translation activity by professional translator and one which is called pedagogical translation. A brief elaboration about real translation and pedagogical translation by Mehta (2010) written on Translation Journal. He states that pedagogical translation is basically instrumental insofar as the translated text is a mere tool to improve students' second language (L2) proficiency so that translation is used as a medium. On the other hand, in real translation the translated text is the primary goal of the translating process. Besides, the main difference lies in the information that can be accessed through these two are the pedagogical translation contains information on the learners' level of proficiency (i.e. language), whereas the real translation presents information about reality (i.e.content). Essentially, pedagogical translation has only one expected addressee, the language teacher, who may use the translated text as an assessment tool. On the contrary, real translation has a potentially wider audience, that is, target language readers in search for information about reality.

The word 'fuck' is one of the taboo words in English and the research of its translation into Indonesian has been little conducted. For ELT case, teachers probably get difficulty in terms of

delivering this material to the students. Therefore, this research aims to investigate the translation of 'fuck' and its compounds (e.g.motherfuck) and derivatives (e.g.fucking) into Indonesian, collected from a bestselling book *Everything is F*cked (*EIF) by Mark Manson which has been translated as *Segala-galanya Ambyar* (SGA) by Adinto F.S. Hopefully, these data and method are interesting and useful as a kind of tools in teaching English, especially to introducing the students' knowledge about English taboo word.

METHOD(S)

The research used a descriptive method by sorting out the variations of *fuck* found in EIF, then analyzing them based on grammatical categories of usage. The translation strategies are analyzed towards the translation written on SGA as well. The analysis on grammatical structures and the lexical meaning analysis disclose that variations of 'fuck' impart emotive expressions such as disinterest, emphasis, contempt, and happiness. These emotions take part in determining their translation strategies i.e. euphemism, transfer, and omission. The result shows that *fuck* could be understood based on the usage which plays an important role in communicative purpose. Overall, in this research, translation will be simply analyzed as a potential tool for the ELT.

The method of this research begins with collecting data. The data are collected by reading out EIF then sorting out sentences using 'fuck'in order to get the occurrences of 'fuck' and their word class. The next step is searching for the Indonesian translation of the data and making list on the data notes. Then, analysing was conducted through these steps:

First, the analysis of grammatical categories. The categories are based on McEnery (2006). The variations of 'fuck' used in EIF and the context play important roles in determining the data into 12 grammatical categories i.e.: (1) Adverbial booster; (2) Cursing expletive; (3) Destinational usage; (4) Emphatic adverb/adjective; (5) Figurative extension of literal meaning; (6) General expletive; (7) Idiomatic 'set phrase'; (8) Literal usage; (9) Predicative negative adjective; (10) Pronominal' form with undefined referent; (11) Personal insult referring to defined entity; and (12) Premodifying intensifying negative adjective.

Secondly, analysing translation strategies which are possibly become the strategies chosen by the translator underlying the Indonesian translation of 'fuck' in SGA. According to Pratama (2016), there is not certain rules how to translate taboo words; however the translator must be keen on applying the translation strategies in order to get the most suitable target words and expressions for the source words and expressions. Howe (2012) states *fuck* is an unusual word in that it can be used as many different part of speech. It can be used as a noun, adjective, adverb, or interjection. As stated by Fairman (2006) that there is more to the word *fuck* than simply "to copulate," and even though the word is still deemed obscene and taboo, there seems to be something to this word that makes people continue to use it. Based on these statements, it can be withdrawn that to get equivalent words as *fuck* into Indonesia is uneasy. Through analyse the Indonesian translation, it is found that the strategies chosen to translate 'fuck' in SGA are transfer, softening (euphemism), and omission strategies.

Gottlieb (1992) suggests the 'transfer' strategy out of his ten strategies of translation to maintain the sense of the taboo words in the target language. Moreover, Baker (1992) states that in some context, to avoid the reader with lengthy explanations, the 'omission' strategy might be useful as long as the meaning conveyed by the expression or the utterance is not distract the context. Nevertheless, that there must be some loss of meaning when words and expressions are omitted in a translation. Therefore, this method is only as the last choice to produce a natural and readable translation. Besides, to reduce emotional harm and unpleasant effects of the taboo word Nida (2000) proposed the 'softening' strategy or euphemism. It is used to avoid impolite or insulting words, but at some point, the number of softened words should not be very high so that the style of the text will not be distorted. Thus, the translator needs to be very careful when softening certain expressions in case of maintaining the context and the style of the source language text. In purpose to equivalence, Molina and Albir (2002) suggest the technique of discursive creation to establish a temporary equivalence that is totally unpredictable out of context in terms of the cognitive process of translating by which a non-lexical equivalence is established that only works in context. Overall, the translation basically could use any kinds of strategies in purpose to reach the equivalence of translation that could in any kinds of methods such as literal translation, semantic translation, free translation, idiomatic translation, or communicative translation (Newmark, 1988).

The last step is making a code of each datum for example 001.EIF.106.E.SKN and 001.SGA.165.E.SKN, can be explained as follows:

1. 001 is an ordinal number listed on the notes.
2. EIF and SGA are the title of the books. EIF stands for *Everything is F*cked* in English version and SGA is *Segala-galanya Ambyar* in Indonesian version.
3. 106 and 165 are pages where each datum is found/written on EIF or SGA
4. E is a grammatical category of 'fuck', as an example E is *Emphatic intensifier* (emphasis).
5. SKN is "Srategi penggunaan Kata Netral (Using Neutral Word)" as an example of one of strategies the translator used in SGA.

As for the research instruments to support providing source of words meaning, this research uses Merriam-Webster Dictionary of English (MWDE), Collins Dictionary of English (CDE), and Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 below offers a quantitative classification by grammatical category of all the occurrences of 'fuck' in *EIF*.

Table 1. Occurrences of 'fuck' in Everything is F*cked

Word classes	Forms	Number of occurrences (%)	
Verb (V)	Fucks	1	15 (=%)
	Fuck (it, you)!	7	
	Fucked up	5	
	Fucks … up		
	Fuck off	1	

		Fuck around	1	
Adjective (AJ)		Fucked	29	53 (=%)
		Fucked up / fucked-up	11	
		Fucking	13	
Noun (N)		Fuck	5	23 (=%)
		Fuckedness	4	
		Fucker(s)	3	
		Motherfucker	2	
		Give a fuck	2	
		Fucking (gerund)	2	
		Fucking around (gerund)	1	
		Clusterfuck	1	
		(What the) fuck	1	
		(Who the) fuck	1	
		(Whatever the) fuck	1	
Adverb (AD)		Fucking	14	14 (=%)
Interjection (IJ)		Fuck	2	2 (=%)
Total			108	100

As can be seen above, there are four forms of 'fuck' significantly used in EIF, they are all kinds of adjectives namely 'fucked', 'fucking', and 'fucked up', and 'fucking' as an adverb. The fact that 'fucking' both as an adjective and an adverb is the most used form in Rayson and Wilson (2001) and Pujol (2006) as well.

Table 2. Occurrences of 'fuck' in Everything is F*cked

Code	Usage	Data Text	Number of occurrences (out of 108)
AB	Adverbial booster	What I want is **fucking** terrible.	11
CE	Curse expletive	Then the researchers went even further, because—**fuck** it, why not?	6
DU	Destinational usage	If you've made it this far in starting your own religion it means you've assembled a nice group of hopeless people desperately avoiding the Uncomfortable Truth by studying a bunch of bullshit you've made up, ignoring their friends, and telling their families to **fuck off**.	1

EA	Emphatic adverb/adjective	And while you're on the awesome beach vacation, you're like, you know what I *fucking need*?	15
FE	Figurative extension of literal meaning	I will do my homework, so I don't **fuck up** my future.	15
GE	General expletive	You don't pray to God to say, "**Fuck**, yeah. I'm awesome!"	2
IP	Idiomatic 'set phrase'	Kant didn't give a **fuck**.	5
LU	Literal usage	Some Clown Cars merely drive toward fun— they're all about drinking and **fucking** and partying.	2
PDN	Predicative negative adjective	Everything is **fucked**.	27
PF	'Pronominal' form with undefined referent	It's like Einstein once advised, "Never get wasted on cocktails with sugar-based mixers—if you need to go on a bender, may I recommend some seltzer, or if you're a particularly rich **fuck**, perhaps a fine champagne?"	14
PI	Personal insult referring to defined entity	Regardless, by the end of the 1940, Pilecki, the comic book superhero **motherfucker**, had still somehow set up an espionage operation.	4
PMN	Premodifying intensifying negative adjective	This typically leads to really **fucked-up** relationships with—you guessed it—narcissists.	5

The results shows that variations of fuck are used in 12 grammatical categories: (1) adverbial booster; (2) curse expletive; (3) destinational usage; (4) emphatic adverb/adjective; (5) figurative extension of literal meaning; (6) general expletive; (7) idiomatic "set phrase"; (8) literal usage; (9) predicative negative adjective; (10) 'pronominal' form with undefined referent; (11) personal insult referring to defined entity; and (12) premodifying intensifying negative adjective.

The most frequently used is PDN as seen in the data 'fucked' is used as predicative adjective. 'fucked' is an adjective that follows a linking verb and modifies the subject. In this case, 'fucked' modifies the negative information about the writer's feeling. The other grammatical usages that more than ten times used are EA, FE, PF, and AB. Besides, the other usages grammatical usages that less than ten times used are CE, IP, PMN, PI, GE, LU, and DU.

Table 3. Indonesian translation of 'fuck' in SGA

Translation of 'fuck'		Number of occurrences (out of 108)
Key word (backtranslation)	**Actual translation**	
Fucked (adj)	**Ambyar** (adj)	20
	Kacau (adj)	3
	Parah (adj)	1
	Runyam (adj)	1
Fucked up (v)	Tidak waras (adj)	1
	Teler (adj)	1
	Menyedihkan (adj)	1
Fucked up [transitive] (v)	Membuat berantakan (FV)	1
	Mengacaukan (v)	2
Fuckedness (n)	**Kekacauan** (n)	2
	Keambyaran (n)	1
	Bencana (n)	1
Fucking [gerund] (n)	**Mengacau** (v)	1
Fuck (n)	-	-
Fucking (adv)	-	-
Fucking (adj)	-	-
Motherfucker (n)	-	-
Fucker (n)	-	-
Who the fuck (n)	-	-
Whatever the fuck	-	-
Fucked (adj)	Runtuh (v)	1
	Kekacauan (n)	2
	Gembel busuk (FAdj)	1
Fucked up (v)	Gila (adj)	1
	Memiliki dampak buruk (FV)	1
	Benar-benar dalam keadaan ambyar (FAdv)	1
Motherfucker (n)	Sinting (adj)	1
Give a fuck (n)	Peduli (v)	1
Fuck off (V)	Mengusir jauh-jauh (FV)	1
Give a fuck (n)	Bersikap bodo amat (FV)	1
Fucking around [gerund] (n)	Bertingkah seperti orang kurang kerjaan (FV)	1
Fuck [transitive] (v)	Bodo amat (v)	5
	Persetan (p)	2

Fucked-up (adj)	yang berujung kegagalan (KlaAdj)	1
Fucked up (adj)	Sinting (adj)	1
Clusterfuck (n)	**Ambyar** (adj)	1
Fucker(s) (n)	Orang-orang (n)	1
	Seseorang (n)	1
Fucks (v)	Apa pun itu (F)	1
Fucked up (adj)	Bermasalah (adj)	1
Fucked-up (adj)	Tidak sehat (adj)	1
	Mengerikan (adj)	1
Fuck (n)	Orang (n)	3
Fuck around (v)	Sembrono (adj)	1
Fuck (interjection)	Nah gitu dong (interjeksi)	1
	Yo-yo, yang di sana (F)	1
Fucking (adv)	Benar-benar (adv)	2
	Sangat (adv)	1
	Sungguh (adv)	1
	Sungguh-sungguh (adv)	1
Fucking [gerund] (n)	Bercinta (v)	1
Fucking (adj)	Benar-benar … hebat (FAdv)	1
Fucking (adj)	Fucking (adj)	1
What the fuck (n)	What the fuck (n)	1

As can be observed in Table 3, the most common lexical translation for 'fuck' is 'ambyar' and'kacau'. According to KBBI the word 'ambyar' is a conversational word means *bercerai-berai; berpisah-pisah; tidak terkonsentrasi lagi* while the word 'kacau' means *campur aduk; kusut; rusuh; dan bercampur aduk*. These two words has the same component of disarranged condition. While the word 'fuck' has many kinds of definitions, one of them states that 'fuck' usually defines as a vulgar word that means *mess sense* (MWDE). As we can look up MWDE, the meaning of 'mess' is a disordered, untidy, offensive, or unpleasant state or condition. Though, the first definition of 'fuck' is to copulate (MWDE) and used to express anger or annoyance (CDE), 'fucked' itself most exists as an adjective and has been translated into 'ambyar' and 'kacau' insteada of 'sialan', 'bangsat', etc, in order to softening the offensive and vulgar sense. As Nida said that the 'softening' strategy or euphemism is used by the translator to avoid impolite or insulting words. Regarding to the lexical choice of 'ambyar', it is a quite linguistic phenomenon in Indonesia, it is one the progressively used during 2019-2020. The word 'ambyar' is a Javanese word means 'remuk/hancur' or 'broken'. It is chosen by the translator to interpret the word 'fuck' generally in EIF as the representation of being messed up feeling in facing the problems in life.

Overall, the distinctive usage of 'fuck' can be elaborated for an example the usage of its derivative 'fucking' in several. This is essential to use an example in teaching material in case of

the grammar-translation method. The data below display how to simply differentiate the usage of 'fucking' in sentences. The choice of translation is also considered based on translation strategies.

Datum 1.
Some Clown Cars merely drive toward fun—they're all about drinking and **fucking** and partying. [023.N.EIF.N.LU.EU.024]
*Beberapa Mobil Badut hanya ingin bersenang-senang-mereka sibuk minum-minum dan **bercinta** dan berpesta.* [023.V.SGA.V.LU.EU.049]

Datum 2
All they know is that they want some **fucking** ice cream. [070.AJ.EIF.EA.KD.081]
*Yang mereka tahu adalah mereka menginginkan **es krim**, titik.* [070.-.SGA.EA.KD.186]

Datum 3
"Imagine you're **fucking** rich and own a fleet of yachts! [034.AV.EIF.AB.TF.081]
*"Bayangkan Anda menjadi orang yang **kaya raya** dan memiliki sebuah kapal pesiar mewah! Maka pasti itu akan menjadi kenyataan!"* [034.-.SGA.AB.TF.091]

Datum 4
They're a bunch of **fucking** babies. [074.AJ.EIF.EA.OM.090]
*Mereka adalah sekelompok **bayi**.* [074.-.SGA.EA.EM.OM.210]

As we can see from the data above, there is the differences of grammatical usage and meaning convey from the word 'fucking'. On Datum 1, 'fucking' is a gerund and translated as literal usage of 'bercinta'. By looking up the dictionary and through the context, these two words are equivalent. However, 'bercinta' has lost the value of taboo caried by 'fuck'. 'bercinta' is a product of softening/euphemism strategy (EU) used by the translator in order to maintain the equivalent meaning of 'fuck' yet avoiding it from the vulgarity.

On the other hand, Datum 2 shows another usage of 'fucking'. In this case, 'fucking' is an emphatic adjective which modifies the noun 'ice cream'. The word 'fucking' proposed the emotion of emphasis of the writer in order to express the imagination of being super rich. Thus, it is equivalent with the translation 'orang kaya raya'. In KBBI 'kaya raya' means *kaya sekali; mempunyai harta (uang dan sebagainya) banyak sekali)*. The translator omits the word 'fucking' and use discursive creation strategy (KD) to only use 'titik' to reach the equivalence of expression 'contempt' that all kids want for having fun is only ice cream. Yet it was humorously use of fucking to describe how naïve the kids are.

Similarly, 'fucking' in Datum 3 also shows pragmatic information of emphasis emotion. However, the difference is shown in the usage of 'fucking' as an adverbial booster. As an adverb 'fucking' can be translated into 'very' which is boosting the word 'rich'. It represents the emotion of being excited of the writer. Then it is clear that the translator used the transfer strategy (KL) in order to synthesize the meaning of 'fucking' and not to translate it then used 'kaya raya' instead of adding the word 'sangat' after 'kaya' which means the same as its expression.

Besides, in Datum 4, based on the grammatical usage, it is an adjective as the emphatic intensifier. This 'fucking' emphasizes the word 'babies' to describe the political extremists who are stubborn like a child. the word 'fucking' could be translated in Indonesia as any kind of offensive words such as 'sialan', 'bangsat', 'brengsek', etc, to reach the equivalence of the negative emotive expression according to the context. However, the translator tried to avoid the offensive meaning of 'fucking' used in this sentence and used the omission strategy (OM) to not translate it instead.

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis on grammatical structures and the lexical meaning analysis disclose that variations of 'fuck' impart emotive expressions such as dissatisfaction, emphasis, contempt, and amazement. These emotions take part in determining their translation strategies. Further analysis shows that euphemism, transfer, and omission, are the significant strategies used in this case.

Having analysed the word 'fuck' into Indonesian and its translations, a set of conclusions can be summed up regarding the following aspects: lexicon, linguistic context, emotive information, and characteristics of translation.

(1) Linguistic context. There are four forms of 'fuck' significantly used in EIF, they are all kinds of adjectives namely 'fucked', 'fucking', and 'fucked up', and 'fucking' as an adverb. The most frequently grammatical usage used is predicative negative adjective, 'fucked' is an adjective that follows a linking verb and modifies the subject.

(2) Emotive information. As seen in this paper, the word 'fuck' covers different types of emotive information, such as dissatisfaction, emphasis, contempt, and excitement.

(3) Lexicon. Though, the first definition of 'fuck' is to copulate (MWDE) and used to express anger or annoyance (CDE), 'fucked' itself most exists as an adjective and has been translated into 'ambyar' and 'kacau' instead of 'sialan', 'bangsat', etc, in order to softening the offensive and vulgar sense.

(4) Characteristics of translation. The translation tends to use domestication in terms of interpret 'fuck' as seen in lexical choice of 'ambyar', 'gembel busuk', and 'bodo amat' which represent the daily use of Indonesian language.

Furthermore, in case of ET, by analysing the translation of EIF to SGA, this research then recommends the grammar-translation method which is adapted from Larsen-Freeman (2000) and has been adjusted as a teaching material of taboo words.

Table 4. The Grammar-Translation Method in ELT

Techniques	Implementation
Reading Comprehension	Reading the source language (English version) and target language (Indonesian version), through any kinds of book, novel, movie subtitle, songs, etc.
Antonyms/Synonyms	Looking up the lexical meaning and finding out the synonyms of the taboo words.

Deductive Application of Rule	Understanding grammar rules and their exceptions.
Fill-in-the-blanks	Filling in gaps in sentences with taboo words or items of a particular grammar type.
Use Words in Sentences	Students create sentences to illustrate they know the meaning and use of taboo words.

Essentially, this method of research could present an effective and potential techniques to teach the usage of English taboo words – especially 'fuck', on lexical and contextual dimensions.

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