

## **Translation Quality of Motivational Expressions in Children's Stories Provided by Storyweaver**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Children's stories and its translation always contain some positive messages that can be delivered in some ways, one of the ways is by motivational expressions in the story. Nowadays, there are so many resources to access children's stories on the internet, one of online platforms that provided free children's stories and its translation is Storyweaver. Indonesian stories in this platform are available in translation version from English stories, so it is important to see the transfer quality of motivation's messages from English as the source text to Indonesian as the target text. The method of this research is descriptive qualitative. 25 children's stories at level 4 on Storyweaver are selected as research location. Motivational expressions are identified by five types of motivations and the translation quality is assessed by accuracy, acceptability, and readability aspects. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with three experts is conducted to assess the accuracy and acceptability. The readability is assessed by children who fulfil target reader's criteria. The result of this study shows; 1) Identified is the most type of motivation found in the stories; 2) Translation of motivational expressions in children's stories is mostly at a high level of accuracy, acceptability and readability. Nevertheless, there are some data that have medium or low quality because it is translated with unsuitable translation techniques and some data have medium and low readability because the used of unfamiliar terms.

**Keywords:** Translation, Motivation, Children's story, Storyweaver.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The need of best quality literature for children leads people to find more various sources, including the literature form different cultures and countries (Xeni, 2011). These resources, of course needed to be translated to the target language so the readers can get equal information. The

challenges of translating children's literature led to numerous research in this field, one of it is the missions of Children's Literature and Translation (ChLT). According to Coille and Verschueren (2006), ChLT has five missions in different aspects, one of them is in psychology aspect. Children's literatures are proven to have effect on children's psychist because what they see and they read can affect their decision making and attitude in daily life (Xeni, 2010). Because of this reason, the insertion of positive values is a must in children's literature. One kind of positive messages that can be found in children literature or stories is motivation.

How motivation delivered in children's stories need to be studied to see the patterns and its appropriateness to the children itself. Ryan & Deci (2000) divided motivational expressions into five, they are: external, introjected, identified, integrated and intrinsic. This theory is used in this research to identify the types of motivational expressions in children's stories. Beside of the pattern and appropriateness, the translation quality also need to be analysed. A meaningful motivation will be meaningless in target text (TT) if there is mistake or miss occur in translation. The quality of translation is analysed with the translation quality assessment by Nababan, et al., (2012) which has three categories namely accuracy, acceptability, and readability. This assessment use scale 3, 2, and 1 to signify the level of translation quality. The better quality of translation, the higher point it got.

Previous research about specific expressions and its translation have been conducted, such as expression of sexism (Yumrohtuh, 2021; Manggarrani, 2019; Nuraisyah, 2018), authorial and non-authorial expression (Ananda, 2019), and expression of solidarity and partiality (Irlinda, 2016) but none of these research studied about motivational expression. Another research by Brida (2023) has studied about motivational expression but in a self-improvement book that has young adult and adult as the target readers. These research still not yet explore about motivation in children's literature. Study with this focus need to be conducted to see whether there are differences between motivation delivered in adult literature and motivation delivered in children's literature. Beside of that, the transfer of the motivation's messages from source text (ST) to target text (TT) need to be analysed in order to know the translation quality.

## **METHOD**

This is qualitative descriptive research with two techniques of collecting data. First, data is collected by document analysis to identify the types of motivations. Second, the translation data is collected by Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with three experts in translation to assess and identify the translation quality. Data are obtained from 25 children's stories at level 4 provided by online platform named Storyweaver (

<https://storyweaver.org.in> ). Each story has two versions: English version as the source text and its translation in Indonesian as target text.

Level 4 stories are aimed to the readers in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. To assess the readability of translation, two students from 7<sup>th</sup> grade and three students from 8<sup>th</sup> grade are asked to read the data in target text only. They also asked to mark the difficult data and words, then give 3 to 1 point for the data according to its level of difficultness.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Motivational Expression in Children's Stories

Among five types of motivational expressions, Identified is the type mostly found in children's stories. The frequency of each type of motivation in children's stories is delivered on a table below.

Table 1:  
Frequency of Motivational Expressions

No.	Types of Motivation	Frequency
1.	External	22
2.	Introjected	56
3.	Identified	62
4.	Integrated	43
5.	Intrinsic	21
<b>Total</b>		<b>204</b>

Identified as a type of motivation that encourage people to do something for their own sake is the mostly common motivation in children's stories. It indicates that motivation in level 4 stories mostly lead the readers to do something that good for themselves, be it for their future or to help them solve their own problem. This motivation is found expressed with positive words in instruction, suggest or hope that also show positive feelings. There sure be a difference between giving motivation to the young age and to the adults. Children tends to be unmotivated if people deliver it with negative words, meanwhile positive words that delivered in a nice way can motivated children most (National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2018).

Introjected is at the second place in frequency, right after identified motivation. There are many motivations in children's story that direct the characters or the readers to understand some standards, norms, or rules. Introjected sometimes also found with the purpose to cheer up the characters in the story so they don't feel negative feelings like sadness. It shows that motivation in children's stories also involves empathy and support. Another type of motivation that commonly found in children's stories is Integrated. Based on this result, we know that stories level 4 in Storyweaver also focus on encouraging children to do something not only for their own sake, but also for the bigger purpose

like taking care of environment or get some awareness about what happen to the climate and this planet. Introjected and integrated motivation also fulfil one of ChLT mission as pedagogy agent because these motivations teach children about knowledge, moral, norms, and attitudes (Coille & Verschueren, 2006).

All of motivational expressions found in this research delivered with positive words that contains positive feeling. Some of the motivations encourage the reader to do something good for others, some are aimed to create confident and self-respect, some provide useful insight in the form of suggestion or instruction. Meanwhile, the research of motivational expressions in motivation book, conducted by Brida (2023) shows that motivation for adults mostly dominated by judgement that aims to create a good quality life and good self-capacity.

Beside of the frequency, the quality of these motivations also need to be analysed in order to knowing whether the messages of these motivations is delivered well to the target language.

## 2. Translation Quality of Motivational Expressions

The translation quality is explained by each category of translation assessment: the accuracy, acceptability, and readability. The data are presented with source text (ST) and the translation or target text (TT).

### a. Accuracy Translation of Motivational Expressions

The translation accuracy of motivational expressions is at a high level, it means majority of the translations are accurate. Even though most of data have accurate translation, but some data still have less and not accurate translation as can be seen on the table below.

Table 2:  
 Motivational expression and the translation accuracy

No.	Category	Motivational Expression	Frequency	Total
1.	Accurate Translation	External	20	<b>178 (87,2%)</b>
		Introjected	48	
		Identified	54	
		Integrated	36	
		Intrinsic	20	
2.	Less Accurate Translation	External	2	<b>23 (11,3)</b>
		Introjected	6	
		Identified	8	
		Integrated	6	
		Intrinsic	1	
3.	Not Accurate Translation	Introjected	2	<b>3 (1,5%)</b>
		Integrated	1	

<b>Total</b>	204 (100%)
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Data 177. Identified motivation, accurate translation

ST: Your body belongs to you, so **tell someone if you're uncomfortable when they touch you.** (d.177/s.24/p.8/ph.1)

TT: *Tubuhmu adalah milikmu sendiri. Jadi, berterus terang dan katakana saja ketika kamu merasa tidak nyaman saat seseorang menyentuhmu,* (d.177/s.24/p.8/ph.1)

This is a dialogue from a girl who explains about sexual harassment that could happen to children. It's identified as Identified motivation because it contains an encouragement to do something that is so important for protecting children from sexual harassment and it is part of personal importance that all children must be aware of. This data has accurate translation because the message of Identified motivation in ST is delivered well to ST. It means that there is no unclear or deleted message. This data is translated with establish equivalence technique which normally always able to create a good quality translation (Nuraisyah, 2018; Yumrohtun, 2021)

Data 199. Introjected motivation, less accurate translation

ST: **"What a wonderful way** to start a meeting," (d.199/s.25/p.19/ph.1)

TT: *"Cara yang bagus untuk memulai pertemuan,"* (d.199/s.25/p.19/ph.1)

This is a dialogue from a woman that praise a young girl who tried to not be ashamed because she sang in front of her village citizens before they start a meeting. This is an introjected motivation because the woman tries to make this young girl proud of what she has done, so she won't feel ashamed or unconfident. This data has less accurate translation because there is a reduction meaning in word 'wonderful'. The word is translated to 'good' that doesn't have the same level with 'wonderful' because wonderful describes something more spectacular or fascinating. Even though both of words still in nice meaning, but 'good' is a little bit not suitable to replace 'wonderful'. The decline of meaning happened because the word 'wonderful' is translated with reduction technique. This technique caused some message is not delivered well to TT (Manggarrani, et al., 2019).

Data. 15. Integrated motivation, not accurate translation

ST: **Rights stop things from going wrong,** (d.15/s.4/p.2/ph.3)

TT: *Untuk menghentikan perbuatan sesat,* (d.15/s.4/p.2/ph.3)

It is an opening of story that tell about human rights. This narration told the readers that rights have a power to stop things from going wrong. It shows that rights have power to create a peace in this world which are what everyone wants. This data implies that by fulfil and respect everyone’s rights, there will be no something bad or wrong happen in this world, it makes this data identified as integrated motivation that encourage the readers to know about human rights for a big purpose. Sadly, this meaningful message is not delivered right to the TT. This data is translated into “to stop deviate action” which does not explain a thing about rights. The TT data don’t have clear subject nor object that can identify the meaning of this sentence. The used of discursive creation technique caused this data to have a bad translation. This technique usually used to translate tittles of movie, story, or novel that can translated far from the original context, but this technique cannot be used to translate a text that has specific meaning like data.15 above. Based on previous study conducted by Yumrohtun (2021) this technique can caused fatal error in transferred meaning from ST to TT.

**b. Acceptability Translation of Motivational Expression**

Table 3:  
 Motivational expression and the translation acceptability

No.	Category	Motivational Expression	Frequency	Total
1.	Acceptable Translation	External	22	<b>202 (99%)</b>
		Introjected	55	
		Identified	62	
		Integrated	42	
		Intrinsic	21	
2.	Less Acceptable Translation	Integrated	1	<b>1 (0,5%)</b>
3.	Not Acceptable Translation	Introjected	1	<b>1 (0,5%)</b>
<b>Total</b>				204 (100%)

The acceptable translation is when the data is translated by following the TT’s structure, grammar, culture, or rules so the result feel natural, there also shouldn’t be a mistake in translating some terms (Nababan, et al., 2012). 202 data have been translated by this parameter and bring out an acceptable result, but 2 data still have less and not acceptable translation.

Data. 119. Integrated Motivation, less acceptable translation  
 ST: “**Let’s also make signs to tell people to throw their garbage in the bins,**” (d.119/s.17/p.14/ph.1)

TT: *“Ayo kita buat tanda agar orang-orang membuang sampah di tong sampah ini!”* (d.119/p.17/p.15/ph.1)

This data is identified as integrated motivation because it encourages people to do something that beneficial to all people in the neighbourhood, means that this motivation has purpose of positivity for a community, not only for a person. The line is said by a little boy who asks his sister to make sign about throwing garbage to the bins, so their neighbourhood will be clean of trash. This data is translated well by following the TT’s rule and structure, but there is still a little miss in translating a word. There is word ‘to tell’ in ST that should be translated as ‘*untuk memberitahukan*’ or ‘*untuk mengarahkan*’ which explain the function of ‘signs’ that these siblings make, but this term is translated with reduction technique, so the meaning is not transferred to TT.

Data 98. Introjected motivation, not acceptable translation

ST: Go plant a tree. **Do the world some good.** (d.98/s.13/p.27/ph.3)

TT: *Ayo, ayo, menanam pohon. Tetapi juga demi dunia.* (d.98/s.13/p.27/ph.3)

This data contains introjected motivation that led readers to do something based on the universal standard. As a human, it a normal thing for us to do good things for this world, including plant some trees. This message is not transferred well to the TT because the used of discursive creation technique. The data translated into ‘but also for the world’. The structure of this clause is wrong, so it makes the TT data not acceptable as a sentence and it affects the quality.

### c. Readability Translation of Motivational Expressions

Table 4:  
 Motivational expression and the translation readability

No.	Category	Motivational Expression	Frequency	Total
1.	High readability Translation	External	19	<b>186 (91,2%)</b>
		Introjected	54	
		Identified	57	
		Integrated	39	
		Intrinsic	17	
2.	Medium readability Translation	External	3	<b>14 (6,9%)</b>
		Introjected	2	
		Identified	3	
		Integrated	4	
		Intrinsic	2	
3.	Low readability Translation	Identified	2	<b>4 (1,9%)</b>
		Intrinsic	2	



<b>Total</b>	204 (100%)
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The readability of data depends on the readers background of knowledge. A data is readable if the readers understand the meaning and don't feel confusion in reading it. Mostly the readability value, in children as target reader case, is affected by how the translator translates some terms or how a translator arranges the sentence. A translation has medium or low readability can be indicated by how the target reader read it, if the target reader read the data many times to grab the meaning of it, so the data has medium or low readability and if the translation is hard to understand means that it has low readability (Nababan, et al., 2012). 186 data have fulfilled the parameters of high readability, but target reader still hard to understand some data.

Data. 67. External motivation, medium readability translation

ST: **"... If we are able to generate enough awareness about the exploitation of natural resources, help will surely pour in. ...."** (d.67/s.9/p.5/ph.1)

TT: **".... Jika kita mampu membangkitkan kesadaran yang cukup tentang eksploitasi sumber daya alam, bantuan pasti akan datang. ...."** (d.67/s.9/p.6/ph.3)

The motivation to always spread awareness in the data is drove by a hope that help by other people will come, so they can stop the exploitation of natural resource together. Hoping for something that comes from outside is indicated as external motivation. According to the accuracy and acceptability, this data has good quality, but it's not enough to make the readers understand the message of this data easily. They have to red it multiple times to grab the meaning. It because the sentence is quite long and there are some words and terms that the readers can't put the meaning together, such as *"membangkitkan kesadaran yang cukup"* and *"eksploitasi sumber daya alam"*. The readers can get the meaning in general, but they didn't have a clue and can't picture the specific and exact meaning of the sentence, it makes them read the data multiple times.

This problem doesn't talk about translation technique anymore, but it is more about translator's competence issue. Translator must have textual competence to arrange lingual features so it can become a proper sentence or text, and it also need to be adjusted to the background of target reader (Naubert in Nababan, 2004).

Data 154. Intrinsic motivation, low readability translation

ST: **Gogo and I will build a firewall.** It will guard computers and the



internet from bad guys trying to steal other people's secrets.  
(d.154/s.20/p.9/ph.1)

TT: *Gogo dan aku akan membangun firewall. Firewall akan menjaga komputer dari orang jahat yang mencoba mencuri rahasia orang lain.* (d.154/s.20/p.9/ph.1)

This data is obtained from a story that tell about the dreams of a boy. The boy wants to be computer engineer and he wants to ask his friend named Gogo to build a firewall. The boy is motivated to become a computer engineer because it is something he likes; it comes pure from his heart and his passion. That's why this motivation is categorized as intrinsic motivation. This data has good quality in accuracy and acceptability, but the readers considered this data difficult to read because they don't understand the meaning of firewall. The translator used pure borrowing technique to translate the word 'firewall', meanwhile the readers don't understand the meaning of this word. Even though there is explanation about firewall in the next sentence, but the readers still can't grab the meaning. The concept of software and cyber-crime is not yet familiar to the readers, so it's hard to make the readers understand without explaining from the basic.

The used of not-so-familiar terms in fact often caused confusion for the readers. Not only foreign term, but some advance vocabulary in TT also can caused medium and low readability if it doesn't match the level of reader's knowledge background and experience, it will caused something that called as asymmetric communication (Alla, 2015) where there is a gap between the readers and the message in TT. In this research, there are some terms in target text language that caused medium readability because the readers are not familiar with it. For example, there are some profession's terms that readers don't understand, such as psychologist and psychiatrist, engineer, biomedical, climate champion, civil engineer, or nuclear engineer.

## CONCLUSION

Motivations in children's stories are expressed in positive ways and it already fulfil two of five purposes of ChLT, that is to help children's development in pedagogy and psychology aspect. Motivations in children's stories at level 4 on Storyweaver are mostly encourage children to have good attitude and mentality, and to put the awareness in children so they could notice what happen in their surroundings and they could prevent and solve not only their personal problem, but also the bigger problem that involved other people or environment. There are still many positive

messages can be delivered and studied in children's literature. This message can be in various form, not only motivational expression. The message and expressions in children's stories and its translation need to be explored and studied more so it can be more helpful and appropriate media to accompany children's growth and development.

The dominant result of motivational expressions quality is at high level, but there are still some translations with medium or low quality caused by the using of discursive creation technique and reduction technique. Meanwhile, in readability case, some data have low readability caused by some foreign or not so familiar terms and the sentence structure. It will be really good for the translator to put more consideration in their target reader's background such as age, knowledge, or experience before translating a text, especially in translating children's literature. It surely can reduce or prevent the asymmetric communication.

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