

NON-ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF USING CHATGPT FOR ENGLISH TEXTS TRANSLATION

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ABSTRACT

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This study aims to examine non-English students' perceptions of utilizing ChatGPT for translating English texts. In the modern era, where individuals from all backgrounds converge to share knowledge, there is a growing necessity for precise translation of English texts. The formulation of the research question is as follows: What is the perception of non-English department students regarding ChatGPT as a tool for translating English text? This study employs descriptive qualitative methodology. Using ChatGPT for translation, seventh-semester non-English students at Universitas PGRI Adi Buana Surabaya were observed in order to collect the data. The interviews were conducted at Universitas PGRI Adi Buana Surabaya with five randomly chosen students, including 2 females and 3 males. The researcher conducted individual interviews with each of the five students, and the conversations were recorded as documentation of the research undertaken at the university. The data are then assessed thematically. The research findings indicate that the application of ChatGPT for translating English texts for non-English department students, from the students' viewpoint, presents a varied environment, encompassing: 1) User-Friendly and Accessible; 2) Speed versus Accuracy; 3) Striking a Balance Between User-Friendliness and Accuracy; 4) Adaptability in Translation Style Flexibility; and 5) Utilization Recommendations. This research provides significant insights for educators, educational technology developers, and others seeking to enhance digital tools such as ChatGPT.

Keywords: ChatGPT, Non-English Department, Students' perception, Translation

INTRODUCTION

In today's modern world, when people from different backgrounds join together to share information, there is a growing need for accurate English text translation. This is essential for effective communication in academic, business, and cross-cultural contexts (Ghazvininejad et al., 2019). But not

everyone speaks English extremely well or has had professional training in translating. Automatic translation technologies have come a long way in the last few years to help people who don't speak English well. One interesting technology is Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer (ChatGPT), which uses AI and machine learning to automatically translate text (Brown et al., 2020; Radford et al., 2019).

ChatGPT models, which were trained on a lot of multilingual data, have shown good success in making translations that make sense and fit the context (Ghazvininejad et al., 2019). In investigating the perceptions of non-English department students regarding ChatGPT's efficacy in translating English texts, it is essential to comprehend the process by which participants utilize ChatGPT in their everyday routines. Participants can utilize ChatGPT as a language learning resource to translate English texts into their native language, for academic support in comprehending complex topics or translating assignments, and as a communication tool to overcome language barriers with English-speaking individuals. Moreover, ChatGPT functions as a resource for obtaining information in English, supporting creative writing projects, promoting cultural interchange, and offering immediate translation assistance. Through the examination of these diverse applications, researchers can acquire insights into the practical utilizations, obstacles, and prospective advantages of AI-driven translation tools for students outside of English departments. Most of the research so far has been on how ChatGPT is used in schools or by professionals in English language and translation studies. There isn't much information about how students who aren't in the English department feel about using it to translate English texts. Students from diverse disciplines may depend on translation tools such as ChatGPT to comprehend and utilize English materials. This research aims to explore the perspectives of non-English department students regarding ChatGPT's role when translating English texts, focusing on their experiences, attitudes, and potential issues. This knowledge can provide valuable guidance for improving the efficiency and usability of these translation tools, especially for those with different linguistic backgrounds. Moreover, it is essential to emphasize the benefits of utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven solutions such as ChatGPT for translating from Indonesian to English. ChatGPT and other AI-based translation systems are designed to get better at translating over time through machine learning. This makes them useful for dealing with the nuances and difficulties of language. They are also available 24/7, which means that translations may be done quickly and easily. They can also handle a wide range of information, from informal talks to complex documentation. In today's globalized world, where accurate and quick translation is in high demand, ChatGPT is a good way to let people who speak different languages communicate without any problems.

Literature Review

Some points are shown in this chapter. It starts from the definition of students' perception, Chat GPT, translation, and English text translation.

a. Students' perception

Everyone is different, and how they see things is also different. People's feelings about an object can change depending on how they see it. Aristotle came up with a theory of perception that says that the things we see modify the way our senses work. This indicates that individuals develop preferences and emotions for objects based on their impact on sensory perception (Esfeld, 2000). For example, think of a situation in which three judges critique a vocalist at an audition. One of the judges likes the singer's good and kind voice, but the other two don't since they think it's normal and ordinary. This example indicates that the three judges feel and think differently about the same thing, which is the singer's performance (Rogers, 2021). Gibson's theory is relevant here, asserting that human perceptions are influenced by optical flow and optical organization. Gibson posits that humans perceive objects and their sensory attributes through organized information packets, which are dictated by the objects interacting with our sensory organs (Rogers, 2021). Chudler affirms that perception encompasses awareness and familiarity with the objects of our perception. Most of our attitudes, behaviors, and adaptations are shaped by our personal perspectives. Additionally, Dr. Montague asserts that students' perceptions fundamentally represent their emotional responses or sentiments toward a subject (Holt, 1904).

b. ChatGPT

OpenAI's ChatGPT is a trained language model that has shown great skill in several natural language processing applications, such as machine translation (Lu et al., 2023). It can work with several languages because it has been trained on a wide range of text sources (Lai et al., 2023). However, it has difficulties when translating fewer popular languages or unique language pairs. This problem is exacerbated by the frequently basic instructions it receives, which do not fully realize its potential (Sapta et al., 2020). ChatGPT demonstrates a variety of skills in the field of English text translation, including text production, question answering, summarization, and natural language comprehension (Lu et al., 2023). However, the quality of the instructions given and the particular language pair being translated can affect how well it translates English texts (Lu et al., 2023). It is essential to recognize that ChatGPT may face challenges when addressing culturally distinct

terminology and idiomatic idioms. For example, a study examining the translation of an English narrative into Indonesian encountered difficulties with idioms and metaphorical language (Neumann et al., 2023). In conclusion, ChatGPT possesses considerable potential as an effective instrument for translating English text. Nonetheless, it may have difficulties in managing culture-specific vocabulary and colloquial idioms. To improve its performance in this area, more study and the creation of specialized instructions for various activities and domains are needed.

c. Translation

Translation is a comprehensive procedure that involves transforming written or spoken text from one language to another while maintaining the original message's meaning and intent. The task requires a profound comprehension of linguistic subtleties and cultural complexities, together with a sharp awareness of the contextual framework of the material being translated. Throughout the years, translation studies has significantly evolved, with researchers investigating various strategies and techniques to tackle issues related to cultural untranslatability and other aspects of the translation process (Abuissac et al., 2020). Numerous studies have been conducted in the field of English-Indonesian translation to evaluate the effectiveness of computer-assisted translation tools, understand the challenges faced by students during the translation process, and identify strategies to improve their translation skills. Let's examine these results: A study examined the efficacy of six different computer-assisted translation technologies in translating English to Indonesian. Their findings indicated that, while the translated texts were generally understandable, there were several cases where grammatical structures, such as verb tenses and word choices, differed. Efforts have also been focused on enhancing students' translation skills. One study focused on improving translation proficiency by using register analysis, which helped students recognize the distinctive style of writing in source materials and how it affected the translation process (Puspita & Hartono, 2020). Students' difficulties in translating idiomatic idioms from Indonesian to English have also been investigated. The principal challenges were related to students' insufficient understanding of target language grammar rules and their difficulties in identifying equivalent terms in the target language (Arfanti et al., 2018). The research on English-Indonesian translation highlights the importance of understanding grammatical structures, cultural factors, and the use of effective procedures to improve translation quality. Computer-assisted translation technologies have potential, but they may need some improvement, especially when it comes to dealing with complicated grammar and cultural differences.

d. Translation of English text

The translation of English texts into Indonesian has been thoroughly examined in diverse situations, including tourist materials, legal documents, and educational content. Researchers have utilized several translation methodologies and tactics to evaluate the efficacy and difficulties of translating between these two languages (Masduki & Misnadin, 2022). Newmark's translation methods have attained a great deal of attention among the techniques employed to examine English-Indonesian translation. These methods include many approaches such as literal translation, faithful translation, word-for-word translation, free translation, semantic translation, communicative translation, and idiomatic translation. Researchers revealed that the approach used is determined by the precise context and character of the material being translated (Hayadi et al., 2022). Researchers have investigated the translation techniques utilized by students when converting descriptive texts from English to Indonesian. The results demonstrated that students employ several techniques, such as literal translation, faithful translation, word-for-word translation, and free translation. Literal and faithful translation were the most common ways identified (Sipahutar et al., 2021). Another study investigated the translation of product labels from English to Indonesian. This study revealed seven translation methods utilized in this setting, with semantic translation being the most commonly employed methodology. Subsequently, it was succeeded by free translation, communicative translation, literal translation, faithful translation, word-for-word translation, and idiomatic translation (Nurhanifah & Haryanti, 2019). The literature on English-Indonesian translation emphasizes the essentiality of choosing suitable translation procedures and tactics that are adapted to the unique context and genre of the text being translated. This information can be efficiently applied to the translation of English literature for students outside the English department, ensuring that the translated materials are accurate, easily comprehensible, and successful in expressing the intended message.

Methodology

This study employs a descriptive qualitative methodology to examine and interpret the perspectives of non-English department students regarding ChatGPT's efficacy in translating English texts. The data are provided descriptively based on the interviews. The researcher emphasizes participants' viewpoints, enabling students to articulate their views, opinions, and emotions concerning the learning experience supported via ChatGPT. This method makes it possible to find both expected and surprising insights. Moreover, qualitative research offers flexibility and adaptability in data gathering, enabling the researcher to explore areas that may arise as particularly significant during the study. This research enhances

comprehension of students' perceptions of ChatGPT and provides practical insights for educators, curriculum designers, and educational technology developers aiming to optimize the application of digital tools such as ChatGPT in English text translation contexts. This study utilizes data derived from the thoughts, opinions, and experiences of students outside the English department who utilize ChatGPT, an application intended to facilitate the translation of English texts. This research data emphasizes qualitative analysis. The data source comprises five students from diverse academic programs at Universitas PGRI Adi Buana Surabaya, who become subjects or informants for this research. Interviews provide the ability to explore an individual's perspective and obtain information that can elucidate specific issues and opportunities. Conversely, observation is employed to directly observe students' interactions and experiences while utilizing ChatGPT as an English text translator. Moreover, documentation is employed to verify and validate the data acquired via observations and interviews. This study seeks to thoroughly investigate the diverse viewpoints and experiences of students utilizing ChatGPT as an English text translator through the integration of multiple data sources. The table below displays the identities of the informants along with their initial names.

Table 1. Informants' Initial Names

No.	Initial Name	Gender	Age	Department
1.	A	Female	21	Elementary Teacher Education
2.	B	Female	22	Indonesian Language Education
3.	C	Male	23	Accounting
4.	D	Male	22	Industrial Engineering
5.	E	Male	21	Physical Education

Result

This study engaged non-English seventh-semester students at Universitas PGRI Adi Buana Surabaya. Data was gathered by interviews, observations, and documentation from December 2, 2024, to December 10, 2024. Primary data was collected through interviews to comprehend the perceptions of non-English students concerning ChatGPT. Supplementary data was acquired through the observation of these students utilizing ChatGPT for translation purposes. The interviews took place on the 5th floor in room 5.03 with five randomly chosen participants: two females and three males. Each student was interviewed separately, and the discussions were documented as evidence of the research conducted at the university.

Non-English Students' Perspectives on ChatGPT as a Translation Tool for English Text

- a. User-Friendly and Accessible
Respondents considered ChatGPT to be extremely user-friendly and accessible, particularly its capacity to give free and instant translations. They enjoyed the convenience it provided for their daily translation demands and activities.
- b. Speed versus Accuracy
Students emphasized ChatGPT's ability to provide speedy translations, particularly for casual texts and conversational circumstances. However, they emphasized that accuracy may be compromised, indicating the need for caution in more formal or essential settings.
- c. Striking a Balance Between User-Friendliness and Accuracy
Participants indicated that ChatGPT offers a reasonable balance between user-friendliness and translation accuracy. Although the tool is practical and convenient for everyday or informal translation tasks, translations involving more formal or critical content may still require additional revision or consultation with professional translators to ensure a higher level of accuracy.
- d. Adaptability in Translation Style
Students valued ChatGPT's capacity to adjust to different translation styles, which makes it applicable across a range of contexts. This adaptability was especially appreciated when producing translations that preserve a natural and conversational tone, making the tool particularly useful for informal communication.
- e. Utilization Recommendations
The students recommended ChatGPT for common translation assignments while highlighting the significance of assessing the text's individual requirements and complexity. They recommended utilizing ChatGPT in conjunction with other technologies for more nuanced or formal text to ensure that the translation matches the appropriate quality and accuracy levels. Overall, the study found that non-English students at Universitas PGRI Adi Buana Surabaya have a positive view of ChatGPT as a translation tool, particularly for its usability, accessibility, and flexibility. Nonetheless, they understand the significance of determining the tool's applicability depending on the difficulty and purpose of the translation process.

Discussion

The positive perceptions reported by respondents regarding the user-friendliness and accessibility of ChatGPT indicate a broader pattern in how users experience translation technologies. The availability of free access plays a crucial role in enhancing user satisfaction and facilitating the integration of

such tools into everyday activities (Aldrich, 2021). This observation is consistent with current trends in which users increasingly prefer digital tools that are not only efficient but also easily accessible without financial constraints (Johnson et al., 2020). Nevertheless, it should be recognized that ease of use alone does not necessarily ensure the effectiveness of a tool across all contexts. Considering that ChatGPT serves a wide range of users, future developments and updates should take into account the diverse linguistic needs and preferences of individuals from various academic disciplines.

Some respondents acknowledged that ChatGPT is particularly convenient for quick and informal translation, which highlights an important issue concerning the balance between speed and accuracy in machine translation. This observation reflects a broader discussion in machine translation studies, where maintaining equilibrium between these two aspects continues to present a significant challenge (Brown et al., 2019). The need to deliver rapid responses while ensuring a high level of translation accuracy requires careful consideration of how such tools are applied in different contexts. Therefore, future developments in machine translation systems, including ChatGPT, may benefit from integrating adaptive models capable of modifying translation strategies according to the characteristics and complexity of the input text.

Harmonizing Ease of Use with Accuracy, as emphasized by several participants above, emphasizes the significance of striking a balance between user-friendly design and precise translations. This is consistent with recent improvements in language models, such as GPT, which seek to find a balance between usability and linguistic correctness (Lample and Conneau, 2019; Radford et al., 2019). As consumers rely more on these tools for a variety of translation needs, achieving the right balance is critical. To improve this balance, future versions of ChatGPT could include user-customizable options that allow each user to alter the amount of accuracy based on their individual requirements.

Several people said that ChatGPT can translate in different ways, which is an important part of how adaptable the user experience is. ChatGPT's capacity to adapt to various linguistic nuances and circumstances is consistent with the requirement for versatile language models that can handle a wide range of communication styles (Devlin et al., 2018). As technology progresses, adding user customization choices for translation styles to ChatGPT could increase its attractiveness by giving users a personalized experience that is tailored to their individual communication needs.

The recommendations provided by several respondents regarding the effectiveness of ChatGPT in everyday translation tasks, while also considering specific requirements and varying levels of text complexity, highlight the importance of context-based decision-making. This

perspective aligns with the broader view that no single translation tool can adequately address all linguistic situations and user needs (Artetxe et al., 2020). Therefore, ChatGPT could enhance its usefulness by incorporating contextual cues or providing guidance to users, helping them determine the most suitable translation approach or tool according to the specific context.

Conclusion

Based on the study's findings and discussion, it is possible to conclude that the usage of ChatGPT in translating English texts for non-English department students from the students' perspective reveals a diverse environment, namely: 1) User-Friendly and Accessible: The tool's capacity to deliver quick translations for ordinary circumstances was praised, resulting in a positive and practical user experience. 2) Speed versus Accuracy: While respondents found ChatGPT useful for informal translations, they also recognized a potential trade-off between speed and precision. It was made clear that the tool is good for quick and casual translations, but that for important or formal text, it could be required to get more reviews or consider using a professional translation service. 3) Striking a Balance Between User-Friendliness and Accuracy: Respondents identified a balance between ChatGPT's simplicity of use and translation precision. They stressed the tool's adaptability, saying that it is appropriate for informal and casual translations. However, it was also acknowledged that for more crucial or formal information, users should proceed with caution and investigate alternative translation approaches. 4) Adaptability in Translation Style: ChatGPT's ability to adapt to various translation styles was recognized. Respondents praised the tool's capacity to generate translations with a conversational tone appropriate for informal settings, which added to its overall appeal. 5) Utilization Recommendations: Respondents' recommendations varied, with a focus on context awareness. Users were asked to examine the purpose, complexity, and planned usage of the translation. The recommendation stressed how important it is to test out several tools and pick the one that works best for your needs.

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