

# Article

# SEMANTIC CHANGES IN TRANSLATION OF EUPHEMISM AND DYSPHEMISM IN TEMPO MAGAZINE

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# ABSTRACT

This research aims at identifying the semantic changes in the translation of euphemism and dysphemism in news text of Tempo Magazine. This research used a descriptive qualitative method and took the data from bilingual Tempo Magazine edition 2019 with Indonesian in a source language and its translation into English. The result shows that 6 types of semantic change occur in the translation of euphemism and dysphemism of Tempo Magazines such as semantic broadening, semantic narrowing, semantic metaphor, semantic pejoration, semantic amelioration, and semantic metonymy. When euphemism or dysphemism are translated into the same categories, they undergo semantic broadening, narrowing, metonymy or metaphor. While semantic change pejorations occur when euphemism is translated into dysphemism and semantic change ameliorations occur when dysphemism is translated into euphemism. Even though there are changing of the meaning from the earlier one to the new one in the translation of euphemism and dysphemism, the sense relation still tied the words up so they still have a relation between them

Keywords: componential analysis, dysphemism, euphemism, semantic change

# Sari

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi perubahan semantik dalam terjemahan eufemisme dan disfemisme dalam teks berita Majalah Tempo. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dan mengambil data dari Majalah bilingual Tempo edisi 2019 dengan bahasa Indonesia dan terjemahannya ke dalam bahasa Inggris. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada 6 jenis perubahan semantik yang terjadi dalam terjemahan eufemisme dan disfemisme Majalah Tempo seperti pelebaran makna semantik, penyempitan makna semantik, metafora semantik, penurunan makna semantik, perbaikan makna semantik semantik,metapora dan semantik metonimi. Ketika eufemisme atau disfemisme diterjemahkan ke dalam kategori yang sama, mereka mengalami perluasan semantik, penyempitan, metonimi atau metafora. Sementara penurunan makna semantik terjadi ketika eufemisme diterjemahkan menjadi disfemisme dan perbaikan makna semantik terjadi ketika disfemisme diterjemahkan menjadi eufemisme. Meskipun ada perubahan makna dari yang sebelumnya ke yang baru dalam terjemahan eufemisme dan disfemisme, relasi indera masih mengikat katakata sehingga mereka masih memiliki hubungan di antara mereka

# kata kunci: perubahan makna, eupemisme, dispemisme, komponensial analisis

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# Introduction

Words are semantically changed and have a different meaning with its lexical meaning as most of them are created according to the user's needs. The semantic change of words has occurred because the word is constantly used and what is intended by the speaker is not exactly the same in a period. Different context, for example in the classroom instruction Apandi & Afiah (2019) will have different changes. If a different intention for a word is shared by the speech community and becomes established, a semantic change has occurred.

There are words in every language which people instinctively avoid because they are considered indecent, indelicate, rude, too direct, or impolite. According to Burridge (2006, p.66) euphemisms are sweet-sounding, or inoffensive, alternatives for expressions that are not to use in executing a particular occasion on a given occasion. In semantics, euphemism is defined as an alternative way of describing something which makes it sound more pleasant than it really is. One important key idea in relation to euphemism is its counterpart dysphemism. Allan and Burridge (2006, p.31) defines

dysphemism is an expression with offensive connotations or pejorative traits in form of words or phrases which address to a certain person or a group of people.

Euphemism and dysphemism are forms of change in meaning in language. Allan and Burridge (2006) said that euphemism and dysphemism can have semantic change since there is a change or addition of a new meaning to the previous word or expression, and it causes some existing vocabulary to have a more subtle meaning. This change may include the extension of meaning, the spread of meaning, or a shift in meaning. In other words, semantic change occurs when a word loses its original meaning and has a new meaning. Changes of meaning may occur to accommodate social, cultural, and technological developments in the speech community. E C Traugott in the book of Concise Encyclopedia of Semantics written by Keith Allan (2009) argues six types of semantic change, they are semantic broadening, semantic narrowing, semantic pejoration, semantic amelioration, semantic metaphor, and semantic metonymy. Semantic change is a part of changes in the meaning between lexicon items caused by the constantly changing environment. Although the meaning is changed from the earlier to the new one, the sense relation still tied the words up so they still have relations between them. In addition, most of the changes are affected by the extension and narrowing of lexeme's denotation.

To know what information is lost or gained in the translation of euphemism and dysphemism, it can be used componential analysis. Componential analysis in translation is the basic comparison of a source language word with a target language word which has a similar meaning, but not an obvious one-to- one equivalent, by demonstrating first their common and then their differing sense components (Newmark, 1988, p. 115). Componential analysis is effective when it comes to representing similarities and differences among words with related meanings. By componential analysis, it is possible to state the smallest indivisible units of lexis or minimal component. The componential analysis reduces the word's meaning into its ultimate contrastive elements. The dimensions of meanings are given (+,-) labeling system so that marked features carry (+) and unmarked features carry (-).

There are some researchers that applied componential analysis in their journals, (Arnita, 2016; Dewik, 2016) that define the change of meaning in the translation of cultural terms. In their studies, they concluded that componential analysis shows that no word has the exact same feature and the same meaning, it depends on the culture of the community. Furthermore, Tobing (2010) applied componential analysis to find out the semantic change in the film makings and he found that there are four types of meaning change such as generalization, specialization, pejoration, and amelioration. Siska (2010) describes the meaning relation and semantic change that happen in euphemistic terms found in the script Jennifer's body. She found there are six types of semantic change namely semantic broadening, semantic narrowing, amelioration, pejorative, synesthesia and association.

Semantic change has become the study of some linguists, such as (Hidayati, 2018; Louwrens, 2012 and Thawabteh, 2012). In their journals, they found that in translation, meaning change may result in the generalization, specialization, amelioration and pejoration. Yuniarto (2013) in his research found that there were semantic change widening, narrowing, shifting, metaphor, metonymy, pejoration, and euphemism in Old Javanese Word which is translated into Modern Javanese. The semantic change also occurred in translation of political texts, which is discussed by (Aryani, 2018; Alfan, 2019). Aryani in her journal defined that the semantic change present in the euphemisms. She found semantic broadening, semantic narrowing, semantic metaphor, and semantic metonymy occurred in the New York Times Political Articles. In addition Alfan describe the meaning relation and semantic change that happened in euphemistic terms that found in the script Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono speech at John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. From the speech, he found that 3 euphemistic terms undergo the semantic broadening, they are conflict, problem, and low-income, 2 euphemistic terms undergo the semantic shift, they are respect and challenge, and 1 euphemistic terms undergo the amelioration that is emerging.

In news text, euphemisms and dysphemism are often found as a form of emphasis on a matter. Euphemism or dysphemism in the source language is not always translated as the same categories in the target language. In the translation of euphemism into dysphemism or even into the same categories, the semantic change might occur.

The research on semantic change by applying componential analysis is very significant therefore this research aims at identifying the change of meaning in the translation of euphemism and dysphemism in news text of Tempo Magazine and its translation. There are some points of significance of the study that should be recognized. The significances are: generally, this study will bring about a positive contribution to the development of translation, as part of applied linguistic studies. The significant particularly in the production of translation of euphemism and dysphemism expression in Indonesian news text into its translations English

### Methods

The data in this study were taken from bilingual news text of Tempo Magazines, in the random editions of 2019. The data were collected by observing closely the words or phrases in SL and TL that expresses euphemism and dysphemism. After that, the words or phrases of the SL and TL are defined in terms of their meaning and form of synonyms by using dictionaries, Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia for Indonesian words or phrases and Oxford Learners Dictionary for English words or phrases. Next, analyzing the change of meaning by using the componential analysis to support and prove the change of meaning that occurs in the translation of euphemism and dysphemism. The + symbol was used in the table if the data show the presence of the semantic feature, the - symbol was used in the table if the data showed the indifference regarding feature.

The theories used to analyze the data were based on the theories of Euphemism and Dysphemism by Allan &Burriedge (2006), Componential Theory by Newmark (1988) and Theory of Semantic Change proposed by EC Traugott in the book of Concise Encyclopedia of Semantics written by Keith Allan (2009).

### **Results and Discussion**

The analysis of the semantic change through componential analysis in this study focused on the translation of euphemism and dysphemism in news text of Tempo Magazine. There are six types of semantic change which is occurred in translation of euphemism and dysphemism such as semantic change narrowing, semantic change broadening, semantic change pejoration, semantic change amelioration, semantic change metaphor and semantic change metonymy. Each issue is presented and discussed as follows

### Semantic Change Narrowing

The semantic change narrowing occurs when a meaning of word is narrowed into the same class. The range of its meaning is decreased so that a word can be used only in fewer contexts than before the change the meaning of its word is reshaped under the pressure of another word that had frequently co-occurred with it.

#### Example [3-1]

(SL): Sebelumnya ,badan anti korupsi menyatakan bahwa Najib menerima uang sebagai hibah dari sumber dana sing. . (Tempo/Nov/2019: 60)

(TL): Anti-corruption official have previously said that Najib received money as a gift from foreign funder. (Tempo/Nov/2019:44)

The word *hibah* in source language is categorized as a noun which means as *pemberian* (*dengan sukarela*) *dengan mengalihkan hak atas sesuatu kepada orang lain. Hibah* is euphemism for the word *sumbangan*. The word *hibah* is synonymous with *sumbangan*, *hadiah*, *donasi dan kado*. *Hibah* marked as euphemism with the type of understatement, in which the choosing of the word *hibah* is milder than other synonymous *sumbangan atau hadiah*.

On the other hand, in the target language, the word *hibah* is translated into a gift which is a noun and has a meaning as a thing that you give to somebody, especially on a special occasion or to say thank you. The gift is synonymous with the present, donation and bonus (Aryani, 2018; Alfan, 2019). Based on the definition above, the word gift can be categorized as a euphemism with type's formations understatement.

The translation of *hibah* in source language into a gift in the target language, both of them refer to as an object that is given by someone. The choosing of the word *hibah* and its translation gift gives a milder sense rather than to use other types of words that represent the same meaning. Even though, the word *hibah* and respect can be categorized as the same type of euphemism understatement, they still undergo semantic

change. To prove that there is semantic change between SL and TL, componential analysis will be used.

SEMANTIC FEATURES	SL	TL
	Hibah	Gift
Object	+	+
Given something to someone	+	+
Do it voluntarily	+	+
On special occasion	+/-	+

Table 3.1 Componential analysis of hibah and gift as follows

In the componential analysis above, the word *hibah* and gift share some same semantic features in common, they are [OBJECT], [GIVEN SOMETHING TO SOMEONE] and [DO IT VOLUNTARILY]. On the other hand, the word gift refers to special occasions, while the word hibah could be given in the special occasion and could be not. Based on the components, it indicates that the sense relation between *hibah* and gift have a similar identity (Aryani, 2018; Alfan, 2019). Since the word *hibah* indicates an object, giving to someone, and give it voluntarily, on the other hand, the gift indicates all the semantic components, the meaning of gift become more specific than the earlier one, so the new meaning of gift experience semantic narrowing.

# Semantic Change Broadening

The semantic change broadening occurs when the euphemism or dysphemism is translated into the same categories in the target language. The new meaning in the target language, the range of the meaning increases, so that the word can be used in various contexts with a broader meaning than its neutral one.

Example [3-2]

(SL): *Istahil duduk lemas sambil mengelus ngelus perutnya yang membunting*. (Tempo/July/2019: 40)

(TL): Istahil sat weakly while rubbing her distended stomach. (Tempo/July/2019: 34)

In the source language, the word *membunting* is dysphemism of hamil. The dysphemistic word *membunting* consists of prefix *mem* + *bunting* which means *menjadi bunting* or *tampak bunting*. The word *bunting* is synonymous with *berbadan dua*, *berisi, besar perut, buncit, mengandung dan hamil.* Based on the explanation above, it

can be said that the use of the word *membunting* is dysphemistic word, it denigrated the word of *hamil or berbadan dua*.

In the target language, the word *membunting* is translated into phrase distended stomach. This dysphemistic phrase consist of two words; distended + stomach, which refers to a term usually used to refer to distension or swelling of the abdomen and not of the stomach itself. When the term is used in this manner, some of different diseases and conditions can cause abdominal distension. The new meaning of *membunting* in the target language into a distended stomach doesn't refer to pregnancy, but we can say that the translation of *membunting* into a distended stomach refers to the same physical condition the enlarge of the abdomen. In this case, the writer uses the phrase a distended stomach to translate the *membunting* to express the worse condition of the pregnant women in Papua where their bodies are thin and only an enlarged abdomen (Aryani, 2018; Alfan, 2019). The translation of *membunting* into distended stomach experiences semantic change that can be described in the componential analysis below.

SEMANTIC FEATURES	SL	TL
	Membunting	Distended stomach
Physically condition	+	+
Enlarged abdomen	+	+
Can only occur in women	+	+/-
tummy enlarges because of baby	+	-
Kinds of illness	-	+

Table 3.2 Componential analysis of membunting and distended stomach

Based on the componential analysis above, the word *membunting* and the phrase distended stomach only share some semantic components in common, such as [PHYSICALLY CONDITION] and [ENLARGE ABDOMEN]. The word *membunting* refers to condition that only happen to the women and the larger of the tummy because of the baby inside. On the other hand, distended stomach could happen to men or women and categorized as one of the illnesses. Since the phrase distended stomach consist of semantic features and illness, on the other hand, the word *membunting* doesn't indicate that feature. It can be said that the new meaning becomes broaden. The word *membunting* which refers to hamil does not relate with kind of sickness, in the target language the meaning experiences semantic broadening.

#### Semantic Change Pejoration

The Semantic change pejoration occurs when a word meaning is worsened or degenerates, coming to represent something less favorable than it originally did. Pejoration makes meaning more negative. The semantic change pejoration only occurs in the translation of euphemism into dysphemism since the meaning of the new word becomes coarser, more negative and unfavorable.

#### Example [3-3]

(SL): Untuk **meredam** kerusuhan, pemerintah menurunkan pasukan tambahan ke Papua. (Tempo/April/2019:13)

(TL): To **quell** the rioting, the government dispatched additional troops to Papua. (Tempo/April/2019:9)

In the source language, the euphemism occurs in the word *meredam*. It is the negation of the word *menghilangkan*. The word *meredam* is synonymous with *menghilangkan*, *membendung dan menghalangi*. Therefore, the writer tends to write *meredam* to avoid something that is considered frightening. Based on the explanation above, the word *meredam* can be categorized as a euphemistic understatement.

In the target language, the word *meredam* is translated into quell which is harsher than the word *meredam*. The word quell is synonymous with getting rid of, suppress, and finish. Hence, the word quell is more coarse the meaning rather than the word *meredam*. By using the word quell in the target language, it seems that the writer expresses his anger or irritation towards the conflict in Papua which is in the worst situation. The translation of the word *meredam* in the source language into quell in the target language refers to the same thing to stop something. The meaning of *meredam* in the source language tends milder than the word quell in the target language. Since the word *meredam* translated into quell changed its categories from euphemism into dysphemism, it undergoes a semantic change that will describe through componential analysis as follows.

SEMANTIC FEATURES	SL	TL
	meredam	Quell
Action	+	+
To stop something	+	+
Stop from unpleasant feeling or situation	+	+
Typically by the use of force.	+/-	+
A rebellion or other disorder	+/-	+

Table 3.3 Componential analysis of meredam and quell

In the componential analysis above, the word *meredam* and quell share features in common, they are [ACTION], [TO STOP SOMETHING] and [UNPLEASANT FEELING]. Hence, the word quell can be used as the substitution of the word *meredam* caused by similar semantic components between them. Based on the components (Aryani, 2018; Alfan, 2019), the writer indicates that the positive semantic features typically by the use of force and a rebellion in the meaning of quell. The new meaning of *meredam* which is translated into quell in the target language becomes more negative or unfavorable. It can be said that the new meaning of *meredam* experiences semantic pejoration.

### Semantic Change Amelioration

When the new meaning of a word in the target language is milder, improves or becomes elevated, coming to represent something more favorable than it originally referrers, the semantic change amelioration occurs and makes meaning become positive. The semantic change amelioration only occurs in the translation of dysphemism into euphemism which is euphemism makes the meaning of the word more pleasant and not rude.

Example [3-4]

(SL): Ramyadije disebut telah 91 kali melakukan skimming dan meraup keuntungan Rp.300 juta. (Tempo/July/2019: 26)

(TL): Ramyadijie is accused of using skimming 91 times to **obtain** Rp. 300 millions. .(Tempo/July/2019:12)

In the source language, the word *meraup* is dysphemistic word of the word *mendapat*. The word *meraup* is synonymous with *memperoleh*, *mengambil dan mendapat*,.The writer uses the dysphemistic word *meraup* since this news text was criminal news concerning the big issues of skimming in some big companies in Indonesia . For this reason the word *meraup* was chosen to give the impression of that the doer already got a

lot of money from his/her criminal action. On the other hand, in the target language, the dysphemistic word *meraup* is translated into euphemistic word obtain. Obtain is euphemistic word of pick up. The word obtain is synonymous with pick up, grab, and gain. The writer tends to use euphemistic words obtain in the target language to show that the doer put big effort in getting that money even though the way he/ she took against the constitutions (Siska, 2010). The translation of dysphemistic word *meraup* into euphemistic work obtains experiences a semantic change.

Table 3.4 Componential analysis of meraup and obtain as follows

SEMANTIC FEATURES	SL	TL
	meraup	obtain
Action	+	+
Acquire something	+	+
Earn a lot	+	+/-
Making an effort	+/-	+

Based on the componential analysis above, the word *meraup* and its translation obtain share semantic features in common such as [ACTION] and [ACQUIRE SOMETHING]. Since the word obtain indicates the semantic features [MAKING AN EFFORT] we can say that the new meaning of *meraup* become more favorable and the meaning of the word improved. It can be said that the new meaning of *meraup* experiences semantic amelioration.

# Semantic Change Metaphor

The semantic change metaphor occurs in the translation of euphemism into euphemism with idiom formations in the source language translated as the same formation in the target language. In the change of meaning metaphor, the meaning is transferred based on the basis of the fact that two referents resemble one another which is in the similarity position or location as the main one or the fundamental part.

Example [3-5]

(SL); Hanya dengan menyelesaikan **akar masalah** kita bisa membereskan urusan integrasi Papua. (Tempo/April/2019)

(TL): Only by tacking the **roots of the problem** will we ever be able to resolve the matter of Papua. (Tempo/April/2019)

In the source language, the idiom *akar masalah* is a euphemism of *sumber masalah*. *Akar masalah* is considered as euphemism since it is an idiom since the word *akar* is not refers to the part of the tree/ plant, it refers to the cause of the problem. The idiom *akar masalah* has some synonymous such as *pokok masalah* or *sumber masalah*, *pemicu masalah*. The journalist prefers to use *akar masalah* rather than *sumber masalah* in order to make the news smoother especially this news talked about a sensitive topic related to Papua. *Akar masalah* consist of two words *akar* + *masalah*. In target language, the idiom *akar masalah* translated as idiom also into *roots of the problem*. The root of the problem is an idiom, which is also the meaning of the roots that don't represent root as part of the tree.

Based on the explanation above, the meaning of *akar masalah* in the source language and roots of problems in target language refers to the same meaning as a source of the problems. Both of the idioms don't represent *akar* or the roots as part of the tree. By using idioms roots both in a source language and the target language make the news milder rather than to use of *sumber masalah* in source language and main problems in target language. That's why we can say that the meaning of roots of problem same as the meaning of *akar masalah* which is refers to the underlying cause or fundamental essence of some issues and problem (Aryani, 2018; Alfan, 2019). Even though the types of the formations of euphemism in translation of *akar masalah* into roots of the problems are the same, there is the semantic change that undergoes on it (Keith Allan, 2009). To prove that there is semantic change between SL and TL, componential analysis is used.

SEMANTIC FEATURES	SL	TL
	Akar Masalah	Roots of Problems
Position	+	+
The main cause	+	+
Fundamental	+	+
Part of the tree	-	-

Table 3.5 Componential analysis of akar masalah and roots of problems

In the componential analysis above, the phrase *akar masalah* **and roots of the problem** share the same semantic features in common, they are [POSITION], [MAIN CAUSE], [FUNDAMENTAL] and [NOT PART OF THE TREE]. Hence the phrase roots of problem can be used as the substitution of *akar masalah* caused by similar components between them.

Based on the components, it indicates that the sense relation between *akar masalah* and roots of problems have similar identity. Since in the phrase of *akar masalah* and its translation roots of problems, the word *akar* or roots in that context doesn't primarily mean the root of the plant/trees. The meaning is transferred based on the fact that two referents resemble one another which is in the similarity position or location as the main one or the fundamental part. It can be said that the translation of *akar masalah* into the roots of the problems undergoes a semantic change metaphor.

### Semantic Change Metonymy

In the translation of euphemism into euphemism, the semantic change metonymy can occur. It is a shift of names between things that are known to be in some way or other connected in reality. The change of meaning may be conditioned by spatial, temporal, causal, symbolic, instrumental, functional and other relations.

### Example [3-6]

(SL): Sebagian jenazah malah sudah dimakan binatang. (Tempo/April/2019)(TL): Some of the bodies had even been devoured by animals. (Tempo/April/2019)

The news text above is the other example of understatement formations in the translation of euphemism into euphemism that talked about the worst condition of the dead bodies in the situation of conflict in Nduga Papua. In the source language, for mentioning the dead bodies, the writer put euphemism word *jenazah* rather than *mayat* or bangkai. Instead of using mayat, translators use the word *jenazah* which is more often used in the context of formal speech and course more subtle meaning. On the other hand, in the target language, the writer tends to translate the word *jenazah* into bodies rather than dead bodies. The noun bodies and the noun phrase dead bodies have the same meaning as the dead person. However, bodies are a general form of dead bodies.

In the translation of *jenazah* in source language into bodies in the target language, it has the same meaning. Both of them shared the same thing, the body of a dead person. Also, both of them can be categorized as understatement formations of euphemism which is to replace the vulgar words and avoid something that is considered frightening. Even though, the word *jenazah* and bodies can be categorized as the same type of euphemism

understatement (Keith Allan, 2009), they still undergo semantic change. It can be proved through the componential analysis below.

Table 3.6 Componential analysis of jenazah and bodies

SEMANTIC FEATURES	SL	TL
	Jenazah	Bodies
Object	+	+
Human	+	+
Consist of many parts	+	+
Parts that work as system	-	+
Has bad smell	+	+/-

Based on the componential analysis above, the word *jenazah* and bodies share the same semantic features such as [OBJECT], [HUMAN] and [CONSIST OF MANY PARTS]. The word *jenazah* even though it consists of many parts, those parts are not working as a system since the body part doesn't work at all and this condition and causes a foul odor. On the other hand, the word bodies refer to parts that work as a system that is working together (Burridge, 2006). The word bodies in target language don't only refers to organs, flesh or bones, but it is associated with different parts of the body that working as a system and work together. That's why we can say that the new meaning of bodies experience semantic metonymy.

# **Conclusion & recommendation**

The translation of euphemism and dysphemism in the news text of Tempo Magazine experienced six types of semantic changes, namely semantic change broadening, semantic change narrowing, semantic change pejoration, semantic change amelioration, semantic change metaphor and, semantic change metonymy. Meaning changing still occur even the types formations of euphemism and dysphemism are the same. When euphemisms or dysphemism are translated into the same categories, euphemism is translated into a euphemism or vice versa. Semantic change pejoration only occurs when the euphemisms are translated into dysphemism. There is no semantic change for the borrowing formations which is also translated as borrowing in the target language. Even though there are changing of the meaning from the earlier one to the new one in the translation of euphemism and dysphemism, the sense relation still tied the words up so they still have relations between them.

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### **Conflict of Interest**

No potential conflict of interest is reported.

### Author biography

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