

EVALUATING STUDENTS' PROFICIENCY AND CHALLENGES IN POST-EDITING IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN LITERARY TEXTS FOR YANDEX NEURAL MACHINE TRANSLATION

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Abstract

The use of machine translation (MT) has become a common practice among translators to produce fast and efficient translations. However, significant challenges persist when MT is applied to literary texts, which are often rich in sarcasm, metaphor, irony, idioms, and other forms of linguistic ambiguity. This study aims to evaluate students' ability to perform post-editing on literary texts translated by Yandex Neural Machine Translation (NMT). The research subjects were students from the English Education Study Program at the University of Mataram who enrolled in the "Translation and Interpreting" course during the fifth semester of the 2021/2022 academic year. Data were obtained from a post-editing assignment based on the short story *The Theft of the Mona Lisa*, completed by 30 students. Additional data were gathered through direct observation during the learning process. The analysis revealed that the post-edited texts produced by students were generally acceptable in quality. Although minor errors related to less relevant information were present, the translations were largely comprehensible to readers. These findings support the argument that careful post-editing can significantly enhance the quality of literary translations generated by Yandex NMT. The greater the effort and time invested in the post-editing process, the higher the resulting translation quality.

Keywords: Post-Editing; Literary Translation; Machine Translation; Yandex NMT; Linguistic Expressions

INTRODUCTION

Machine translation is the translation performed by a machine using a formula embedded in a program to aid translation results. The machine fully translates after receiving input in the form of text from the source language into the target language (Wardana, Baharuddin, & Nurtaat, 2022). However, machine translation has a number of limitations that impede its capacity to consistently generate accurate, fluent, and contextually appropriate translations. Therefore, achieving ideal translation results remains difficult because of its inherent flaws (Zou et al., 2022). These weaknesses stem from the intricate nature of human language, encompassing its inherent ambiguities, nuances, and cultural dependencies, which pose significant challenges for computational models (Baharuddin 2022; Baharuddin et al., 2022; Naveen & Trojovský, 2024). One of the current challenges for machine translation (MT) is handling significant texts, such as literature, that include sarcasm, metaphor, irony, idioms, and other ambiguous elements of language that are likely to result in a word-by-word translation. In other circumstances, it might be challenging to translate a message due to the language style, cultural differences, and the purpose of the speaker (Baharuddin 2015; Sari, Arifuddin, & Baharuddin, 2022). Contemporary machine translation systems often struggle with idiomatic expressions and cultural nuances, where the lack of contextual understanding leads to translations that are not only inaccurate but also culturally insensitive (Naveen & Trojovský, 2024). The challenge lies in endowing machine translation systems with the ability to discern and replicate the subtle cues and implicit meanings embedded within human language. The performance of machine translation systems is intrinsically linked to the quality and nature of the training data employed; therefore, biases embedded within the training data can be amplified in the translation output, leading to skewed representations and the potential perpetuation of societal stereotypes (Ott et al., 2018).

Many researchers in the field of translation have discovered a possibility of translating more texts efficiently with Neural Machine Translation systems appearance. Neural Machine Translation (NMT) is an approach for machine translation. There are several types of Neural Machine Translation. One of them is Yandex Translate. Yandex (formerly Yandex.Translation) is a Yandex-provided web service designed to translate text or web pages into other languages. Yandex uses a statistical method for its machine translation. Statistically-based machine translation has recently received much attention in the scientific community as it uses translated text sources. Many previous studies have

shown that NMT can significantly impact translation productivity when followed by post-editing. Post-editing NMT output for literature will increase productivity for literary translators (Guerberof-Arenas & Toral, 2022). On the other hand, professional translators may identify the incorrect meanings and structures generated by NMT and take appropriate post-editing procedures to eliminate such mistakes. Based on the descriptions of MT issues and post-editing provided above, research on post-editing is still a relatively new subject in translation (Çetiner & İsisag, 2019).

Moreover, in the Indonesian context, little empirical evidence has been revealed regarding undergraduate students' classroom practice in activities in both English-Indonesian and Indonesian-English language pairs (Latifah, Baharuddin, & Udin 2022). Literary translators must deal with the creativity of authors in order to achieve the same level of quality as the original text. Idiomatic expressions are one of the most interesting and innovative aspects to study. Idioms have their characteristics and patterns as a language form, and they are frequently used in both written and spoken communication since they can convey a richness of linguistics (Wang & Wang, 2013). Not all idioms can be translated into idioms in the source language since idioms are set words or expressions with specific meanings and forms. Therefore, a translator must understand the true meaning of idioms in the source language while translating them. Moreover, to understand the meanings of idioms, people must understand the background cultures of both the source and target languages.

The post-editing activity is described as reviewing a pre-translated text generated by the MT engine against a source text, correcting possible errors, in order to comply with a set of quality criteria in as few edits as possible in general (O'Brien, 2011). It is a process in which translated materials are reviewed and improved before being stored in a translation memory (Anggrina & Pramudita, 2017). Post (2008) stated that there are two levels of post-editing. There is light post-editing and full post-editing. Light post-editing converts the machine translation result into target text that the reader can understand, but it is not perfect in terms of language. Lexical and syntactic errors are the target of light post-editing (EFL). Meanwhile, full post-editing expands to correct less apparent errors, ensure appropriate style, and achieve comparable fluency. It must provide accurate translations with the correct terminology used consistently, have the appropriate pattern and style, and be free from grammatical errors.

Many theories can be used to improve the accuracy of the translation. According to Baker (1992), there are six criteria for forming a standard for a good translation, which are already arranged in a systematic order. These criteria are organized according to a simple tenet: they start at the most fundamental level. It becomes more difficult as the standards are raised. The following are the criteria: Equivalence at the Word Level, Equivalence above Word Level, Grammatical Equivalence, Textual Equivalence (Thematic and Information Structures), Textual Equivalence (Cohesion), and Pragmatic Equivalence.

There are several factors that must be considered when evaluating translation quality. Lommel et al. (2015) in QT21 as an update from before, adding a few things that need attention in measuring the translation to produce high quality. The primary basis remains the same, namely the accuracy of the translation to fluency, or in other words, intelligibility, is the goal of translation. The translation result must strike a balance between providing the information contained in the source text and providing new information. A translation is considered adequate if it contains the same information as the original text. The only way to determine whether a translation is correct and appropriate is by comparing it to the original text. The results of this comparison will show what and why it is misinterpreted. Intelligibility can be interpreted as clarity or the ease with which a reader can understand the translation (Yusof, Darus, & Aziz, 2017). They said that limited completeness is a condition for being considered intelligible. These criteria are comprehensibility, coherence, and well-formedness. However, intelligibility depends on how well the sentences in the target language are appropriately formed. Evaluations can be inconsistent and take much time to investigate and analyse since they are subjective (Angelone, Ehrensberger-Dow, & Massey, 2019).

A few characteristics help recognize idioms. Firstly, idioms cannot accept a change in the order of the words they are made of, e.g., the idiom “the long and the short of it” cannot be changed into “the short and the long of it.” Secondly, there is no deletion of the language elements in the idioms (e.g., the idiom spill the beans cannot be changed into spill beans). Thirdly, the other words do not increase the language elements in any way (e.g., the idiom “the long and the short of it” cannot be changed into “the very long and the short of it”). Fourthly, idioms cannot be replaced by other words (e.g., the idiom “the long and the short of it” cannot be changed into “the tall and the short of it”). Lastly, the idioms do not

change the grammatical structure (e.g., the idiom “face the music” cannot be changed into “the music was faced”).

Based on the issues outlined in the previous section, the researchers recognized the need for a more in-depth investigation into students' ability to conduct post-editing of text inputs generated by Yandex Neural Machine Translation (YNMT). This study aimed to answer the following research questions: (1) To what extent are English Department students proficient in post-editing Yandex NMT translations, particularly in modifying idiomatic expressions in literary texts? And (2) What types of translation challenges do students encounter when post-editing idiomatic expressions in literary texts produced by Yandex NMT?

METHODS

This study employed a qualitative descriptive method. This approach was chosen to examine, review, and draw conclusions about the impact of post-editing on students' translation activities (Creswell, 2012). Data were collected through two main methods: observation and assignment analysis. Although these assignments were not originally designed for research purposes, the students' work was evaluated both for instructional grading and for analysis within this study. Data analysis followed the procedures outlined by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014), which include data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. In the condensation phase, relevant portions of the collected data were selected and categorized based on how they aligned with the translation theories outlined in the analytical framework. These data were then carefully analyzed to help answer the research question. In the data display phase, the information was organized in a way that allowed the researchers to visualize and better understand the findings. Sentences from students' post-edited texts, which had been based on the original source material, were examined in detail.

RESULTS

This findings section is presented in two sub-chapters ordered numerically based on the research questions proposed in the current study. It starts with explaining the evaluation of students' proficiency in conducting post-editing process of NYMT translation

outputs followed by explaining the challenges encountered by students in conducting the post-editing processes.

1. To What Extent are English Department Students Proficient in Post-editing Translation of Idiomatic Expressions in Literary Texts for Yandex NMT?

To address the second research question, this section explores the extent of English Department students' proficiency in post-editing Yandex NMT translations, with a particular focus on their ability to accurately modify idiomatic expressions within literary texts. In this study, only 6 sampled data are presented to represent the phenomena of students' proficiency in conducting post-editing work.

a. Students' Post-Edited Translation for Yandex with "Good" Quality

The following two samples (Data 1 and 2) illustrate the students' post-edited translations that demonstrate a high level of accuracy and naturalness, particularly in the handling of idiomatic expressions and lexical refinement, thereby qualifying as "good" quality.

Data 1. Students' Post-Edited Translation for Yandex NMT with "Good" Quality

Source Text	Yandex Translate	Edited Translation
[1] The police even interviewed Peruggia twice, but he must have mixed them up ^[a] because they said he couldn't possibly be the man behind the burglary ^[b] . The sixty detectives that were on the case had failed to find the thief ^[c] .	Polisi bahkan mewawancarai Peruggia dua kali, tetapi dia pasti mencampuradukkan mereka ^[a] karena mereka mengatakan dia tidak mungkin menjadi orang di balik perampokan itu ^[b] . Enam puluh detektif yang ada dalam kasus ini gagal menemukan pencuri itu ^[c] .	Polisi bahkan mewawancarai Peruggia dua kali, tetapi Peruggia selalu membuat polisi kebingungan ^[a] dan mengatakan dia tidak mungkin terlibat dalam pencurian tersebut ^[b] . Enam puluh detektif yang ada dalam kasus ini gagal menemukan pencuri lukisan itu ^[c] .

The words "mixed them up" in sampled sentence in [1] above shows that Yandex Translate renders it as "mencampuradukkan mereka." This idiom means "to confuse them," indicating that Yandex Translate does not produce an accurate result. However, the participant puts the correct and exact meaning in the edited translation, using "membuat polisi kebingungan," which, when translated back into English, becomes "to confuse the police." This shows that the participant uses an idiom with a similar meaning and form when translating the English idiom. The replacement of the phrase "the burglary" from "perampokan" to "pencurian" reflects a choice that enhances the naturalness and acceptability of the translation in the target language.

In addition, the article “*the*” is changed from “*itu*” to “*tersebut*,” which does not alter the meaning or message of the original text. The post-editor also adds “*pencuri lukisan itu*” instead of “*menemukan pencuri itu*,” making the target sentence clearer and more effective. Based on the edited sentence, these post-editing changes successfully produce a more appropriate and natural translation output, particularly in word choice.

Meanwhile, in the sampled sentence [2] from Data 2 below, the idiom “*twist his words*” is translated as “*memutar kata-katanya*.” However, the sentence becomes easier to comprehend if the editor uses “*memutarbalikkan kata-kata*” instead. Nevertheless, both expressions are generally understood, as they are familiar and closely related in meaning. This example shows that the participant chooses a more neutral expression, as “*memutar kata-katanya*” is the closest equivalent available to convey the intended meaning in the target language.

Data 2. Students’ Post-Edited Translation for Yandex NMT with “Good” Quality

Source Text	Yandex Translate	Edited Translation
[2] He couldn’t believe it that the police would twist his words ^[a] and call him crazy and sentence him to seven months jail ^[b] .	Dia tidak bisa percaya bahwa polisi akan memutar kata-katanya ^[a] , dan memanggilnya crazy and bukuman dia tujuh bulan penjara ^[b] .	Dia tidak bisa percaya bahwa polisi akan memutar kata-katanya ^[a] , dan memanggilnya crazy dan kalimat bukuman dia tujuh bulan penjara ^[b] .

In the next sentence, “*sentence him to seven months jail*,” the participant produces a poor post-editing result, which sounds awkward. Meanwhile, YandexTranslate generates a more natural version with “*bukuman dia tujuh bulan penjara*.” Additionally, some of the other word choices in the participant's translation are not appropriate, as they cause confusion and make the message of the text unclear to the reader.

b. Students’ Post-Edited Translation for Yandex with “Acceptable” Quality

The following two samples (Data 3 and 4) illuminate the students’ post-edited outcomes that show a reasonable level of translations, despite minor issues in idiomatic accuracy and naturalness.

Data 3. Students’ Post-Edited Translation for Yandex NMT with “Acceptable” Quality

Source Text	Yandex Translate	Edited Translation
[3] It was signed “Leonardo.” The man was of course Peruggia. Peruggia, who had a lot of Italians in his family tree ^[a] , claimed to have stolen the	Pria itu tentu saja Peruggia. Peruggia, yang memiliki banyak orang Italia di bohon keluarganya ^[a] , mengaku telah mencuri karya seni untuk mengembalikannya ke Italia	Pria itu tentu saja Peruggia. Peruggia, yang memiliki banyak orang Italia di bohon keluarganya ^[a] , mengaku telah mencuri karya seni untuk mengembalikannya ke Italia daerah

Source Text	Yandex Translate	Edited Translation
artwork to return her to <i>her native Italy</i> ^[b] .	<i>asalnya</i> ^[b] .	<i>asalnya</i> ^[b] .

In Data 3, the English idiomatic expression “*her family tree*” is translated as “*pohon keluarganya*”. This idiom actually means “*silsilah keluarga*.” The translation sounds unnatural, and the participant does not revise it—retaining YandexTranslate’s output in the edited version. As a result, both the participant and YandexTranslate fail to produce an accurate translation, leading to poor quality in the final output.

On the other hand, in the sentence “*her native Italy*,” the participant’s post-editing is clear and applicable. The process of changing “*Italia asalnya*” to “*Italia daerah asalnya*,” makes the meaning become more precise and easier for the reader to understand. This revision accentuates that *Italia* refers to a specific place of origin.

Data 4. Students’ Post-Edited Translation for Yandex NMT with “Acceptable” Quality

Source Text	Yandex Translate	Edited Translation
[4] <i>For the first time there were lines outside the Louvre, just to see the empty space where the painting had hung</i> ^[a] . <i>X marks the spot where the painting used to hang</i> ^[b] . The theft launched it into becoming a household name for people who had no interest in art.	<i>Untuk pertama kalinya ada garis di luar Louvre, hanya untuk melihat ruang kosong tempat lukisan itu digantung</i> ^[a] . <i>X menandai tempat di mana lukisan itu digunakan untuk menggantung</i> ^[b] . Pencurian itu meluncurkannya menjadi nama rumah tangga bagi orang-orang yang tidak tertarik pada seni.	<i>Berita sangat dan mengejutkan ini membuat orang-orang antri untuk pertama kali di Louvre hanya karena ingin melihat tanda X di dinding semula Mona Lisa tergantung</i> ^[a-b] . Dengan ini, Vincenzo Peruggia dengan tidak sengaja berhasil menumbuhkan rasa penasaran dan ketertarikan orang awam terhadap seni khususnya untuk lukisan.

In Data 4, the idiom is modified and combined with another sentence to form a single, more cohesive expression. In the original version, the whole sentence “*Untuk pertama kalinya ada garis di luar Louvre, hanya untuk melihat ruang kosong tempat lukisan itu digantung*” is transformed into “*Berita sangat dan mengejutkan ini membuat orang-orang antri untuk pertama kali di Louvre hanya karena ingin melihat tanda X di dinding semula Mona Lisa tergantung*.” Although the structure and wording change significantly, the meaning remains acceptable, as the core message is preserved.

It is evident that the student creates a sentence that is easier for the reader to understand by replacing and rearranging certain words and phrases. The student also restructures the original two sentences into one, improving the well-formedness and flow

of the text. Additionally, the final sentence is enhanced by the insertion of a conjunction such as “*dengan*,” which further supports clarity and cohesion.

c. Students’ Post-Edited Translation for Yandex with “Nonsense” Quality

The following two samples (Data 5 and 6) reveal the students’ post-edited translations that confirm the failure to accurately interpret and revise idiomatic expressions results in incoherent or misleading target texts that obscure the original meaning of the source text.

Data 5. Students’ Post-Edited Translation for Yandex NMT with “Nonsense” Quality

Source Text	Yandex Translate	Edited Translation
[5] He thought that he would <u>get up on a soap box</u> and be a national hero.	Dia berpikir bahwa dia akan <u>bangun di kotak sabun</u> dan menjadi pahlawan nasional..	Dia berpikir bahwa dia akan <u>bangun di kotak sabun</u> dan menjadi pahlawan nasional.

In Data 5, the sentence contains the idiom “*get up on a soap box*.” Both YandexTranslate and the edited translation produce poor results. The idiom, which means “*to express strong opinions publicly or preach to others*,” is not translated correctly by either version. The participant fails to revise the machine translation to reflect the idiomatic meaning, resulting in a literal and misleading translation.

This idiom falls under the category of a pure idiom, meaning its overall meaning cannot be inferred from the literal meanings of its individual components. Because of this, accurate interpretation and cultural understanding are essential for proper translation—both of which are lacking in this example.

In Data 6 below, the word “*war*” is translated as “*berperang*” in the Yandex output. However, the editor does not retain this output and instead alters the meaning of the idiom in the edited translation. In this case, the participant significantly changes the message conveyed by the original sentence, resulting in a different interpretation. As a result, the machine translation actually provides a closer approximation of the intended meaning than the participant’s post-edited version.

Data 6. Students' Post-Edited Translation for Yandex NMT with "Nonsense" Quality

Source Text	Yandex Translate	Edited Translation
[6] <i>It was 24 hours before anyone even noticed the Mona Lisa was missing. The French newspapers made war with the government which ran the Louvre. The image of the Mona Lisa was splashed across the world.</i>	<i>Itu 24 jam sebelum ada yang menyadari Mona Lisa hilang. Surat kabar Prancis berperang dengan pemerintah yang menjalankan Louvre. Gambar Mona Lisa terciprat ke seluruh dunia.</i>	<i>Mona Lisa telah hilang, 24 jam setelah kejadian pihak museum baru menyadari lukisan itu sudah lenyap dari dinding museum. Surat kabar Perancis melakukan pemberitaan besar-besaran terhadap tidak kompetennya pihak manajemen Museum Louvre.</i>

For instance, the original sentence reads: *"It was 24 hours before anyone even noticed the Mona Lisa was missing. The French newspapers made war with the government that ran the Louvre."* The participant edits this to: *"Mona Lisa telah hilang, 24 jam setelah kejadian pihak museum baru menyadari lukisan itu sudah lenyap dari dinding museum."* Here, the idiomatic expression *"made war with"* is entirely omitted and replaced with a rephrased narrative that removes the original tension and figurative meaning. Additionally, the participant modifies punctuation by inserting commas, but this structural change does not compensate for the loss of idiomatic nuance.

2. What Types of Translation Challenges Do Students Encounter When Post-editing Idiomatic Expressions in Literary Texts for Yandex NMT?

Based on the findings from the six data samples, students encountered several key challenges in the process of post-editing idiomatic expressions translated by Yandex NMT¹ that include: Literal retention of idioms, Loss or omission of figurative meaning, Use of vague or general expressions, Syntactic rephrasing that distorts idiomatic intent, and Inconsistent editing strategies as shown in Figure 1 below.

STUDENTS' CHALLENGES IN POST-EDITING TRANSLATION FOR YANDEX NMT

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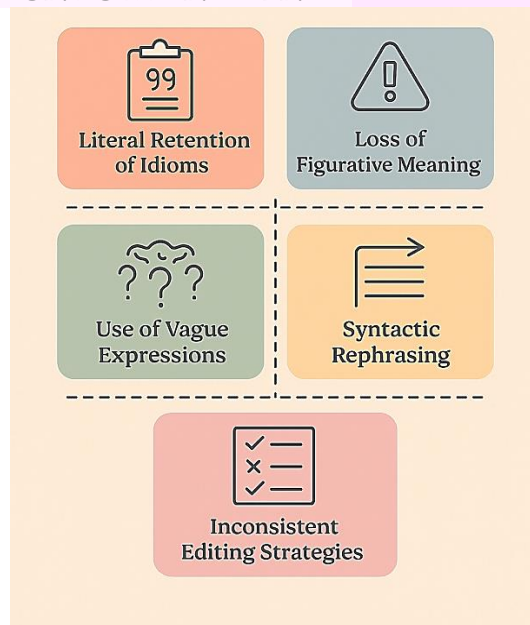


Figure 1. Students' Challenges in Post-editing Translation for Yandex NMT.

In example of **literal Translation of Idioms (Data 1, Data 5)**, idioms such as “*mixed them up*” and “*get up on a soap box*” are rendered literally by Yandex Translate, and some students fail to recognize or revise these idioms accurately. In *Data 1*, the student successfully post-edits “*mixed them up*” into “*membuat polisi kebingungan*”, showing awareness of idiomatic meaning. However, in *Data 5*, the idiom “*get up on a soap box*” remains unchanged, resulting in a nonsensical translation (“*bangun di kotak sabun*”), indicating a lack of idiomatic awareness.

In case of **failure to replace or reconstruct idiomatic meaning (Data 3, Data 6)**, the idiom “*family tree*” is retained as “*pohon keluarga*”, showing that the student does not revise it into the correct Indonesian equivalent (“*silsilah keluarga*”), leading to an unnatural output. Meanwhile, in *Data 6*, the idiom “*made war with*” is not only mistranslated by Yandex (“*berperang*”) but also entirely removed and replaced by unrelated narrative content, resulting in the loss of idiomatic nuance. Meanwhile, in case **overgeneralization or use of neutral terms (Data 2)**, the student translates “*twist his words*” as “*memutar kata-katanya*”, which is understandable but lacks the intensity and precision of “*memutarbalikkan kata-kata.*” This reflects a tendency to rely on neutral or semi-literal expressions rather than selecting stronger idiomatic equivalents.

Moreover, in **structural and syntactic challenges in rewriting (Data 4)**, students occasionally restructure sentences by merging or omitting elements. In *Data 4*, the idiom is replaced with a different structure that retains the message but drifts from the original idiomatic form. While the result is acceptable in meaning, it sacrifices idiomatic precision and stylistic fidelity. Finally, in example of **inconsistency in editing effort (across all data)**, students vary in their post-editing approaches: some make precise idiomatic corrections (Data 1), while others retain machine outputs with minimal changes (Data 3, Data 5). This inconsistency suggests differing levels of linguistic awareness, editing confidence, or familiarity with idioms.

DISCUSSION

According to the findings above, the quality of the text produced by the students who conducted post-editing is capable of resulting in acceptable text. Since the original text's message can probably still be understood, even though there are a few small translation errors with irrelevant information, the basic idea of the original text can still be understood despite significant parts of the original text being missing or poorly translated. The results of the analysis and interpretation above show the abilities of each participant when post-editing a literary text, yet some of them still require practice. Thus, they will be able to produce results that are correct. Some of the texts that had previously undergone post-editing were excellent. However, they were still unable to obtain the correct meanings from the source text in the target text, which may be the reason for Yandex Translation's weaknesses. Due to this, post-editing abilities should be improved in order to produce better and more accurate results while using YandexTranslate.

As anticipated in the literature, the complexities of idioms and the cultural context embedded in literary texts pose substantial challenges for both machine translation systems and student editors (Baharuddin, 2022; Wang & Wang, 2013). This discussion interprets the findings in relation to the two research questions. *First*, the findings demonstrate varying levels of proficiency among students in conducting post-editing of literary texts. The quality of their post-edited outputs ranges from "good" to "acceptable" and in some cases, "nonsense," depending on how effectively they recognize, interpret, and revise idiomatic expressions. Students also demonstrates strong post-editing skills by successfully modifying the idiom "mixed them up" into a culturally and contextually appropriate target

expression, “membuat polisi kebingungan.” It is evident that they are aware of not only of idiomatic meaning but also of linguistic naturalness, fulfilling the translation criteria of intelligibility and acceptability (Lommel et al., 2015).

Similarly, in Data 2, the student makes applicable lexical substitutions, though with minor awkwardness in syntactic construction. On the other hand, Data 3 and 4 reveal students that show moderate proficiency. These students attempt to restructure sentences or refine vocabulary, but fail to fully revise or localize idiomatic expressions. The translation of “family tree” as “pohon keluarga” and the reformulation of cultural references without clear idiomatic alignment put forward a partial understanding of deeper semantic layers in idioms. In contrast, students in Data 5 and 6 demonstrate minimal post-editing proficiency, as seen in the literal retention of idioms such as “get up on a soap box” and the complete omission of figurative meaning in “made war with.” These outputs reflect a surface-level engagement with the text and a lack of cultural or linguistic sensitivity, underscoring a key area for pedagogical intervention. These results align with Guerberof-Arenas and Toral’s (2022) argument that while post-editing can increase productivity, it requires a foundational understanding of language nuance and idiomatic conventions, skills that not all student translators yet possess.

Moreover, the present study also identifies five key challenges encountered by students during the post-editing process: literal retention of idioms, loss or omission of figurative meaning, overgeneralization or use of neutral terms, structural rewriting issues, and inconsistent editing efforts. Literal translation occurs when students fail to interpret idioms figuratively and instead retain the machine-generated word-for-word version as seen in Data 1 and 5. This reflects a lack of idiomatic awareness, often leading to unintelligible or culturally inappropriate results. Loss or omission of figurative meaning further highlights the challenge students have encountered in maintaining semantic depth and tone, especially when idioms carry metaphorical or emotional weight, as seen in Data 3 and 6. The use of vague or neutral equivalents, illustrated in Data 2, suggests that some students default to safe but semantically weaker choices, potentially due to uncertainty or limited vocabulary range. This compromises the strength and authenticity of the target text. Additionally, syntactic and structural rephrasing, while helpful for fluency (as in Data 4), sometimes leads to a distortion or dilution of idiomatic intent.

The inconsistency in post-editing approaches across all data samples reveals a disparity in student confidence, familiarity with idiomatic expressions, and overall editing strategies. While some students demonstrate an effort to revise deeply, others make minimal changes or overly rely on the machine output, supporting Angelone et al.'s (2019) observation that translation evaluation remains subjective and uneven across learners.

CONCLUSION

The findings indicate that the majority of students possess the foundational skills required to perform post-editing on source material processed through Yandex NMT. However, to meet the demands of producing higher-quality translations, they must continue to strengthen their post-editing abilities. Furthermore, when assessed using Baker's concept of equivalence above the word level, the students' skills remain at a relatively basic stage. Although most of the post-editing outcomes are considered satisfactory, there is still room for improvement particularly in handling idiomatic expressions. In this regard, students should develop a deeper awareness of the structural and cultural differences between Indonesian and English. A solid understanding of these differences is essential, as idioms play a critical role in achieving accurate and natural translations during the post-editing process. It is recommended that future translation training place greater emphasis on developing students' ability to recognize and accurately revise idiomatic expressions.

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