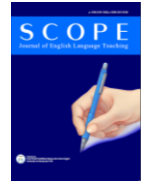




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Research Article

Translation of the Military Terms in The Book “Art of War by Sun Zi”

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KEYWORDS

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 Book;
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ABSTRACT

This study examines the translation of military terms in the classic Chinese book "Art of War by Sun Zi" from Mandarin Chinese into Indonesian. The focus of this research is to evaluate the accuracy, acceptability, and readability of the translation. The evaluation method is based on a theoretical framework that considers accuracy reflecting the correspondence between the original text and its translation, acceptability referring to the norms and rules of the target language, and readability assessing the ease of understanding the translated text. The results of this study are expected to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges in transferring cultural values and thoughts from the source language to the target language, particularly in the context of classical military literature. The findings indicate that first, the assessment of translation quality yields a comprehensive evaluation of the translation work. Second, the quality of the "Art of War by Sun Zi" translation in terms of accuracy, the translation achieves 22.45% accuracy, 18.37% moderate accuracy, and 21.43% inaccuracy. Regarding acceptability, 24.49% of translations were deemed acceptable, 18.37% moderately acceptable, and 15.31% not acceptable. In terms of readability, high readability was achieved at 47.96%, moderate readability at 12.24%, and low readability at 7.14%.

INTRODUCTION

Mandarin has a very important position in the international arena because of its unique language structure and the complexity of its deep meaning. Mastery of Mandarin is not only a means of communication, but also plays a strategic role in strengthening bilateral relations between Indonesia and China. The relationship between the two countries covers various important fields, such as tourism, education, media, trade, and investment, where the ability to speak Mandarin is often the key to the success of the cooperation. However, behind its strategic role, Mandarin is also known for the challenges presented in the translation

process, especially when it comes to technical terms, such as military terms.

One real example of such translation challenges can be found in the classic text *The Art of War* by Sun Zi. This work, which contains military strategy and philosophy of war, has a very deep meaning and is rich in cultural and historical nuances. However, in the Indonesian translation version, the military terms used are often inaccurate, difficult to understand, and less acceptable to the target readers. Issues such as these point to the importance of in-depth analysis of the accuracy, acceptability, and readability of the translation results, so that the message

and cultural essence of the original text can still be conveyed well to the Indonesian audience.

Previous studies have tried to overcome various challenges in translating Mandarin into Indonesian. For example, Kaelan (2017) examines the structural challenges in translating Mandarin texts, but has not specifically touched on the translation of military terms. Hatmiati (2018) emphasizes the importance of cultural transfer in the translation process, but has not paid attention to the extent to which the translation results can be accepted and understood by the target readers. Adha et al. (2023) attempts to overcome these weaknesses with a more reader-oriented approach, but the study has not explicitly discussed the translation of classic texts rich in technical terms such as *The Art of War*.

This study is here to bridge this gap by conducting an in-depth analysis of the translation of military terms in *The Art of War* from Mandarin into Indonesian. The focus of this study is on evaluating the accuracy, acceptability, and readability of the translated terms, and how these three aspects affect the overall quality of the translation. With this approach, this study aims to understand the extent to which the translation is able to convey the original meaning of the source text, maintain cultural relevance, and meet the expectations of readers in the target language context.

The results of this study are expected to provide significant contributions, both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study provides new insights into translation studies, especially in the context of classical texts that are rich in cultural and historical values. Practically, this study is expected to be a guideline for translators and academics in improving the quality of Mandarin to Indonesian translations, especially for texts with specific terminology such as military literature. By answering the challenges in translating these technical terms, this study is expected to strengthen cross-cultural understanding and support the development of bilateral relations between Indonesia and China.

Literature Review

Translation is a crucial aspect in today's era of globalization. This arises due to the influx of foreign information into our country from various developed nations worldwide, including China, the country of origin of the author. Therefore, translation is necessary to facilitate understanding of information from one language to another. Cultural differences often pose challenges in translation when the translator's culture influences the translation outcome. Hence, translators require extensive knowledge and insight that encompasses not only linguistic aspects of the source language (BSu) and target language

(BSa), but also an understanding of the cultures associated with both languages.

The greater the gap between BSu and BSa, the more challenging it becomes to convey messages from BSu to BSa. Translation is a relatively lengthy process that demands patience and precision. Each translation activity aims to produce a translated work, intended to bridge communication gaps between the original text's author and the readers of the translated text (Isnaeni et al., 2018).

Quality Of Translation

Translation experts agree that a translated text can be considered of high quality if: 1) the content of the translation is accurate (in other words, the message conveyed in the translated text must be the same as in the original or source text), 2) the translation adheres to the norms and cultural standards of the target language without contradiction, and 3) the translation can be easily understood by the target readers (Nababan et al., 2012). The parameters to measure the quality of translation are detailed as accuracy, acceptability, and readability.

Accuracy

Accuracy in translation refers to the precision in conveying messages or meanings from the source language (BSu) to the target language (BSa). This involves the alignment or equivalence of messages between the original text and its translation, rather than mere formal correspondence in structure. Accuracy is evaluated based on linguistic aspects (such as grammatical structure), semantic aspects (meaning equivalence), and pragmatic aspects (appropriate usage in context). Besides choosing the right words, it is crucial to consider grammatical aspects and appropriate usage to ensure that the conveyed message remains accurate and effective in the target language (Machali, 2000; Yulianita, 2017).

To assess translation accuracy, Nababan, Nuraeni, and Sumardiono (2012, p. 50) have provided assessment instruments. Below is the table of accuracy assessment instruments:

Table 1 Translation Accuracy Assessment Instrument (Nababan, 2012)

Scale	Definition
3	The meanings of technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, or texts in the source language are accurately transferred into the target language; there is absolutely no distortion of meaning.
2	Most of the meanings of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, or texts from the source language are accurately transferred into the target language. However, there are still some distortions or dual meanings (taksa) or meanings omitted, which disrupt the integrity of the message.

Scale Definition	
1	The meanings of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, or texts from the source language are inaccurately transferred into the target language or omitted.

Equivalence in the content of the text is crucial for producing accurate translations; therefore, distortions, additions, or unnecessary omissions of meaning should be avoided (Nababan, 2012). Furthermore, the level of accuracy is also influenced by a translator's lexical choices and how effectively sentences are rendered in the target language. Even small details such as word order must be carefully considered, as typographical errors can also impact the accuracy of the translated text.

Table 2 Translation Acceptability Assessment Instrument (Nababan, 2012)

Scale	Definition
3	The translation is expressed in accordance with the norms, standards, and culture prevailing in the target language, both at the micro and macro levels. The translation is fully acceptable and meets all linguistic and cultural requirements.
2	The translation mostly conforms to the norms, standards, and culture of the target language, but there are instances where it does not fully adhere, causing some deviations in acceptability.
1	The translation does not conform to the norms, standards, and culture of the target language, resulting in significant deviations and making it largely unacceptable.

Acceptability in translation refers to the level of naturalness and fluency of the translated text in the target language (BSa), adhering to the linguistic norms and standards of the target language readers. The translated text should be acceptable and understandable to the target readers, enabling them to relate the meaning conveyed in the sentences to the situational context of the text. According to Toury, a translation is considered adequate if it follows the cultural norms and language of the source text, while it is deemed acceptable if it adheres to the norms of the target language and culture. This indicates that acceptability involves not only understanding the meaning but also aligning with the linguistic norms, conventions, and cultural practices of the target readers (Munday, 2001; Umam, 2018).

Table 3 Assessment Instrument for Translation Readability Level (Nababan: 2012)

Scale Definition	
3	The translated text is highly readable, easily understood, and flows naturally in the target language. It effectively communicates the intended message with clarity and coherence.
2	The translated text is generally readable and understandable in the target language. However,

Scale Definition	
	there are occasional readability issues that may hinder complete clarity and coherence.
1	The translated text is difficult to read and understand in the target language. It lacks clarity and coherence, making it challenging for readers to comprehend the intended message.

The results of each level of the scale above can be calculated both in terms of quantity and percentage so that the level of accuracy, readability, and acceptability can be determined. The total score from all criteria/definitions above will ultimately become the final value indicating the quality of a translated text.

It has been discussed above that a quality translation must be accurate, acceptable, and easily understood by readers. Each of these aspects carries a different weight in terms of value.

Table 4 Weighting of Assessed Quality Aspects (Nababan: 2012)

No	Evaluation aspects	Conclusion
1	Accuracy	3
2	Acceptability	2
3	Readability	1

METHOD

Approach This research utilizes a qualitative descriptive approach. Qualitative research method is employed to investigate natural conditions of the object, where the researcher serves as the key instrument, data collection techniques are triangulated, data analysis is inductive, and qualitative research results emphasize meanings rather than generalizations (Abdussamad, 2021).

Data and Data Sources

This study focuses on data sourced from the book "Art of War by Sun Zi," published by Zhongyi Publisher and Guangxi Normal University Publisher. The research utilizes two types of data sources: primary and secondary. Primary data sources are the main focus of the research, while secondary data sources provide supporting information for the primary data. The primary data source is the object of this study, namely the book "Art of War by Sun Zi" in both Mandarin and Indonesian languages. Ancient Chinese Military Books are the general term used to refer to ancient Chinese military books from various dynasties. This is the primary medium for ancient Chinese military thought, reflecting the rational understanding of military experts and military theory researchers at that time of military activities and laws. Kai (2014).

Data Collection Techniques

This study will employ several techniques including document analysis, Focus Group Discussions (FGD), and questionnaires.

1. Document Analysis Technique: The researcher will utilize the note-taking technique where the researcher acts as the key instrument to record data (Sugiyono:62). In this process, the researcher will listen and record the results of translations in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi".

2. Conducting Focus Group Discussions with raters to identify translation quality. Bungin (2012) explains that FGD is used to reveal interpretations drawn from discussions referring to specific issues. The researcher will conduct FGDs with two raters who will assess the translation quality including accuracy, acceptability, and readability in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi".

3. Administering questionnaires: Questionnaires will be given to raters consisting of three translators certified by the Indonesian Translators Association. In closed-ended questionnaires, raters rate the translation for accuracy, acceptability, and readability on a scale of 1, 2, or 3 in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi". Meanwhile, in open-ended questionnaires, raters will have space to provide comments, reasons, or explanations related to their assessment of translation quality if necessary.

Data Collection of War Terms in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi" involves collecting the existing Mandarin to Indonesian translations in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi", totaling 48 sentences, including a collection of 98 war terms.

Data Analysis Technique

In qualitative data analysis techniques, according to Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014), there are three techniques: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The data collected and analyzed using the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) method generally involves five steps:

1. Forming the Rater Team: Forming a rater team consisting of three translators certified by the Indonesian Translators Association.

2. Introducing Objectives and Asking Questions: Introducing the research objectives to the raters and explaining the rules and guidelines.

3. Data Analysis: The rater team tasked with analyzing the translation data of war terms in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi" will evaluate the notes that have been compiled.

4. Summarizing the Assessment of Translation Results: The raters will assess the translations based on the

Accuracy, Acceptability, and Readability Assessment Instruments to ensure their evaluations are aligned with the research topic.

5. Drawing Conclusions: Drawing conclusions based on the analysis of artificial intelligence translation results and translations by human translators of the text content regarding war terms in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi".

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The quality of the translation of war terms in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi" was evaluated based on assessments by 3 raters.

Accuracy Assessment

A. Accurate

Based on the assessments by the raters, the translation of war terms in the book "孙子兵法 Art of War by Sun Zi" showed 17 instances categorized as accurate, specifically in Texts 7, 11, 14, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 45, and 46. There were a total of 22 accurately translated war terms.

For example:

7	Tsu	战争时间长而对国家有利这种事·从来就没有过。	Tsa	<i>Berperang berlarut-larut tidak pernah menguntungkan negara.</i>
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There is one accurate war term:

Based on the accuracy definition (Nababan, 2012), in this context the term 有利 is translated as "advantageous." In terms of semantic accuracy, according to the Modern Mandarin Dictionary 5th edition (2010), the term 有利 means to describe something that is beneficial or advantageous. The translation from the source language term 有利 does not involve any distortion of meaning at all.

B. Less accurate

Based on the assessments by the raters, the translation of war terms in the book "孙子兵法 SENI PERANG SUN ZI" showed 16 instances categorized as less accurate, specifically in Texts 3, 8, 12, 13, 15, 17, 21, 22, 34, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, and 48. There were a total of 18 war terms that were considered less accurate.

For example:

21	Tsu	主宰着国家的安危。	Tsa	<i>menguasai nasib rakyat serta menjaga keselamatan negara.</i>
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There is one war term that makes the meaning less accurate:

The translator's use of the word "dominate" does not fully reflect the meaning of the term 主宰. According to the Modern Mandarin Dictionary 5th edition (2010), 主宰 means to have full control or domination. Additionally, the word "menjaga" differs from the original meaning of determining or controlling.

C. Inaccurate

According to the assessment results by the raters, the translation of war terms in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi" that fall into the inaccurate category includes 15 instances, namely in Texts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 18, 29, 30, 35, 37, 42, 43, and 47. There are a total of 21 war terms that are considered inaccurate. Examples are as follows:

2	Tsu	车辆盔甲的补充等等 · 每天都要耗费千金 · 做好了这些准备 · 然后十万大军才能出动。	Tsa	<i>tambahan kereta perang dan baju besi. Tentara yang berjumlah puluhan ribu prajurit baru bisa berangkat setelah perlengkapan tersebut telah siap.</i>
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There is one war term that inaccurately conveys its meaning:

The term 千金, which means "thousands of gold coins," according to the Modern Chinese Dictionary 5th edition (2010), implies a significant amount of money. However, this term was not translated in the text.

Here is a diagram showing the comparison of accuracy levels of war terms in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi".

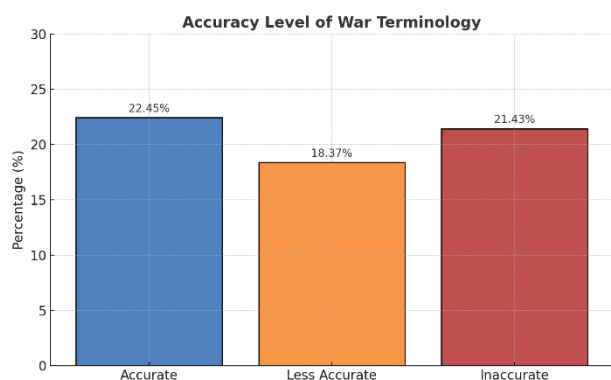


Diagram 1 Accuracy Level of War Term Translations

The diagram illustrates the accuracy levels of translated war terms in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi".

Acceptability Assessment

A. Acceptable

In the assessment results by raters, translations of military terms from the book "Art of War by Sun Zi", there are 19 instances categorized as acceptable, specifically in Texts 7, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47. There are 24 military terms that are less accurate. For example.

11	Tsu	临近军队驻扎的 地方物价高涨。	Tsa	<i>Harga barang di sekitar daerah barak tentara membung tinggi,</i>
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One military term that is acceptable:

Based on the definition of acceptability (Nababan: 2012), in this context the term 驻扎 is translated as military barracks. In terms of accuracy, according to the Modern Mandarin Chinese Dictionary 5th edition (2010), 驻扎 refers to the temporary placement or presence of military forces or troops in a specific location. The original language meaning of the term 驻扎 is commonly used and familiar to readers.

B. Less Acceptable

In the assessment results by raters, translations of military terms from the book "Art of War by Sun Zi", there are 14 instances categorized as less acceptable, specifically in Texts 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 21, 24, 25, 29, 34, 36, 38, 39, 43. There are 18 military terms that are less accurate.

For example.

34	Tsu	比敌军兵力少时 就要能够摆脱敌人。	Tsa	<i>lepaskan diri dari musuh jika jumlah pasukan kita lebih sedikit daripada musuh,</i>
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One military term that makes the meaning less acceptable: The translator used the phrase "break free" to effectively convey the idea of the term 摆脱. Additionally, specifying "enemy" and "our fewer numbers compared to the enemy" aligns well with the context of the sentence and provides clear instructions on the action to be taken.

C. Unacceptable

In the assessment results by raters, translations of military terms from the book "Art of War by Sun Zi", there are 13 instances categorized as unacceptable, specifically in Texts 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 18, 30, 35, 37, 44, 48. There are 15 military terms that are inaccurately translated. For example.

4	Tsu	其他诸侯国就会趁这个困顿局面发动进攻。	Tsa	<i>negara-negara lain akan memanfaatkan kesempatan tersebut untuk melancarkan serangan.</i>
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One military term that is unacceptable:

The term 诸侯国 is translated as "countries". The term 诸侯国 can typically be found in various textbooks or references on ancient Chinese history, especially those discussing the political and administrative structure of the Zhou Dynasty and earlier periods. Specific references can be found in classical Chinese histories such as "Shiji" (史记) or "Zuo Zhuan" (左传). According to classical Chinese history, the term 诸侯国 can be translated as "feudal states" or "small feudal states". This translation does not feel like a work of translation.

Here is a diagram showing the comparison of the Acceptance Levels of military terms from "Art of War by Sun Zi".

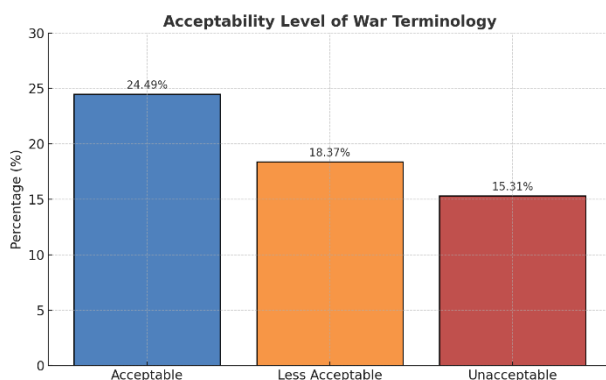


Diagram 2 Acceptance Levels of Military Term Translations

Readability Assessment

A. High Readability Level

In the assessment results by raters, translations of military terms from the book "Art of War by Sun Zi", there are 36 instances categorized as High Readability Level, specifically in Texts 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47. There are 47 military terms that are less accurate.

For example.

2	Tsu	车辆盔甲的补充等等·每天都要耗费千金·做好了这些准备·然后十万大军才能出动。	Tsa	<i>tambahan kereta perang dan baju besi. Tentara yang berjumlah puluhan ribu prajurit baru bisa berangkat setelah perlengkapan tersebut telah siap.</i>
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One military terms that is classified under High Readability Level:

The translator used "ten thousand large troops" to translate the term 十万大军, referring to a large number. The translation of 十万大军 can be easily understood by readers due to its clear depiction of a sizable military force.

B. Moderate Readability Level

In the assessment results by raters, translations of military terms from the book "Art of War by Sun Zi", there are 5 instances categorized as Moderate Readability Level, specifically in Texts 14, 15, 29, 34, 43. There are 12 military terms that are less accurate.

For example.

43	Tsu	这就叫扰乱自己的军队而促成了敌军的胜利。	Tsa	<i>maka pihak kita akan mengalami musibah akibat serangan dari negara-negara lain karena musuh akan memanfaatkan semua kekacauan ini.</i>
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One military term that makes the meaning Moderate Readability Level:

The translator's use of the phrase "suffering calamity due to attacks from other countries" is somewhat confusing because it does not fully convey the nuances of the term 扰乱 (disrupt). This could confuse readers about how internal military chaos can lead to attacks from other countries. Moreover, the phrase is less directly related to how such disruption facilitates enemy victory. This could disrupt readers' understanding of cause-and-effect relationships in the text.

C. Low Readability Level

In the assessment results by raters, translations of military terms from the book "Art of War by Sun Zi", there are 5 instances categorized as Low Readability Level, specifically in Texts 1, 6, 10, 44, 48. There are 7 military terms that are less accurate. For example:

48	Tsu	就会每战必败。	Tsa	<i>kekalahan pertempuran tak terelakkan.</i>
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One military term that makes the meaning Low Readability Level:

The translator used "inevitable defeat in battle" to translate the term 每战必败, which is not entirely accurate in its context. According to the Modern Mandarin Chinese Dictionary 5th edition (2010), the term 必败 means "inevitable defeat". 每战 refers to "every battle" or "each engagement". The translation 每战必败 might be difficult for readers to understand.

Here is a diagram illustrating the comparison of Readability Levels of military terms from "Art of War by Sun Zi".

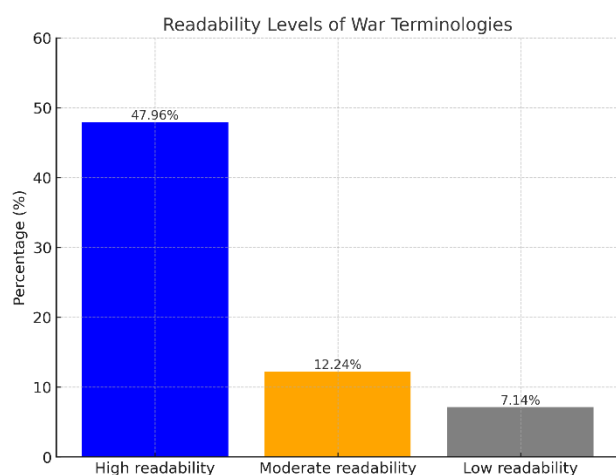


Diagram 3 Readability Levels of Military Term Translations

This study examines the translation of military terms in the classic Chinese book *Art of War by Sun Zi* from Mandarin Chinese into Indonesian. The focus of this research is to evaluate the accuracy, acceptability, and readability of the translation. The evaluation method is based on a theoretical framework that considers accuracy reflecting the correspondence between the original text and its translation, acceptability referring to the norms and rules of the target language, and readability assessing the ease of understanding the translated text. The results of this study are expected to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges in transferring cultural values and thoughts from the source language to the target language, particularly in the context of classical military literature.

Previous studies provide a solid foundation for this research. Kaelan (2017) analyzed the philosophical depth in classical texts, focusing on the intricacies of preserving cultural essence in translations. Hatmiati (2018) highlighted the challenges of translating classical Chinese literature into Indonesian, emphasizing issues in accuracy and cultural adaptation. Adha et al. (2023) conducted a study on the readability of translated texts, demonstrating that classical texts often struggle to balance linguistic

fidelity and audience comprehension. Yulianti and Prasetyo (2020) investigated the translation of idiomatic expressions in military texts, uncovering the difficulty of conveying contextually accurate meanings. Meanwhile, Wijaya (2019) examined the semantic shifts occurring in the translation of Chinese historical texts into Indonesian, identifying patterns of inaccuracies due to linguistic and cultural differences. Lastly, Purwanti and Sudrajat (2021) focused on acceptability in translation, emphasizing the role of cultural norms and linguistic structures in determining whether a translation aligns with the expectations of the target audience.

The findings of this study contribute to filling the gaps identified in previous research by offering a holistic evaluation of the *Art of War by Sun Zi*. First, the assessment of translation quality yields a comprehensive evaluation of the translation work. Second, the quality of the *Art of War by Sun Zi* translation in terms of accuracy achieves 22.45% accuracy, 18.37% moderate accuracy, and 21.43% inaccuracy. Regarding acceptability, 24.49% of translations were deemed acceptable, 18.37% moderately acceptable, and 15.31% not acceptable. In terms of readability, high readability was achieved at 47.96%, moderate readability at 12.24%, and low readability at 7.14%. This study provides a critical perspective on the nuances of translating classical military literature, shedding light on areas that require further refinement in the translation process.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the translation of military terms in the book *Art of War by Sun Zi* demonstrates a mixed quality across the parameters of accuracy, acceptability, and readability. The accuracy of the translations is relatively low, with only 22.45% classified as accurate, while 18.37% are considered less accurate, and 21.43% are deemed inaccurate. This suggests that while some terms are translated with fidelity to the original, a significant portion fails to fully capture the intended meaning. The acceptability of the translations follows a similar trend, with 24.49% deemed acceptable, 18.37% moderately acceptable, and 15.31% unacceptable, highlighting the need for further refinement to align with the linguistic norms and expectations of the target language audience.

Regarding readability, the results are more promising, with nearly half (47.96%) of the translations being rated as highly readable. However, 12.24% are moderately readable, and 7.14% are considered difficult to understand. These findings suggest that while the translation process has been successful in making the text comprehensible for many readers, there is still room for improvement,

particularly in terms of simplifying complex terminology and enhancing the flow of the translated text.

While the study provides valuable insights into the translation quality of *Art of War by Sun Zi*, it is important to acknowledge its limitations. The study is limited to the analysis of a single translation of the text, and further research could involve comparing multiple translations to offer a more comprehensive assessment. Additionally, the scope of this research does not extend to the cultural nuances embedded in the translation process, which could further impact the accuracy and acceptability of military terms. Future studies could explore the integration of cultural context in the translation of classical texts, particularly military literature, and examine how these elements influence translation quality. Moreover, extending the analysis to other classical Chinese military texts could contribute to a deeper understanding of translation challenges in this genre.

Recommendation

It is hoped that the translation of military terms in the book "Art of War by Sun Zi" can be significantly improved in terms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability. This will enable Indonesian readers to better understand and appreciate the cultural values and classical military thoughts conveyed in this work.

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