



## Challenges in translating Indonesian reduplication into English

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### Abstract

The articles reflect how reduplication matters in the process of transferring meaning from the source language into the closest equivalent meaning in the target language. Indonesian reduplications are varied in their types and meaning that cover reduplications of verbs, nouns and adjectives and each has its own function such to indicate plurality in reduplicated noun, to indicate repeated action, to convey intensity, to emphasize or to form other meaning from the root. This study aims at investigating the types of Indonesian reduplication and the types of translation procedures applied in retaining the meaning of Indonesian reduplication into English as the target language. Descriptive translation study is applied as it provides a method for the description of language use in translation in the form of parallel corpora. The results show that the types of Indonesian reduplication are: full reduplication, partial reduplication and reduplication (stem and affix), and the translation procedures found are couplet, equivalent, modulation, and synonymy. This study gives the implication that in translating Indonesian reduplication into English; the translator should fully comprehend the meaning of the reduplicated word in the source language before defining its equivalent in the target language in order not to distort the meaning being expressed in the source language when it is transferred into the target language

**Keywords:** equivalent; meaning; procedure; reduplication; translate

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## 1. Introduction

Translation plays an important role in communication across language and culture. When translating a text from one language to another, it covers not only the grammatical system of the language but also the transfer of the culture of the source language to the target language to the closest equivalent (Larson, 1984). Indonesian and English have very different in linguistic system to one another. In this matter from the unit morphology specially deals with reduplication. Indonesian reduplications can be formed not only by reduplicating the stem as in *buku-buku* (books) but also stem-affix reduplication especially with noun reduplication as in *tulisan-tulisan* (writings). It is very important for translator in acquiring the knowledge of linguistic systems both languages he/she operates in order to transfer the message of the source language text (SLT) into the equivalence message in the target language text (TLT) and sound natural for target readers of the text. In Indonesian, reduplication is a very productive way to create new words from the existing words. There

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are many reduplicated words often appeared especially in Indonesian novels. It is very important to conduct the research in reduplicated words and their equivalent into English since it is not always easy for translator to define the closest equivalent from one language to another related to the language system, context and culture of both languages. The research questions discuss in this study are:

(1) what types of reduplication are found in the novel *Sukreni Gadis Bali* and its translation 'The Rape of Sukreni'?

(2) How are the equivalent meaning of the reduplicated words in the target language achieved through the application of translation procedure?

## 2. Literature Review

Karjo et al. (2013) conducted a research related to translation of Indonesian reduplication into English but the data were obtained from teachers, students and employees to find out their ability in translating reduplications by distributing twenty sentences containing either noun reduplications, verb reduplications and adjective reduplications. The findings show among the three groups of subjects the results show that the acceptable translation of reduplications are varied 70% for the teachers, 75 % of students major in English and 74% for the employees. This shows that most obstacles found are due to the difficulties in defining the meaning of reduplication before transferring it into the target language English. As Indonesian reduplication's meaning based on its form and functions.

Rafie et al. (2018) in the article entitled "Types of Indonesian Reduplication as the Translation of English Lexicons"; this article investigates the English lexicons found in the source language text (SLT) in the novel "The Magic" and its translation is the as the original "The Magic". The English lexicons which were translated into Indonesian reduplications are corresponding to the English lexicons which are belonged to inflection and derivational words. While the current study has a different approach from reverse way in defining the equivalent of the Indonesian reduplications into English

Dalrymple, Mary and Mofu Suriel (2011) in their article "Plural Semantics, Reduplication, and Numeral Modification in Indonesian", claims that plural nouns marking are realized by reduplication such as in the following sentence.

*Baju-baju itu terpanjang rapi.*

Shirt. REDUP that TER. display neat

The shirts are displayed neatly.

They also state that in Indonesian both reduplicated and non-reduplicated nouns can refer to a plurality, and it does not have any additional semantic effects to the plural marking. Reduplicated noun can also appear with modifier but is rarely appeared and not preferred.

Sato and McDonnell (2007), state in their article "Reduplication in Indonesian and the Lexicalist Hypothesis" describes about the Indonesian Reduplication from the approach of lexicalist. The research was conducted through investigating corpus from Indonesian newspaper which claims that reduplication of nominal allows both stem (*sayur-sayur-an*) and stem-affix (*pikiran-pikiran*) whereas verbal reduplication allows stem (*ber-belit-belit*) only. The asymmetry in reduplication of noun and verb as well as the pattern of word internal reduplication, poses a non-architectural for several version of the so-called lexicalist hypothesis. The asymmetry depends on the morphosyntactic structures and that underlie nominal and verbal reduplications. This article gives the insight towards the meaning of the reduplicated word either noun reduplication or verbal reduplication. But the current study investigates the types of reduplication found in the novel and how the meaning of the reduplicated words can be transferred by the translator into the target text.

Since Indonesian reduplication is very complex in terms of defining their meaning within the context and related to the function of the reduplicated word; this study gives contribution for those who involve in translation study specially in the operating language from Indonesian into English to carefully study about the reduplicated words meaning before deciding to transfer of the meaning of the source language (SL) into the target language (TL).

### 3. Methodology

This research applies qualitative approach in which a qualitative research does not apply statistical analysis or quantification (Creswell, 2009; Moelong, 2017), it applies descriptive analysis in terms wording from the data being observed. The data of translation research at a micro-level research may be further broken down into smaller level of analysis, Saldanha and O'Brien (2013); as in this current study the analysis is focused on the translation of the Indonesian reduplication into English. The data presentation is in the form of parallel corpora (Olohan, 2004) in which the SL text is presented side by side with the TL text in order to show the SL reduplication and its translation in the TL.

The data of the current study was taken from a novel entitled “*Sukreni Gadis Bali*”

(Tisna, 1995) and its translation “The Rape of Sukreni” (Quinn, 1998). Through intensive reading of the source novel and its translation, and note taking technique, the data of Indonesian reduplications in the source language text (SLT) were gathered, classified into the types of reduplication, and the equivalent of the reduplication in the target language text (TLT) were also gathered in order to find out the equivalent and the procedures that are applied by the translator.

The current study applies theory of linguistics and translation; the theory related to Indonesian morphology is utilised to classify the types of Indonesian reduplicated words found in the Indonesian novel and the meanings formed (Ramlan, 2009) in which describes there are four types of reduplication in Indonesian e.g.:

First, full reduplication in which the whole stem is being reduplicated without affixes or the change of phoneme as in:

*buku* (noun) → *buku-buku* (books),

*anak* (noun) → *anak-anak* (children), and

*mata* (noun) → *mata-mata* (spy).

Second, partial reduplication when the stem only partially is being reduplicated, most the partially reduplication has complex word formation as in: *laki* (man) is formed from stem *laki* (male) only the initial syllable is reduplicated and has sound change. The partial reduplicated words *pertama-tama* (initially) derived from the stem *pertama* (first); *segala-gala* (everything) is derived from the stem *segala* (all).

Third, reduplication with combination of affix, in this type of reduplication the whole stem is reduplicated and has combination with affixation, it means that the process of the formation is at the same time as the affixation process as in the following:

*orang* (N/people) → *orang-orangan* (N/scarecrow)

*rumah* (N/house) → *rumah-rumahan* (N / a kind of house-like)

Fourth, reduplication with change of phoneme, and this type of reduplications are not many in Indonesian e.g.: the reduplication *gerak-gerak* (gesture) is derived from the stem *gerak* (motion) and the reduplicated form has change of phoneme from /a/ into /i/ and in *sayur-mayur* (many kinds of vegetables) is derived from *sayur* (vegetable) and there is a change of phoneme from /s/ into /m/. There are grammatical meanings occur from the process of reduplication (Ramlan, 2009):

- (a) It has the meaning to state plurality or many  
*kapal-kapal* : many ships  
*toko-toko*: many shops
- (b) Some reduplications have the meaning alike or has the meaning resemblance to as in:  
*rumah* (house): *rumah-rumahan* (like a house)  
*kereta* (train): *kereta-keretaan* (toys in the form a train)
- (c) Some reduplication has the meaning of repeated action as in  
*teriak* (shout): *berteriak-teriak* (shouted repeatedly)  
*tarik* (pull): *menarik-narik* (pulling repeatedly)
- (d) Some reduplications have the meaning to indicate something that is near to the real situation as in:  
*merah* (red): *kemerah-merahan* (reddish)  
*kuning* (yellow) : *kekuning-kuningan* (yellowish)
- (e) Reduplication has the meaning to indicate intensity as in  
*penuh* (full): *sepenuh-penuhnya* (as much as possible/ the fullest)  
*kuat* (strong): *sekuat-kuatnya* (as strong as possibly)

Newmark (1988) states translation method relates to the operation of the whole text whereas procedures are used for sentences and smaller unit of language. There are fourteen translation procedures proposed i.e.: **Transference** is the process of transferring the source language (SL) word into the target language this happens due to the word specifically only occur in the SL and there is no exact one to one equivalent the TL as the French diplomatic word *coup d`etat*, *détente* (*agreement*) etc. **Naturalisation** is a procedure which first adjusts the SL word to the normal pronunciation and then to the normal morphology (word-form) as there are many foreign words appeared in Indonesian translation: *mutilasi* from mutilation (English), *ekonomi* from English economy, and *organisasi* from organization. **Cultural equivalent** is a procedure whereas a SL cultural word is translated into TL cultural word such as *delicatessen* German into English *deli*. **Functional equivalent** is a common procedure applies in translating cultural word from SL to TL, for example in the translation of the Indonesian word *tungku* into brazier (both are cultural words but the function of the SL word and the TL is the same as tool to heat or cook food. **Descriptive equivalent** is a procedure in which explanation is used to weigh against the function for example in Japanese `Samurai` is described as a Japanese aristocracy from eleventh century its function was to provide officers and administrators. **Synonymy** is a procedure which reflects the SL words as a near equivalent in the TL word in a context, where an exact may or may not exist. **Through-translation** is when the procedure deals with the literal translation of shared collocation, names of organization, the component of compound, and normally through-translation is used when the terms are commonly known for example UNESCO, FAO etc. **Shift or transposition** is a procedure involving a change in grammatical form such singular to plural like furniture in English into *les meubles* (plural) in French. **Modulation** is when a procedure applies a variation through change of point of view of standpoint and often a category of thought, active-passive transfer is one of the examples; when the SL is in the passive construction translated into an active construction. **Recognised translation** when the procedure relates to institutional accepted translation term, this can be done by showing the disagreement to the terms by doing gloss translation of the words. **Compensation** is a procedure relates to the occurrence of loss of meaning, sound effect, metaphor or pragmatic effect in one part of the sentence is compensated in the other part. **Componential analysis** is splitting up of the lexical unit into components of sense often to one-two-three or four translations. **Reduction** and **expansion** are imprecise translation procedures which is

being practice intuitively in some cases in each there is at least one shift that can be bared in mind particularly in a poorly written text. **Paraphrase** when facing a text which is poorly written the TL can be paraphrased in order to make more implicit in the TL. The last is **couplet** in which a combination of two or more than two applications of the above procedures in one text applied.

#### 4. Results

The result of the study is presented according to the types of reduplication found in the novel and their meaning are presented in the following:

##### 4.1 Indonesian Full-Reduplication and their Equivalentents

The data of full-reduplications and the meaning are presented as the following in table 1(which indicates plurality on nouns) and table 2 (which indicates different meaning from the stem).

**Table 1.** Full Reduplications indicate plurality on noun and their equivalent

No	Root/stem	Meaning	Indonesian Reduplicatin	Meaning
1	<i>kebun</i>	plantation	<i>kebun-kebun</i>	plantations
2	<i>rumah</i>	house	<i>rumah-rumah</i>	houses
3	<i>lain</i>	other	<i>tempat lain-lain</i>	<i>others</i>
4	<i>barang</i>	thing	<i>barang-barang</i>	things (goods)

**Table 2.** Full Reduplications do not indicate plurality and their equivalent

No	Root/stem	Meaning	Indonesian Reduplicatin	meaning
1	<i>mata</i>	eye	<i>mata-mata</i>	spy
2	<i>ramai</i>	crowded	<i>ramai-ramai</i>	in crowded way
3	<i>tiba</i>	arrive	<i>tiba-tiba</i>	<i>suddenly</i>
4	<i>enak</i>	delicious	<i>enak-enak</i>	delicious (intensified)

##### 4.2 Indonesian Reduplications (prefix + reduplicated words) and their Equivalentents

The data of Indonesian reduplications formed from prefix + reduplicated words and the meaning are as the following presented in table 3.

**Table 3.** prefix+ reduplicated word

No	Root/stem	Meaning	Indonesian Reduplicatin	Meaning
1	<i>kelok</i>	curve	<i>berkelok-kelok</i>	twisted
2	<i>cerita</i>	story	<i>bercerita -cerita</i>	talk
3	<i>lumpur</i>	mud	<i>belumpur-lumpur</i>	muddy
4	<i>akan</i>	will	<i>seakan-akan</i>	as if

The reduplicated words above have different meaning from the stem.

#### 4.3 Indonesian Reduplications (prefix+ reduplicated words +suffix) and their equivalents

The data of Indonesian reduplications formed from prefix+ reduplicated words and the meaning are as the following presented in table 4.

**Table 4.** prefix+ reduplicated word + suffix

No	Root/stem	Meaning	Indonesian Reduplication	Meaning
1	<i>kejar</i>	chase	<i>berkejar-kejaran</i>	fluttered in circle
2	<i>lebih</i>	more	<i>berlebih-lebihan</i>	exaggerated
3	<i>kurang</i>	less	<i>sekurang-kurangnya</i>	at least
4	<i>kuat</i>	strong	<i>sekuat-kuatnya</i>	as hard as possible

The reduplicated word as different meaning from the stem.

#### 4.4 Indonesian Partial Reduplications and the meaning from by the reduplicated words

**Table 5.** The stem is partially reduplicated

No	Root/stem	Meaning (gloss translation)	Indonesian Reduplicatin	Meaning
1	<i>membau</i>	to smell	<i>membau-bau</i>	sniffing
2	<i>memilin</i>	to twist	<i>memilin-milin</i>	twisting
3	<i>pertama</i>	first	<i>pertama-tama</i>	initially
4	<i>menarik</i>	interesting	<i>Menarik-narik</i>	pulling quickly

### 5. Discussion

The data of the translation of the Indonesian reduplications into in English and the procedures applied by the translator are discussed in the following analysis.

#### 5.1 Indonesian Full- Reduplications and their Equivalents

Indonesian full-reduplications formed by reduplicating the root without any suffixes and their translations are described as the follows:

No	SL	TL
5-1	<i>Saya kira tidak ada orang memetik hari ini , Emak, Kata orang yang baru masuk itu sambil duduk di bangku di muka meja kedai itu . "Tidak memanjat, apa sebabnya ?" Tanya Men Negara seorang perempuan tua, tapi masih tampak tanda-tanda pada mukanya ia elok pada masa mudanya (Tisna,1995:10)</i>	A man came in and seated on the bench at the table. He looked at Men Negara, noting the <b>traces</b> of former beauty in her features. "I don't think anyone will be working today," he said. "No picking you mean?" Men Negara asked. "Why not?" (Quinn, 1998: 20)

The reduplicated word in data (1) *tanda-tanda* derives from noun *tanda*; *tanda-tanda* has the meaning signs which function to indicate plurality in the SL. In the context of the sentence `Tanya Men Negara seorang perempuan tua, tapi masih tampak *tanda-tanda* pada muka ia elok pada masa mudanya`; the second clause `tapi masih tampak *tanda-tanda* pada muka ia elok pada masa

*mudanya*`; is translated into `noting the **traces** of former beauty in her features. `**tanda-tanda** is translated into **traces** which refers to the signs of her former beauty. The translator applies the procedure of **synonymy** in which the word trace is synonymous to sign in this context.

No	SL	TL
5-2	<i>Bagi Men Negara tidak menjadi apa-apa lagi hal itu. Baik mereka akan baik perlunya baginya mereka akan memanjat ataupun tidak ia tak peduli lagi. Yang perlu baginya mereka makan dan minum di kedainya, supaya jangan sis-sia saja babi yang disemblihnya. (Tisna,1995: 16)</i>	Men Negara was <b>unconcerned</b> . It didn't matter to her whether the men work or not. The important thing was that they eat and drink so that she wouldn't lose money on the pig she had prepared. (Quinn, 1998: 26)

The sentence “*Bagi Men Negara tidak menjadi apa-apa lagi hal itu.*” has the reduplicated word **apa-apa**; *apa* in Indonesian has the meaning **what** in English. It is normally to indicate thing (noun). When *apa* (what) is reduplicated it has the meaning `anything` The above reduplicated words appeared in the context:

*Bagi Men Negara tidak menjadi apa-apa lagi hal itu*

For *Men Negara* not become anything more thing that [gloss translation]

Prep Sbj.( NP neg. V N (compl) N dem.Pro.

(Men Negara did not concern with the matter)

The translation in the TL is “Men Negara was unconcerned” as in the SL there is a negation (*tidak*) before the verb. The application of modulation procedure was applied in transferring the reduplicated word *apa-apa* which has the meaning `anything` when in the context in the above sentence the point of view was shifted in the initial clause and then continued with the following sentence. The procedure of modulation is applied to retain the meaning of the SL reduplicated word into the TL.

No	SL	TL
5-3	<i>Tukang panjat itu gemar makanan yang enak-enak. Sedang makan mereka itu bercerita-cerita (Tisna, 1995:10)</i>	They like to eat <b>well</b> , and while eating they like to talk (Quinn, 1998: 20)

The full reduplication of the word **enak** (delicious) is **enak-enak** which as different meaning from the base form; **enak-enak** is to emphasize the word **enak**, the translation of the reduplicated word applies the procedure of modulation in which the phrase “*makanan yang enak-enak*” that emphasize how delicious the food (*makanan*) is translated into a clause `to eat well` and it is shifted from phrase to clause. The equivalent of the meaning of the reduplicated word is retained in the TL; when `eat well` means they eat good food (delicious).

### 5.2 Indonesian Reduplications (prefix + reduplicated words) and their Equivalent

Indonesian Reduplications which were formed from prefix+ reduplicated words do not resemble the meaning of the root, they have different meanings as describes in the following:

No	SL	TL
5-4	<i>Men Negara terperanjat mendengar kata orang itu, seolah-olah ia yang tertangkap (Tisna,1995:12)</i>	The conversation was having disquieting effect on Men Negara <b>as if</b> she were the one who had been arrested (Quinn, 1998: 22)

In the above data the reduplication **seolah-olah** (prefix+ reduplicated words) derives from the root **olah** which means `way` and the reduplicated word **seolah-olah** which has the meaning `as if`; it has

a change of meaning from the original root. The procedure applied is the procedures of equivalent by directly converting SL word meaning into the TL (Newmark, 1988).

No	SL	TL
5-5	<i>Di kebun itu lahirlah anaknya I Negara dan Ni Negari. Kata orang sejak dia diam di sana daerah itu pun bertambah ramai jua; jalan tambah acap kali dilalui orang. Seakan-akan tertarik pada kedai itu (Tisna,1995:14)</i>	It was there that she gave birth to two children a son by name of I Negara and a daughter called Ni Negari. People often credited Men Negara of the areas of growth in both prosperity and population. The road through the village was more heavily travelled now. People <b>seemed</b> to gravitate towards the food stall. (Quinn, 1998: 25)

The base form of the reduplicated word `seakan-akan` is `akan` is to express futurity, when it is reduplicated the meaning is changed into `as if`. The translation of the reduplicated word `seakan-akan` in the context above into `seemed` applies the procedure of synonymy, where `as if` in the context of the TL is synonymous with `seemed` in the TL, but the function of the reduplicated word in the SL as an adverb, while the function of `seemed` in the TL as a verb. In this condition another procedures is applied that is the procedure of transposition/shift in grammatical form. Thus, it means in the translation of the reduplicated word `seakan-akan` into `seemed` applies two procedures which is called as the procedure of couplet (the application of more than one procedures).

### 5.3 Indonesian Reduplications (prefix+ reduplicated words +suffix) and their Equivalentents

Indonesian Reduplications (prefix+ reduplicated words +suffix) and their Equivalentents are described as the follows:

No	SL	TL
5-6	<i>Men Negara terperanjat mendengar kata orang itu seolah-olah ia yang tertangkang atau sekurang-kurangnya tercampur dalam perkara Pan Purni( Tisna, 1995:12).</i>	The conversation was having disquieting effect on Men Negara. It was almost as if she were the one who had been arrested, or had <b>somehow</b> involved in the case of Pan Murni( Tisna, 1995:12).

The reduplicated word `sekurang-kurangnya` derives from the base `kurang` which means `less`; when it is reduplicated into `sekurang-kurangnya` the meaning is changed it becomes `at least`, but in the context above it has the meaning `in some way`. The procedure of synonymy is applied to the translation of the reduplicated word `sekurang-kurangnya` into **somehow**; in some way is synonymous to somehow.

No	SL	TL
5-7	Mereka tidak mau <b>berlebih-lebihan</b> karena mereka menjaga diri	They were <b>wary of their words</b> and their behaviour

The reduplicated words `berlebih-lebihan` (exaggerated) derives from the stem `lebih` (more), the meaning has changed. In the context above the reduplicated word is preceded by negation *tidak* and the modal verb *mau* (want) as it illustrated below:

Mereka tidak mau berlebih-lebihan karena mereka menjaga diri  
 They no want exaggerated because they take care -self [gloss-trans]  
 Subj. neg. V Compl. Adjunct Subj. V O



(They don't want to be exaggerated because they mind their attitude)

The translation of the reduplicated words *berlebih-lebihan* (exaggerated) as it is preceded by negation (*tidak*) and the modal verb (*mau*) the translator relates the meaning of the context in the SL sentence and applies the procedures of modulation a variation through change of point of view of standpoint and often a category of thought as in the above situation. It is the meaning of the verb phrase *tidak mau berlebih-lebihan* was translated into *weiry of their words*

#### 5.4 Indonesian Partial Reduplications and their Equivalentents

Indonesian Partial Reduplications and their Equivalentents are describing in the following

No	SL	TL
5-8	"Baik saja, tidak kurang tidak lebih," jawab menteri polisi, sambil <b>memilin-milin</b> misainya." (Tisna, 1995:39)	"So-so no more no less." replied the police chief <b>twirled</b> the end of his mustache. (Quinn, 1998: 47)

The partial reduplicated word *memilin-milin* derives from the base form *memilin* which as the meaning (twisting thread or sometimes twisting mustache) it is only partially reduplicated into *memilin-milin* which has the meaning twisting several times or the the action of twisting is done repeatedly. The translation of *memilin-milin* into *twirled* applies the procedure of synonymy. In the TL, *twirled* has the meaning to spin quickly and lightly, in the context of the SL *menteri polisi, sambil memilin-milin misainya* ('The police chief twisted several times his mustache'); the word *twist* is synonymous with the word *twirled*.

No	SL	TL
5-9	"Ada bayuan Emak?" Tanya seorang dengan <b>membau-bau</b> guci tuak(Tisna, 1995:11).	"Still got some of the wine from last night?" one of them asked Men Negara while <b>sniffing</b> at the wine jar (Quinn, 1998: 24)

The data of the partial reduplication *membau-bau* derives from the verb *membau* (to smell something repeatedly), *membau-bau* (emphasizing the intensity of the action of smelling something such a fishy smell). The partial reduplicated word *membau-bau* is translated into *sniffing* that has the meaning the act of drawing in air audibly through the nose; in the context above 'a person is sniffing at the wine jar' means that the person smells the wine jar several time. The translation procedure applied in the translation of *membau-bau* into *sniffing* is the procedure of **synonymy**.

No	SL	TL
5-10	I Gusti Made Tusan <b>perlahan-lahan</b> ke dekat mereka itu.(Tisna, 1995:39)	I Gusti Made Tusan strolled towards them (Quinn, 1998: 53)

*Perlahan-lahan* is a partially reduplicated which base form is *perlahan* which has the meaning 'slowly'; when it is reduplicated into *perlahan-lahan* it has the meaning of very slowly or intensifying the act slow movement towards a place or something. In the context of the SL 'I Gusti Made Tusan *perlahan-lahan* ke dekat mereka itu' (literally, I Gusti Made Tusan moves or walk slowly towards them); the translation is I Gusti Made Tusan **strolled** towards them. The partial reduplication *perlahan-lahan* is translated into *strolled* (a walk in a leisure way), by applying the procedure of **synonymy**; in which 'walk slowly' has similar meaning with 'walk in a leisure way'.

## 6. Conclusion

Based on the previous analysis the conclusions can be drawn as the following: there were only three types of reduplications found: full-reduplication, combination of stem and affix, and partial reduplication. The translation procedures applied in the translation are couplet, equivalent, modulation, and synonymy. In Translating reduplication is not always easy; therefore, the translator has to understand the meaning of the reduplicated words and the context in which the reduplicated word is attached in the context.

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