



An Analysis of Translation Strategies for Railway Technical and Business Terminology in PT KAI's Annual Report Based on Peter Newmark's Theory

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ABSTRACT: This study aims to identify technical railway terms and business terms within the 2024 Annual Report of PT KAI, analyze the translation methods employed based on Peter Newmark's theory, and compare the translation tendencies for both categories of terms. The study adopts a qualitative descriptive approach, utilizing data consisting of Indonesian terms and their English equivalents found in the annual report. The analysis involves identifying the terms, comparing the term pairs across both languages, and interpreting the translation methods used according to Newmark's framework. The findings indicate that technical railway terms encompass terminology related to signaling systems, rolling stock, and infrastructure, while business terms cover areas such as revenue, financial reporting, financing, and corporate activities. The identified translation methods include literal translation, semantic translation, communicative translation, and faithful translation. Both categories of terms require precision in meaning and the use of appropriate terminology; however, the translation of technical railway terms places greater emphasis on the accuracy of references to railway systems and operations, whereas the translation of business terms focuses on the precision of financial and corporate concepts. As the analysis is based on qualitative examples, a definitive determination of the most dominant translation method cannot be established.

Keywords: technical railway terms, business terms, translation methods, Peter Newmark, annual report.

1. Introduction

An annual report is a vital document that presents information regarding a company's operational performance, financial condition, governance, and strategic direction. In the context of companies operating in the transportation sector, the translation of annual reports serves not only to convey information to an international audience but also to ensure that technical and business terms are accurately understood. Precision in translation is crucial, as the choice of language can influence how readers perceive a company's operational activities, achievements, and financial data. Al Obaidani (2018) examines the translation of business terminology in English and Arabic annual reports, while Nobes and Stadler (2018) investigate issues surrounding the translation of terms within financial reporting standards and annual reports. Both studies highlight the

importance of considering terminological equivalence and the context of usage when translating corporate documents.

PT Kereta Api Indonesia (Persero), hereinafter referred to as PT KAI, is a company engaged in the railway transportation sector. PT KAI's 2024 annual report contains information regarding both its railway operational activities and its business aspects. These two areas involve distinct types of terminology. Technical railway terms relate to rolling stock, infrastructure, safety, maintenance, and the execution of train services. Meanwhile, business terms encompass information on finance, revenue, investment, governance, risk management, and corporate strategy. Translating these two categories of terms requires different considerations: technical terms demand precise meaning specific to the field, whereas business terms must preserve both their conceptual meaning and their informative function. In their research on the translation of technical terms, Pudjiati and Fitria (2022) highlight the importance of understanding the characteristics of terms and the context in which they are used when determining their equivalents in the target language. This study underscores that translating technical terms requires selecting a translation approach that aligns with the specific characteristics of the terminology.

When translating documents that contain specialized terminology, maintaining consistency in the use of equivalent terms is a crucial consideration. A single term may appear repeatedly across different sections, often within varying contexts. If the same term is translated using different equivalents without adequate contextual consideration, readers may struggle to grasp the relationships between the pieces of information presented. This issue is particularly relevant to the annual reports of railway companies, where operational and business terms are often interconnected in the explanation of corporate performance. Consequently, the translation analysis must account for both the semantic equivalence of individual terms and their consistent application throughout the entire document. In this study, this aspect serves as a key factor in identifying technical railway and business terms within the 2024 Annual Report of PT KAI, as well as in analyzing the translation strategies employed, based on the framework established by Peter Newmark.

Beyond consistency, the context in which a term is used also plays a role in determining the appropriate translation approach. Technical railway terms may refer to specific concepts or components that require terminological precision, whereas business terms may carry meanings influenced by the context of financial reporting, management, or corporate governance. Consequently, the translation of a term cannot always be determined solely by the formal resemblance between the source and target languages. Translators must consider the conceptual meaning, established usage within the relevant field, and the communicative purpose of the document. These distinct characteristics make the annual reports of PT KAI a relevant subject for examining the application of translation methods across these two categories of terminology. Through this analysis, the present study seeks to identify the methods employed and to explain the patterns of their application based on the data gathered.

The theoretical foundation of this research draws upon Peter Newmark's theory of translation. Newmark (1988) distinguishes translation methods based on the translator's orientation toward the source language and the target language. He

proposes eight translation methods: word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation.

These eight methods possess distinct characteristics in how they handle linguistic form, meaning, context, and the comprehensibility of the target text. The word-for-word method tends to preserve the sequence and lexical meaning of the source language, whereas the literal method adjusts to the grammatical structure of the target language without disregarding the core meaning. The faithful method seeks to maintain the contextual meaning of the source language, while the semantic method focuses on the aesthetic value and nuances of meaning within the source text. Furthermore, the adaptation method involves broader adjustments to the cultural context; the free method prioritizes the conveyance of content without being bound to the original form; the idiomatic method employs expressions that are natural in the target language; and the communicative method emphasizes the clear transmission of meaning, ensuring it is easily understood by the target audience (Newmark, 1988).

Using Newmark's eight translation methods as an analytical framework allows this study to examine the translation orientation reflected in the equivalents chosen for technical railway and business terms. The analysis focuses not only on the form of the translation but also on the relationship between the source-language form, the intended meaning, and the characteristics of the target language. In practice, determining the appropriate method requires considering the context of the sentence or the section of the document in which a given term appears. This is essential because a term's equivalent cannot be classified based solely on its linguistic form without accounting for how its meaning is conveyed within a broader context. Consequently, Newmark's theory is employed to identify the method best suited to the specific translation characteristics of each data point analyzed.

Previous research on the translation of corporate terms and documents provides an empirical foundation for this study. Pranata and Udayana (2020) examined translation procedures for medical terms using Newmark's framework, while Seran et al. (2022) discussed the application of Newmark's translation procedures in the bilingual magazine "Colours". Although both studies utilized Newmark's framework, their focus differs from that of the present study, as their objects and units of analysis did not specifically consist of technical railway terminology or business terms found in annual reports. Meanwhile, Pudjiati and Fitria (2022) addressed the translation of technical terms within the context of using language translators for educational purposes. While their work is relevant to understanding the challenges of translating terminology, it does not focus on the classification of Newmark's eight translation methods within corporate documents in the transportation sector.

Research on the translation of annual reports has also been conducted by Octoveria and Munandar (2023), who examined explicitation and implicitation through translation shifts in the annual reports of Indonesian companies translated into English. In 2024, Octoveria and Munandar explored the translation patterns of annual reports from Indonesian public companies, viewed from both linguistic and business perspectives. Both studies are relevant as they utilize annual reports as their research subject and address translation issues within corporate communication. However, their focus lies on

translation shifts and the patterns of annual report translation, rather than on a comparative analysis of technical railway terminology and business terms based on Newmark's eight translation methods. Furthermore, Sari et al. (2024) investigated the techniques and strategies used to translate declarative sentences in the annual report of PT HM Sampoerna Tbk, while Xue (2025) examined the pragmatic functions and translation strategies employed in Huawei's annual reports. These studies demonstrate that annual reports can be analyzed through various approaches; however, they do not directly address the specific focus of the present research.

Based on the aforementioned prior research, the research gap addressed here lies in the analysis of the translation of two categories of terminology—railway technical terms and business terms—within a single corporate document, utilizing Peter Newmark's eight translation methods. While previous studies have examined the translation of technical terms, business terms, and annual reports through various analytical frameworks, this study focuses on how Newmark's eight methods can be employed to identify the translation tendencies for both categories of terms within the 2024 Annual Report of PT KAI. Consequently, this study does not presuppose that the two categories of terms will necessarily exhibit distinct patterns; rather, it compares the patterns that emerge from an empirical analysis of the source and target texts. This approach serves as the foundation for developing an analysis centered on the characteristics of the terminology and the orientation of the translation methods applied within corporate documentation in the railway sector.

This study aims to identify technical railway terms and business terms within the 2024 Annual Report of PT KAI, analyze the translation methods employed based on Peter Newmark's theory, and compare the application patterns of these eight methods across the two categories of terms. Accordingly, this study addresses three research questions: (1) what technical railway and business terms are found in the 2024 Annual Report of PT KAI; (2) which of Peter Newmark's translation methods can be identified in the translation of these terms; and (3) how are the similarities and differences in the tendencies regarding the use of translation methods for technical railway terms versus business terms? This research is expected to contribute to the study of terminology translation and corporate documentation, while also serving as a reference for translators to ensure semantic accuracy and terminological consistency in the annual reports of railway companies. To achieve these objectives, the study employs a descriptive qualitative approach, analyzing pairs of terms from the source and target texts within their respective contexts of use.

2. Method

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach to analyze the translation of railway-related technical terms and business terms in the 2024 Annual Report of PT KAI, based on Peter Newmark's (1988) theory of translation methods. This approach was selected because the research focuses on the identification, categorization, and interpretation of translation forms within their specific contexts of use. The analysis involves comparing terms in the source language text with those in the target language text to discern the prevailing translation methods employed. Document analysis was

chosen as the methodology, as it enables a systematic examination of written documents serving as research data sources (Bowen, 2009).

The data source for this study is the 2024 Annual Report of PT Kereta Api Indonesia (Persero), along with its English-language version, where available as an official, comparable document. The research data consist of railway-related technical terms and business terms identified in both versions of the report. Railway-related technical terms encompass vocabulary pertaining to railway rolling stock, infrastructure, operations, safety, and services. Meanwhile, business terms include vocabulary related to management, finance, corporate performance, governance, strategy, and business activities. The unit of analysis consists of words or phrases that carry technical or business-related meanings and for which corresponding equivalents can be identified in the target language text.

Data collection was carried out using documentation and recording techniques. The researcher examined both versions of the reports and identified terms that aligned with the research categories. Terms in the source language were recorded alongside their target-language equivalents, the sentence context, and the page number where each term appeared. Subsequently, the data were organized into a table containing the data entry number, the source-language term, the target-language equivalent, the term category, the context of use, and the hypothesized translation method. Recording the context was essential to avoid categorizing terms based solely on their linguistic form, without considering their specific meaning within the reports. This process adheres to the principles of document analysis, which emphasize the systematic examination and organization of information (Bowen, 2009).

The data were analyzed using qualitative content analysis—a process of systematically organizing and interpreting textual data to derive categories and patterns relevant to the research objectives (Erlingsson & Brysiewicz, 2017). The analysis was conducted in several stages. First, the researcher identified technical railway terms and business terms within the source-language text. Second, each term was paired with its equivalent in the target-language text. Third, the researcher analyzed the appropriateness of the meaning and form of the translation, taking into account the sentence context and the function of each term within the report. Fourth, the data were classified according to Newmark's (1988) eight translation methods: word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation. Fifth, the classification results were interpreted to explain the tendencies in the translation methods applied to both categories of terms.

During the analysis process, the researcher also noted that translation involves more than just linguistic equivalence; it also entails preserving meaning and context. Ho et al. (2019) emphasize the importance of analytical consideration when translating qualitative data across languages. Although their research focused on sensitive qualitative data, their insights regarding cross-lingual context and meaning serve as a useful cautionary principle for comparing terms between two versions of a report. Consequently, the classification of translation methods in this study is not based solely on lexical similarity but also takes into account the function of each term within the context of the annual reports.

The frequency of occurrence for each category can be calculated as supporting data to illustrate trends in the use of specific translation methods. Where applicable, percentages are determined by dividing the number of instances in a given category by the total number of data points analyzed, then multiplying by 100%. These figures serve to complement the qualitative analysis, while the primary discussion remains focused on the characteristics of the translations and the contextual rationales underlying their classification.

Data validity is maintained through the cross-checking of source and target language term pairs, consistent application of classification criteria, and an examination of the context in which terms appear within the reports. Zhao et al. (2024) discuss the relationship between validity and translation in qualitative research, emphasizing the need to extend considerations of validity beyond mere linguistic equivalence. In line with this perspective, the present study considers the alignment of meaning, context, and function—rather than focusing solely on formal similarity between the source and target texts. Terms with multiple potential equivalents are analyzed based on their specific context of use. Furthermore, the researcher ensures that every classification is supported by clear textual evidence and analytical reasoning, thereby ensuring that the conclusions are academically defensible.

3. Findings and Discussion

3.1. Findings

3.1.1 Identification of Railway Technical Terms and Business Terms

The research data is drawn from the 2024 Annual and Sustainability Report of PT Kereta Api Indonesia (Persero), which provides information in both Indonesian and English. These two language versions allow for a comparison between terms in the source text and their corresponding equivalents in the target text. The terms selected for analysis are those related to the railway sector, transport operations, finance, and the company's business activities. Consequently, the analysis considers not only the equivalence of linguistic forms but also the function of the terms within their specific contexts of use.

Based on a review of the documents, the terms used in the report can be classified into two primary categories: railway-technical terms and business terms. Railway-technical terms refer to rolling stock, infrastructure, control systems, operations, and transport services. Meanwhile, business terms encompass revenue, financing, marketing, partner relations, and corporate activities. These two categories possess distinct characteristics, which lead to a variety of translation choices within the company report.

Railway-technical terms appear, for instance, in sections discussing the operation of the Jabodebek LRT, operational-ready rolling stock, infrastructure, and the expansion of passenger and freight transport capacity. In the description of the Jabodebek LRT, the report mentions "*Communication-Based Train Control (CBTC)*, *Grade of Automation (GoA)*, *Train Attendant*, *Automatic Train Protection (ATP)*, dan *Interlocking & Zone Controller*. These terms relate to train movement control systems, levels of automation, operational personnel, train protection, and route management. Some of these terms are retained in English, while explanatory information is provided in Indonesian.

Another example can be found in the section detailing facilities and infrastructure. The report employs pairs of terms such as *sarana (siap operasi)* and *rolling stock (ready for operation)*, *unit lokomotif* dan *unit locomotive*, *unit kereta* dan *unit train*, serta *prasarana* dan *infrastructure*. In this context, these terms do not stand alone; rather, they form part of the information regarding the company's capacity and operational readiness. The report also uses the term *railway tracks* to refer to *jalan rel (rail lines)*, allowing the relationship between the term and its corresponding technical object to be observed through the context in which the data is presented.

Business-related terminology appears in sections discussing transport, revenue, financing, and business development. Examples include "*angkutan penumpang*" translated as "passenger transport," "*angkutan barang*" as "freight transport," and "*pendapatan angkutan penumpang*" as "passenger transport revenues." Elsewhere, the report uses terms such as "Continuous Public Offering" for "*Penawaran Umum Berkelanjutan*", "sustainable sukuk" for "*sukuk berkelanjutan*", and "retained earnings" for "*saldo laba*". These terms are used within the context of presenting the company's performance, sources of funding, and financial information.

This initial identification reveals that the terms used in the report possess varying degrees of specificity. Terms such as "passenger transport" are relatively easy to recognize through their lexical equivalents, whereas terms like "rolling stock" and "retained earnings" require an understanding of the terminological conventions specific to their respective fields. Consequently, the assessment of translation strategies must take into account the technical and business context, rather than relying solely on the formal resemblance between terms in Indonesian and English.

3.1.2 Classification of Translation Methods Based on Peter Newmark's Theory

The classification of translation methods in this study refers to the eight methods proposed by Newmark (1988): word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation. This classification is based on the relationship between terms in the source language and the target language, the accuracy of their meaning, and their context of use within the 2024 annual report of PT Kereta Api Indonesia (Persero).

It should be noted that Newmark's translation methods primarily concern the orientation of translation at the text level, whereas this study focuses on terms specifically words or phrases. Consequently, the terms presented in the following table are analyzed as examples of translation choices at the terminological level. The determination of the method is based not only on the formal similarity of the terms but also on their meaning and function within the context of the report.

Table 1. Interpretation of Translation Methods for Railway Technical Terms

No.	Indonesian Terms	English Equivalent	Interpretation of Methods
1	Unit lokomotif	Unit locomotive	<i>Literal translation</i>
2	Jalan rel	Railway tracks	<i>Communicative translation</i>
3	Prasarana	Infrastructure	<i>Communicative translation</i>
4	Angkutan penumpang	Passenger transport	<i>Literal translation</i>

No.	Indonesian Terms	English Equivalent	Interpretation of Methods
5	Angkutan barang	Freight transport	<i>Semantic translation</i>
6	Sarana (siap operasi)	Rolling stock (ready for operation)	<i>Communicative translation</i>

As shown in Table 1, the translation of technical railway terms reveals a variety of equivalent choices. Terms such as “*unit lokomotif*”–“locomotive unit” and “*angkutan penumpang*”–“passenger transport” exhibit a relatively direct lexical relationship between the source and target languages. While this relationship might suggest a “literal translation” approach, the final classification must still take into account the sentence structure in which the term is used.

Pairs such as “*jalan rel*”–“railway tracks” and “*prasarana*”–“infrastructure” can be examined from the perspective of “communicative translation,” provided that the English equivalents effectively and clearly convey the intended concepts to the target audience. In the realm of technical terminology, clarity must go hand in hand with terminological precision. An equivalent that is easy to understand is not necessarily accurate if it does not refer to the exact same technical object. Consequently, the railway context serves as a crucial basis for evaluating the appropriateness of such equivalents.

The *angkutan barang*–*freight transport* must be understood within the context of terminology used in the transportation sector. The word “freight” specifically relates to the carriage of goods; thus, this equivalent preserves the essential characteristics of the concept. A “semantic translation” approach may be appropriate if a contextual analysis reveals that the choice of term prioritizes the precision of domain-specific meaning over a direct, word-for-word formal equivalence.

Meanwhile, the pairing of *sarana (siap operasi)*–*rolling stock (ready for operation)* highlights the importance of understanding railway-specific terminology. The term “rolling stock” cannot be grasped through a literal, word-by-word translation; rather, it must be interpreted as a term referring to the mobile assets—or rolling equipment—within a railway system. Consequently, the choice of translation method must take into account both the underlying technical concept and the clarity of the term within the target language.

Unlike the aforementioned pair of terms, “Communication-Based Train Control” along with its abbreviation, CBTC is retained in its English form. This instance is more accurately described as the retention or borrowing of a technical term at the level of terminology. Such retention does not automatically imply the use of a “faithful translation” or any other specific method, as determining the appropriate method according to Newmark’s framework requires a broader consideration of the translation’s overall orientation and the context of the text.

Table 2. Interpretation of Translation Methods for Business Terms

No.	Indonesian Terms	English Equivalent	Interpretation of Methods
1	Saldo laba	Retained earnings	<i>Semantic translation</i>
2	Pendapatan diterima di muka	Unearned income	<i>Semantic translation</i>
3	Prospek usaha	Business outlook	<i>Communicative translation</i>

No.	Indonesian Terms	English Equivalent	Interpretation of Methods
4	Pendapatan angkutan penumpang	Passenger transport revenues	<i>Literal translation</i>
5	Pendapatan angkutan barang	Freight transport revenue	<i>Literal translation</i>
6	Penawaran Umum Berkelanjutan	Continuous Public Offering	<i>Faithful translation</i>
7	Laporan Posisi Keuangan Konsolidasian	Consolidated Statement of Financial Position	<i>Literal translation</i>
8	Sukuk berkelanjutan	Sustainable Sukuk	<i>Faithful translation</i>

Based on Table 2, business and financial terms demonstrate the need to preserve concepts established within corporate terminology. The pair “saldo laba”–“retained earnings” can be analyzed from the perspective of “semantic translation,” as its English equivalent refers to an accounting concept that cannot be understood by translating each individual word separately. Selecting terms that are standard in the target language is essential for maintaining the accuracy of financial information.

The same applies to “*pendapatan diterima di muka*”–“unearned income”. Interpreting such an equivalent requires careful consideration of the context of the financial item discussed in the report. The meaning of the term cannot be determined solely by the general definition of “*pendapatan*” or “income”; rather, it must be linked to the specific accounting concept to which it refers. In this context, “semantic translation” serves as a valid analytical perspective, provided that the equivalent successfully preserves the conceptual meaning of the source term.

The pair “*prospek usaha*”–“business outlook” can be considered through the approach of communicative translation, provided that the English expression conveys the intent of the source term clearly and naturally to the target audience. Meanwhile, “pendapatan angkutan penumpang”–“passenger transport revenues” and “*pendapatan angkutan barang*”–“freight transport revenue” exhibit a relatively direct lexical relationship. Both can be analyzed as instances of literal translation if the sentence context indicates that the structure and meaning of the source terms are preserved without significant conceptual alteration.

For the pairs “Penawaran Umum Berkelanjutan”–“Continuous Public Offering” and “sukuk berkelanjutan”–“sustainable sukuk”, determining the appropriate method requires caution, as both terms belong to the corporate and financial domain. Classification as a “faithful translation” is only justified if an analysis demonstrates that the equivalent closely adheres to the contextual meaning of the source term. Mere formal similarity or the existence of a common terminological equivalent is insufficient, on its own, to substantiate the use of this particular translation method.

Likewise, the *Laporan Posisi Keuangan Konsolidasian*–*Consolidated Statement of Financial Position* pair shows a strong terminological relationship between the two languages. Because this term is the name of a financial report, analysis needs to pay attention to report naming conventions in English. The use of equivalents that follow the source structure can be an indication of literal translation, but conformity with accounting terminology also needs to be taken into consideration.

3.2. Discussion

3.2.1. Interpretation of Translation Methods for Railway Technical Terms

The technical railway terminology found in the 2024 annual report of PT Kereta Api Indonesia (Persero) demonstrates that translation must balance the precision of technical concepts with accessibility for the target audience. Terms such as Communication-Based Train Control (CBTC), Grade of Automation (GoA), and Automatic Train Protection (ATP) refer to specific systems or concepts within railway operations. In the report, these terms are retained in English, while their operational functions are explained in Indonesian. This approach ensures consistency in the names of the systems while providing the necessary context to help readers understand their application.

Viewed through the lens of Newmark's (1988) theory, this translation strategy can be interpreted in terms of both fidelity to meaning and consideration for the target audience. A "faithful translation" emphasizes preserving the contextual meaning of the source text, while a "semantic translation" focuses on the value of the meaning and the selection of appropriate expressions. For technical terms that already possess standardized names or internationally recognized acronyms, retaining the original term is a reasonable choice, provided the context is sufficiently clear. However, the retention of such terms is more accurately understood as a translation procedure at the terminological level, rather than as one of Newmark's eight defined translation methods.

Hakim et al. (2024), in their research on the translation of specialized terms in the novel "The Martian", address issues concerning the selection of equivalents and the acceptability of translating technical registers. This study is relevant in demonstrating that an equivalent which conveys the general message does not necessarily preserve the full characteristics of a technical term. In the context of PT KAI's annual reports, this consideration is crucial when analyzing terms such as "rolling stock," "Automatic Train Protection," and "Communication-Based Train Control." The accuracy of a translation must be evaluated based on the specific railway concepts being referenced, rather than merely on the formal linguistic resemblance.

Meanwhile, equivalents such as "prasarana"—"infrastructure" reflect the standard usage of terms in English. This choice can be interpreted as a "communicative translation" if the equivalent helps to clearly convey the function of the concept within the context of a report. Similarly, the translation of "jalan rel" as "railway tracks" demonstrates that the translation of technical terms must align with the terminology used in the transportation sector. The appropriateness of terminology is crucial, as an overly literal translation may result in unnatural phrasing or create ambiguity regarding the object being referred to.

The pair "sarana" (siap operasi)—"rolling stock" (ready for operation) further illustrates the importance of domain-specific context. The term "rolling stock" cannot be evaluated by simply breaking it down into the words "rolling" and "stock" and translating them individually. Its meaning must be understood as a railway term referring to mobile assets, which may encompass locomotives and various types of rail vehicles. In this context, a semantic interpretation is more relevant than an assessment based on a mechanical, word-for-word equivalence.

Locke et al. (2018) discuss translation within the context of digital corporate reporting, as well as the relationship between translation and the presentation of

accounting information to users. Although their research does not focus on railway-specific terminology, their discussion is relevant for understanding the importance of consistent conceptual representation in corporate documents. In the annual reports of PT KAI, consistent English equivalents can help readers link operational terms to descriptions of the company's performance. Consequently, the interpretation of translation methods must take into account the context in which a term appears and the uniformity of its usage throughout various sections of a report.

These findings suggest that the analysis of technical terms should address two distinct questions. First, does the chosen equivalent accurately preserve the intended technical concept? Second, is the form used sufficiently clear to the target audience? While both questions pertain to accuracy and comprehensibility, they do not necessarily lead to the same classification of translation methods. Therefore, technical terms should not be categorized solely based on linguistic form, but rather according to their function and terminological context.

3.2.1. Interpretation of Translation Methods for Business Terms

Business terms in PT KAI's annual reports relate to transport performance, revenue, financing, and corporate governance. Examples such as *pendapatan angkutan penumpang*—passenger transport revenues and *pendapatan angkutan barang*—freight transport revenue demonstrate equivalents that maintain the relationship between transport activities and the revenue generated. The use of the terms “passenger transport” and “freight transport” also reflects a conceptual distinction between passenger and freight services—a distinction that is significant because the two transport categories possess different operational and business characteristics.

From Newmark's (1988) perspective, equivalents that preserve the semantic structure of the source can be addressed through “literal translation” or “faithful translation,” depending on the context and the degree of structural linguistic change. However, when such terms constitute standard business terminology in English, “communicative translation” is also relevant for explaining how terms are adapted to ensure they are readily understood by the target audience. Consequently, the classification of a translation method cannot be determined solely by the number of words or the sequence of elements within a term.

Octoveria and Munandar (2024) analyzed the translation patterns of annual reports from publicly traded companies in Indonesia, focusing on translation shifts as well as the explicitation and implicitation of information. The study demonstrates that the translation of annual reports may entail changes in linguistic structure and adjustments in how information is conveyed. These findings reinforce the view that term pairs in annual reports must be analyzed based on their specific context of use, rather than through isolated word-for-word comparisons. In the case of PT KAI, for instance, such context is essential for distinguishing between operational terms, revenue-related terms, and terminology used within financial disclosures.

The term pair “*Penawaran Umum Berkelanjutan*” to “Continuous Public Offering” reflects the use of terminology associated with capital market fundraising mechanisms. This term is employed when describing the issuance of “*sukuk*” (Islamic bonds) and corporate financing information. Given that this term carries specific corporate and

regulatory connotations, determining its equivalent requires careful consideration of the concepts described in the report, rather than relying solely on the general meanings of the words “offering” or “*berkelanjutan*.” In business translation, terminological consistency is crucial for ensuring the accuracy of information for readers with a vested interest in a company’s activities.

The same can be observed in the pair “*saldo laba*”–“retained earnings”. The term “retained earnings” is a conventional accounting term; it would be inaccurate to treat it as a word-for-word translation of “*saldo*” and “*laba*” . The choice of this equivalent better reflects conceptual correspondence within the English financial terminology system. Therefore, the concept of “semantic translation” is relevant for explaining the relationship between the source term and the target term. A similar explanation applies to “*pendapatan diterima di muka*”–“unearned income”, while always taking into account the context of the specific financial item under discussion.

Nobes and Stadler (2018) examine the translation of IFRS from English and its subsequent use in English-language annual reports. Their study highlights the importance of considering the relationship between accounting concepts and their representation in the language of the reports. This is particularly relevant when analyzing terms such as “retained earnings” and “Consolidated Statement of Financial Position,” which carry specific meanings within the context of financial reporting. In this regard, the choice to employ either semantic translation or literal translation must be justified based on how well the concepts and structures of the target-language equivalents align with the original. Relying solely on lexical similarity is insufficient to ensure that the intended accounting meaning has been accurately preserved.

Readability is also an essential element in the communication of business information. Ebaid (2023) examined the readability of corporate annual reports in Saudi Arabia and identified a relationship between the adoption of IFRS and the readability of these reports within the studied sample. While this research did not directly test Newmark’s translation methods, it provides a basis for understanding that financial reports can contain complex information that may pose challenges for readers. Consequently, in the annual reports of PT KAI, the comprehensibility of business terms must be considered alongside the accuracy of the terminology used. Conceptually correct equivalents must still be placed within a clear sentential context to ensure that the information can be understood by the target audience.

From this example, it can be inferred that business terms in annual reports require conceptual precision and adherence to established corporate terminology conventions. While readability remains important, it should not come at the expense of the distinctions between different financial concepts. Using “readable” equivalents without regard for their technical definitions risks producing inaccurate information. Consequently, communicative translation and semantic translation can serve as complementary perspectives for evaluating business terms, although the final choice of method must always be determined by the broader context.

3.2.3. Connection of Findings to Newmark’s Theory and Previous Research

The analysis indicates that Newmark’s (1988) theory can be used to interpret the translation choices made for technical and business terms, particularly regarding the

balance between fidelity to the source meaning and accessibility for the target audience. Literal translation is useful for term pairs that share a relatively direct formal equivalence. Faithful translation and semantic translation are relevant when terms carry specific meanings that must be preserved, while communicative translation is applicable when the priority is to convey meaning clearly and naturally in the target language.

Nevertheless, the findings also underscore the necessity of distinguishing between translation methods and translation procedures. The retention of terms such as "Communication-Based Train Control" or "Automatic Train Protection" is not sufficient, in itself, to definitively categorize the translation method employed. Such formal retention is more accurately classified as a procedure at the term level, which should then be interpreted within the context of the text. This distinction is crucial to ensure that the application of Newmark's theory does not oversimplify the translation process, which inherently involves complex lexical, terminological, and contextual decisions.

In their research on bilingual corporate reporting, Wang and Liu (2024) analyzed linguistic variations between translated and non-translated versions of corporate chairpersons' statements within annual reports. This study is relevant as it demonstrates that the linguistic characteristics of annual reports can be examined systematically by accounting for the translation status of the text. In the context of analyzing PT KAI's 2024 annual report, this perspective underscores the importance of directly comparing the Indonesian and English texts—specifically to ensure the consistent use of technical railway and business terminology. Although the study does not explicitly employ Newmark's eight translation methods, it provides a foundational rationale for analyzing the linguistic features of a target text based on textual evidence.

Research on the translation of annual reports also reveals that translation decisions are linked to a company's communication objectives. A study by Octoveria and Munandar (2024) on translation patterns in the annual reports of publicly traded companies in Indonesia highlights the significance of analyzing shifts and adjustments of information within corporate texts. This perspective emphasizes the need to evaluate a target text in terms of its communicative function, rather than merely assessing its formal equivalence to the source text. In the case of PT KAI's annual report, "semantic translation" and "faithful translation" may be appropriate when the priority is to preserve the original meaning, whereas "communicative translation" is relevant when the analysis suggests that conveying meaning clearly and naturally to the target audience is paramount. Ultimately, the choice of method must always be grounded in textual evidence.

Chiocchetti et al. (2017) discuss quality assurance in multilingual legal databases, emphasizing that terminology quality must be addressed at the levels of processes, products, and translation resources. Although their subject of study differs from corporate annual reports, these principles are relevant for strengthening the analysis of terminological consistency. In the annual reports of PT KAI, technical and business terms must be rendered with appropriate and consistent equivalents to prevent divergent interpretations of the same concepts. Consequently, an analysis based on Newmark's methods can be supplemented by considerations of terminology quality, without conflating terminological consistency with the classification of translation methods.

Overall, existing research reinforces three key considerations for the analysis of PT KAI's 2024 annual report: terminological accuracy, consistency of equivalents, and the readability of technical and business information. These three aspects serve as a supporting perspective for interpreting data within the framework of Newmark's eight translation methods. However, as these prior studies employ diverse subjects, theoretical frameworks, and analytical methods, their findings cannot be taken as definitive proof that a specific term in PT KAI's reports necessarily utilizes a particular translation method. The final classification must always be based on the specific term-equivalent pairs and the actual context within the documents under examination.

Overall, the 2024 KAI document demonstrates the use of several translation patterns: relatively direct lexical equivalents, the application of conventional English terminology, and the retention of specific technical terms. These patterns appear across both railway-technical and business categories, each with distinct contextual requirements. In the technical category, the primary focus is on ensuring the accuracy of references to systems and operational objects; in the business category, the focus shifts to the precise representation of economic and financial concepts, as well as corporate activities.

4. Conclusion

Based on an analysis of the 2024 Annual Report of PT Kereta Api Indonesia (Persero), this study identifies two primary categories of terms: technical railway terms and business terms. Technical railway terms include *Communication-Based Train Control (CBTC)*, *Grade of Automation (GoA)*, *Automatic Train Protection (ATP)*, *rolling stock*, *infrastructure*, and *railway tracks*. Meanwhile, business terms encompass *passenger transport revenues*, *freight transport revenue*, *retained earnings*, *unearned income*, *business outlook*, *Continuous Public Offering*, and *sustainable sukuk*. These findings indicate that the annual report contains terminology related to railway systems and operations, as well as the company's financial, funding, and business management aspects.

Based on Peter Newmark's theory of translation, the methods that can be identified through the interpretation of term pairs and their respective contexts of use include literal translation, semantic translation, communicative translation, and faithful translation. In the technical domain, literal translation is observed in the pairs "unit *lokomotif*"—"locomotive unit" and "*angkutan penumpang*"—"passenger transport", while communicative translation is identified in the pairs "*prasarana*"—"infrastructure" and "*jalan rel*"—"railway tracks". In the business domain, literal translation is identified in the pair "*pendapatan angkutan penumpang*"—"passenger transport revenues", whereas semantic translation is identified in the pair "*saldo laba*"—"retained earnings". Furthermore, communicative translation and faithful translation are applicable to various business equivalents, depending on the characteristics of their meaning and context. Technical terms such as "CBTC," which are retained in their English form, are more accurately classified as the retention of terms at the terminological level, rather than being directly categorized as one of Newmark's translation methods.

Both categories share the requirement to maintain precision in meaning, employ equivalents that align with the conventions of the relevant field, and ensure clarity for

the target audience. They differ, however, in their terminological focus: the translation of technical terms emphasizes precise reference to systems, facilities, infrastructure, and operational processes, whereas the translation of business terms prioritizes the equivalence of concepts related to finance, revenue, funding, and corporate activities. Consequently, the selection of a translation method must account for the characteristics of the terms and the context in which they are used, rather than relying solely on linguistic formal similarities. Nevertheless, as this study presents a qualitative interpretation of sample terms, without having systematically mapped the distribution of the entire dataset, it is not yet possible to definitively conclude which method is most dominant within each category.

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