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ERRORS IN THE GOOGLE TRANSLATION OF SOME PHILIPPINE FOLKTALES

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ABSTRACT

The correct translation of literary works is crucial in dissemination of the knowledge on cultural values, norms, behavior, and the characteristics of a country. This study recorded the syntactic and semantic translation errors of the English-written Philippine short stories to Cebuano using Google Translate. The study used a descriptive qualitative design in analyzing the corpus, the selected six Philippine folktales namely "Why the Piña Has a Hundred Eyes" by Neni Sta. Romana Cruz"; "The Story of the Monkey and the Turtle by Jose P. Rizal"; "The Necklace and the Comb" by Neni Sta. Romana Cruz"; "The Old Woman and the Candles by Kevin Piamonte"; "The Man and the Coconut by Basab Ghosh"; and "The Tale of Tonyo the Brave", by Maria Aleah G. Taboclaon". Comparative linguistics was used in examining and analyzing the original and the translated texts particularly focusing on the syntactic and semantic translation errors of the stories. The results reveal that among the errors, syntactic translation problems are the most highly committed errors and verb error is the highest committed type of error among other syntactic translation problems. Other errors include word order, determiners, counting, adjectives, subject + verb agreement, and pronouns. On the other hand, semantic errors were also committed, particularly referential errors. This indicates that using Google translation in translating the Philippine folktales is not advisable as it commits various types of errors and may lead to misunderstanding on the content among readers.

Keywords : machine translation, artificial intelligence, Philippines folktales, Google Translate, error analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade, there has been an increased use of application

on Artificial Intelligence, one of which is the Google Translation.

Artificial intelligence has come a long way from its early roots. The term was first coined in 1956 by McCarthy as "the science and engineering of making intelligent machines" (McCarthy, 1958). The term was introduced as a 'digital' replacement for the analog 'cybernetics'. Now, artificial intelligence (AI) is defined by Khanzode & Sarode (2020) as the intelligence exhibited by an artificial entity to solve complex problems and such a system is generally assumed to be a computer or machine.

In the 21st century artificial intelligence (AI) has become an important area of research in virtually all fields: engineering, science, education, medicine, business, accounting, finance, marketing, economics, stock market and law, among others (Halal (2003), Masnikosa (1998), Metaxiotis et al. (2003), Raynor (2000), Stefanu and Zhzhikashvili

(2002), Tay and Ho (1992) and Wongpinunwatana et al. (2000)). The field of AI has grown enormously to the extent that tracking proliferation of studies has become a difficult task (Ambite and Knoblock (2001), Balazinski et al. (2002), Cristani (1999) and Goyache (2003)). Apart from the application of AI to the fields mentioned above, studies have been segregated into many areas with each of these springing up as individual fields of knowledge (Eiter et al. (2003), Finkelstein et al. (2003), Grunwald and Halpern (2003), Guestrin et al. (2003), Lin (2003), Stone et al. (2003) and Wilkins et al. (2003)).

Using artificial intelligence, google has improved its original translation program/ software called google translate. It works by using the frequency of word pairs in two languages as a database for

translations. While this works in some circumstances, it frequently means that a translation cannot be put into proper context without the assistance of a human. Indeed, it may produce outright errors or exceedingly uncomfortable literal translations in various cases (Language Connections Inc., 2001).

The multilingual neural machine translation tool Google Translate was created by Google to translate text, documents, and websites from one language into another (Ulatos, 2020). It provides a website interface, an Android and iOS mobile app, and an API that aids developers in creating software apps and browser extensions. It was introduced in April 2006 as a statistical machine translation service, gathering linguistic information from documents and transcripts from the European Parliament and the United Nations. In the majority of the language combinations it proposes in its grid, it initially translates text to English before pivoting to the target language (Martin, 2019).

Google Translate covers 109 languages at various levels as of January 2022, and as of April 2016, it claimed to have over 500 million users worldwide, translating more than 100 billion words every day (Turovsky, 2016). Google Neural Machine Translation (GNMT), which translates whole sentences at a time, rather than just piece by piece, uses this broader context to help it figure out the most relevant translation, which it then rearranges and adjusts to be more like a human speaking with proper grammar, was introduced in November 2016 according to Martin (2019).

Several studies, however, have investigated problems with machine translations such as Google Translate. It was discovered that almost 60% of the sentences generated by machine translation systems were of comparable quality to those produced by professional translators (Total and Way, 2016). Users experience a variety of lexical, structural, and pragmatic problems, all of which reduce the dependability of machine translations.

Educators and translation instructors should consider the issues that machine translation systems pose in terms of literature. In the translation process, software makers must also address the issues that users and students confront (gomaa and omar, 2020). Machine translation methods, on the other hand, are not effective when it comes to literary materials (Besacier 2014).

The study conducted by Wongranu (2017) conducted a study on the common errors and problems in translation and the study found out that syntactic errors, semantic errors and miscellaneous errors to be the most common problem of the students' written work. There are errors because of translation procedures and carelessness. Semantic errors is about the mistranslation of words, which can be a single word, collocations, or idioms, while syntactic errors focus on mistranslation of sentence structures or grammatical structures. Pojprasat (2007) on the other hand, investigated students' translation works and proved semantic, pragmatic, and grammatical difficulties are the problems in translating. Pluralization, capitalization, inflections, tenses, subject-verb agreement, demonstrative pronoun use, and fragments were among the most common translation errors (Langa & Alico 2020).

In translation of the Philippine folktales from English (L2) to Cebuano

(L1) using Google Translate, there are two categories of errors committed on the text: semantic and syntactic errors. The errors were analyzed using the contrastive analysis hypothesis. Based on this analysis, implications on the future of machine translation of Philippine Literary Text were drawn from the problems in translation.

This study aimed to analyze errors in Google translation of Philippine folktales. Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What syntactic translation errors are present in the Google translation of the chosen Philippine folktales?
2. What semantic translation errors are present in the Google translation of the chosen Philippine folktales?
3. What implications do these problems pose in the future of translation of Filipino texts, especially folktales?

The study is conducted to have empirical evidence on the problems in translating Philippine folktales using Google translate. Although there are similar studies conducted by various researchers, there are still some areas that remain not investigated such as the translation of English written materials to Cebuano translation, especially machine translation. Knowing the errors and problems in translating the Philippine literary text such as folktales into a new language can help avoid errors or calls for further development of the translation machine.

1. 2.METHODOLOGY

The study used a descriptive-qualitative design which analyzed the problems in translating Philippine folktales using Google translation. This study is descriptive in a sense that it purely described the analyzed qualitative data wherein the researchers conducted an in-depth analysis on the text in examining the original and the translated text to identify the syntactic and semantic translation errors in the stories.

The study is qualitative as its data is purely textual. The corpus of this study is the selected six (6) literary text of the Philippine folktales such as "Why the Piña has a Hundred Eyes by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz", "The Story of the Monkey and the Turtle by Jose P. Rizal", "The Necklace and the Comb by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz", "The Old Woman of the Candles by Kevin Piamonte", "The Man and the Coconut by Basab Ghosh", and "The tale of Tonyo the Brave by Maria Aleah G. Taboclaon". The selected literary texts were translated into Cebuano language using Google Translate. These translated texts were used by the researchers in analyzing the errors in translating the Philippine folktales. The text were chosen due to its simplicity in terms of words, and plot.

The researchers depended on the descriptive approach and comparative method to analyze the data. They used the selected Philippine folktales translated into Cebuano language using Google Translate. The translated materials were read carefully and analyzed. The errors were identified, coded and organized or classified into themes: syntactic translation error, and semantic translation error.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This paper dealt with analysis of translated literary texts highlighting particularly the semantic and syntactic problems in translating Philippine folktales using Google translation. Semantic and syntactic errors are looked into as these are some of the common errors in computer programming language. In a programming language, syntax refers to the collection of a language's allowable words; in contrast, semantics expresses the associated meaning of those words. There are several syntactic and semantic linkages in which each semantic element is connected to at least one syntactic rendition. The other ensures that each syntactic representation has a separate meaning.

Syntactic Translation Problem Present in the Google Translation of the Chosen Philippines Folktales

Table 1. Summary of the Syntactic Error of the Translated Stories

Translated Stories	Syntactic Error
1) "Why Piña has a Hundred Eyes" by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz	9
2) "The Story of the Monkey and the Turtle" by Jose P. Rizal	4
3) "The Necklace and the Comb" by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz	2
4) "The Old Woman of the Candles" by Kevin Piamonte	11
5) "The Man and the Coconut" by Basab Ghosh	3
6) "The Tale of Tonyo the Brave" by Maria Aleah G. Taboclaon	6
Total	35

The frequency table shows the number of syntactic errors in the translated stories. There are six (6) translated stories with the corresponding number of syntactic errors committed in each. The translated story "Why Piña has a Hundred Eyes" by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz has nine (9) syntactic errors. "The Story of the Monkey and the Turtle" by Jose P. Rizal has four (4) syntactic errors. "The Necklace and the Comb" by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz has two (2) syntactic errors. "The Old Woman of the Candles" by Kevin Piamonte has eleven (11) syntactic errors. "The Man and the Coconut" by Basab Ghosh has three (3) syntactic errors. "The Tale of Tonyo the Brave" by Maria Aleah G. Taboclaon has six (6) syntactic errors. Therefore, the six (6) translated stories have a total of thirty-five (35) syntactic errors.

Table 2. Types of Syntactic Errors

Error	Frequency	Percentage
Verb	15	42.86%
Word Order	9	25.71%
Determiners	5	14.29%
Counting	2	05.71%
Adjectives	2	05.71%
Subject + Verb Agreement	1	02.86%
Pronoun	1	02.86%
Total	35	100%

The frequency-percentage table shows the type of syntactic errors in the translated stories. There are seven (7) types of syntactic errors in the translations of the six (6) stories used for this study. Verb error has the highest frequency with 15 or 42.86% of the total syntactic errors. Word order error has a frequency of 9 or 25.71% of the total syntactic errors. Determiner error has a frequency of 5 or 14.29% of the total syntactic errors. Counting and adjectival errors have a frequency of 2 or 0.571% the total syntactic errors. Subject + Verb Agreement and pronoun error have the lowest frequency with only 1 or 02.86% of the total syntactic errors. Therefore, there are a total of thirty-five (35) syntactic errors in the translation of the stories in this study.

Errors in Verb

Verb error refers to the incorrect use of verbs within the sentence. The verb tells when the action is taking place- in the past, present, future. This error was committed fifteen (15) times in all the six (6) short stories. This is the most common syntactic problem identified in this study.

In the story "Why Piña Has a Hundred Eyes", errors in this story were committed four (4) times, as in line number 8 of the text...

Original Text Cebuano Translation

"...her mother became very ill." "...nasakit pag-ayo ang iyang inahan."

Google incorrectly translated the "very ill" into Cebuano as "nasakit pag-ayo" instead of "nagsakit pag-ayo". In the original text, "became very ill" is in past tense. However, in the translated text it became erroneous, as in "nasakit pag-ayo", which should be, "nagsakit pag-ayo". "Nag" is a marker of past tense in the Cebuano language. The correct Cebuano translation for line number 8 is "nagsakit pag-ayo ang iyahang inahan."

Verb error is also committed in line number 24 of the same story.

Original Text

Stir it occasionally with a ladle.

Cebuano Translation

Sagola kini usahay gamit ang usa ka luwag.

It incorrectly translated the verb of the original text "stir" into Cebuano translation as "sagola". The word "stir" and "sagola" are both verbs, but the actions in executing them are different from each other. According to Binisaya.com (2017), the verb "sagola" means to put together something such as ingredients. "Sagola" is different from "stir" which is to mix.

Verb error is also committed in line number 36 of the same story.

Original Text

You probably did not even bother to look for it!

Cebuano Translation

Tingali wala ka maghago sa pagpangita niini!

Google incorrectly translated the "bother to look" into Cebuano as "maghago sa pagpangita". In Google translation, the Cebuano text became future tense as it was marked by the prefix "mag" which

became erroneous.

Similarly, in line number 40 there was also an error of verbs.

Original Text

you would grow a thousand eyes all over your head!

Cebuano translation, the combination of the root word and affix of “mutubo” which is “mo” + “tubo” became erroneous. The “would grow” is referred to the “thousand eyes” so it should be “matubuan” not “motubo”.

Cebuano Translation

...nga motubo ka ug usa ka libo ka mata sa tibuok mong ulo!

In the story “The Story of the Monkey and the Turtle”, an error in this story’s translation was committed once (1) in line number 45 in this story...

Original Text

So that finally the turtle yielded.

Google translation was incorrect on the verb of the original text “yielded” into Cebuano translation as “namunga”. In the story, the word yielded means to give way to arguments or demands, like the turtle does. However, in the Cebuano translation, it became “namunga” which means to produce or provide, which is erroneous.

In the story “The Old Woman of the Candles”, an error in the story translation was committed five (5) times as in line number 1 of the text...

Original Text

The house loomed over the street

Google incorrectly translated the verb of the original text “loomed” into Cebuano translation as “naglutaw”. The loomed in the text means that the house appears in a shadowy form. This is different from the Cebuano translation “lutaw” which means float, as the house doesn’t float in the story. In this line, the translation is erroneous.

In line number 112 of the same story, verb error is also committed.

Original Text

Let’s have breakfast

It incorrectly translated “let’s have breakfast” into Cebuano as “pamahaw ta”. In the original text, “let’s have breakfast” is a future tense. However, in the Cebuano translation, the combination of the root word and the affix of the “pamahaw” which is “pa” + “mahaw” became erroneous. The correct form should be “ma” + “mahaw” or “mamahaw” because it was an invitation to eat breakfast.

Similar to line number 113 of the same story, there was a verb error.

Original Text

Everybody has eaten.

Google incorrectly translated the “everybody has eaten” into Cebuano

Cebuano Translation

Nakaon na ang tanan.

as “nakaon na ang tanan”. In the original text, “everybody has eaten” is a past tense. However, in the Cebuano translation, the combination of the root word and suffix of the “nakaon” which is “na” + “kaon” became erroneous. The correct form should be “nakakaon or “naka” + “kaon”. The incorrect Cebuano translation is like everybody was already eaten by something.

Similarly, in line number 282 of the same story, there was a verb error.

Original Text

I snickered

Google incorrectly translated the verb of the original text “snickered” into Cebuano translation as “mikatawa”. The verb snickered doesn’t mean to laugh but to giggle similar to smile. However, it was translated as “mikatawa” in Cebuano which means to laugh. The actions it does are different from each other. In this way, it became erroneous.

Cebuano Translation

Mikatawa ko

Line number 313 of the same story, there was a verb error.

Original Text

We jumped off the carriage

It incorrectly translated the verb of the original text “jumped” into Cebuano translation as “nanganaog”. In executing the verb jumped, the subject moves quickly similar to leap. However, the original text is translated into Cebuano as “nanganaog” which in executing it, the subject moves slowly. Both verbs have different speed in executing it which is erroneous.

Cebuano Translation

Nanganaog mi sa karwahe

In the story “The Man and The Coconut”, errors were committed two (2) times, as in line number 12 of the text...

Original Text

Is the village near?

Google incorrectly translated the original text “Is the village near?” into Cebuano as “Hapit ba ang baryo?”. The Cebuano word “hapit” is incorrect and should be replaced by “dool” which was the correct and appropriate word for the translation. The incorrect word “hapit”, in Cebuano refers to the time spent on walking to the village or to reach the village, however “dool” in Cebuano refers to the location of the village if it is near.

Cebuano Translation

Hapit ba ang baryo?

According to Vocabulary.com (2022), “hapit” refers to a particular time, measurement, or number, but it’s not exact. While “dool” as stated in Educalingo (2022), refers to a boundary marker or the location. In the original text it was asked if the location of the village is near, while in the Cebuano translation, the used word “hapit” means how many days, hours, or seconds remained until he reached the village.

There is also an error of verb in line number 27 of the same story.

Original Text

...and soon he was home.

Cebuano Translation

...ug sa wala madugay mipauli na siya.

home” into Cebuano as “ug sa wala madugay mipauli na siya”. The original text “he was home” is a past tense so the correct Cebuano translation should be “nakauli na siya” as it is a past tense. The original text means he was already at home, so the Cebuano translation was incorrect because “mipauli na siya” means that he was still going and not at home.

In the story “The Tale of Tonyo the Brave”, errors were committed three (3) times, as in line number 26 of the text...

Original Text

*...I saw Fernando
hit a maya...*

Cebuano Translation

*...nakita nako nga naigo
si Fernando og maya...*

Google translated the original text “I saw Fernando hit a maya” into Cebuano as “nakita nako nga naigo si Fernando og maya”. In the original text, the receiver of the action is the maya, while in the Cebuano translation, Fernando became the receiver of the action as he was hit by a maya. The receiver of the action in the Cebuano translations changed from hit a maya to hit by a maya. The Google incorrectly translated the verb “hit” in Cebuano as “naigo” because the incorrect Cebuano translation means that Fernando was hit by a maya. However, the original text means that Fernando hit a maya so it should be “nakaigo” or “nakaigo si Fernando og maya”.

Verb error is also committed in line number 173 of the same story.

Original Text

*I turned my back
on Fernando...*

Cebuano Translation

*Gitalikod ko si
Fernando...*

Google incorrectly translated the original text “I turned my back on Fernando” into Cebuano as “Gitalikod ko si Fernando”. In the original text, “turned” is in past tense. However, in the translated text it became erroneous, as there is an incorrect combination of the root word and affix of the Cebuano word “turned” which is “gitalikod”. In the original text “I” is the one executing the action, however in the Cebuano translation, it became Fernando who executed the action because of the Cebuano word “gitalikod”. There is an incorrect form of verb because the “turned” is translated as “gitalikod” instead of “gitalikdan”.

Similarly, in line number 238 of the same story, there was also an error of verb.

Original Text

*...the manlalayug I had
been waiting for and
wanting to hunt.*

Cebuano Translation

*...ang manlalayug nga
akong gihulat ug
gustong mangayam.*

Google incorrectly translated the original text “the manlalayug I had been waiting for and wanting to hunt” into Cebuano as “ang manlalayug nga akong gihulat ug gustong mangayam”. The original text, “wanting to hunt” indicates a future action. However, in Google translation, the Cebuano text became present tense as it was marked by the prefix “ma”. This should have been “pagaayamon” as it is a future action. Also, in the original text “I” is the one who will execute

the action, which is to hunt, however in the Cebuano translation, the manlalayug became the one who will execute the action.

Therefore, the error verb was caused by the changes of tenses from original text to Cebuano translation. Google translation at the time the action took place on original text that’s why there was an incorrect tense. Also, there is an error on the combination of the root word and the affix of the Cebuano word as there was an incorrect affix attached to the root word. Although the original text and Cebuano translation have similar tenses, the word used was not appropriate for the sentence.

Errors in Word Order

Word order error refers to the mistake in the order of the syntactic constituents of the language or the interchange of the order of the word. This error was committed nine (9) times in all the six (6) short stories. This error is the second most common syntactic problem in translating the stories in this study.

In the story “Why Piña Has a Hundred Eyes”, errors were committed two (2) times, as in line number 25 of the text...

Original Text

*Everything you need should
be right there in the kitchen.*

Cebuano Translation

*Ang tanan nga imong kinahanglan
kinahanglan nga naa ra sa kusina.*

Google incorrectly translated the “everything you need should be right there in the kitchen” into Cebuano as “Ang tanan nga imong kinahanglan kinahanglan nga naa ra sa kusina”. The Cebuano word “kinahanglan” is redundant in the sentence as it affected the meaning for the story line. The Cebuano translation “kinahanglan nga” is unnecessary and should be erased as it will change the structure and concept of the sentence.

Word order error is also committed in line number 33 of the same story.

Original Text

*...was her mom’s
exasperated response.*

Cebuano Translation

*...mao ang naglagot nga
tubag sa iyang mama.*

The Google incorrectly translated the “was her mom’s exasperated response” into Cebuano as “mao ang naglagot nga tubag sa iyang mama”. In the Cebuano translation, there is an error in the noun + verb agreement, as it should be “naglagot niyang mama” or “naglagot” (verb) and “mama” (noun). The Cebuano translation did not follow the rules in a sentence as it was scrambled. The meaning of original and Cebuano translation is different from each other.

In the story “The Monkey and the Turtle”, errors were committed two (2) times, as in line number 19 of the text...

Original Text

*...who ran away as fast as
he could...*

Cebuano translation

*...kinsa midagan nga kusog
kutob sa iyang mahimo...*

The Google incorrectly translated the original text “who ran away as fast as he could” into Cebuano as “kinsa midagan nga kusog kutob sa

iyang mahimo". The Cebuano translation of the original text "who" which is "kinsa" is a mistake because it will change the concept of the sentence from statement to questions.

Word order error is also committed in line number 35 of the same story.

Original Text

I ate all there was...

Cebuano translation

Nakaon na ko sa tanan...

Google incorrectly translated the original text "I ate all there was" into Cebuano as "Nakaon na ko sa tanan". The word order of the sentence in the Cebuano translation is incorrect, which is not the same with the concept of original translation. The incorrect translation "na ko" and the correct translation "nako" both have different meanings, as caused by the spacing which changed the concept. The concept in the original translation is that "he eats all", while in Cebuano translation is "he was eat by all".

In the story "The Necklace and The Comb", error was only committed once (1), as in line number 21 of the text...

Original Text

*...by raising the mortar
really high.*

Cebuano Translation

*...pinaagi sa pagpataas
sa alho nga taas kaayo.*

It incorrectly translated the original text "by raising the mortar really high" into Cebuano as "pinaagi sa pagpataas sa alho nga taas kaayo". The word order of the text of the Cebuano translation is different from the original text. In the original text, the height where the mortar starts on pounding is raised high, however in Cebuano text, it is the mortar which is high. There is a change in the word order after it's translated to Cebuano.

In the story "The Old Woman of the Candles", errors were committed two (2) times, as in line number 18 of the text...

Original Text

*Doray and I usually spend
summer at beaches.*

Cebuano Translation

*Kanunay ming mag summer
sa mga beaches ni Doray.*

It incorrectly translated the original text "Doray and I usually spend summer at beaches" into Cebuano as "Kanunay ming mag summer sa mga beaches". There is an error in the noun + verb agreement such as the "spend summer" incorrectly translated in Cebuano as "mag summer" instead of "taga summer". The "summer" in the original text is a noun as it refers to a season, however in the Cebuano translation it became a verb which indicates action.

Word order error is also committed in line number 260 of the same story.

Original Text

*I was too tired to
do anything.*

Cebuano Translation

*Gikapoy na kaayo ko
nga wala koy mahimo.*

Google incorrectly translated the original text "I was too tired to do anything" into Cebuano as "Gikapoy na kaayo ko nga wala koy

mahimo". The meaning in the original text is not the same with the Cebuano translation. In the original translation it means that "he was tired to do anything" while in Cebuano translation it means that "he was tired not doing anything". The original text "to do anything" means that he does something, however in Cebuano translation "wala koy mahimo" means that he didn't do something.

In the story "The Man and The Coconut", error was only committed once (1), as in line number 16 of the text...

If you go slowly...

Hinay ka nga moadto...

It incorrectly translated the original text "If you go slowly" into Cebuano as "Hinay ka nga moadto". The meaning in the original translation is like "advising if he goes slowly", while the Cebuano translation is like "indicating that he is slow". The original and Cebuano translation have different meanings from each other because of a missing word in Cebuano such as "kung". Google translated the original text "if" to Cebuano as "kung".

In the story "The Tale of Tonyo the Brave", error was only committed once (1), as in line number 14 of the text...

Original Text

...we only had Apo...

Cebuano Translation

...naa ra namo si Apo...

Google incorrectly translated the original text "we only had Apo" into Cebuano as "naa ra namo si Apo". The word order in the Cebuano translation is scramble as it created another meaning different from the original text. The meaning in the original text is "they only had Apo" and nothing else because of the word "only", while the meaning in Cebuano translation is "they had Apo" and might possibly there is another one that is not mentioned.

Therefore, the error in word order is caused by the incorrect noun + verb agreement wherein after translating the original text to Cebuano translation, the position of noun and verb is interchanged such as the verb became noun while the noun became verb.

There is also a case where the redundancy changes the concept of the sentence. Also, the omission of some words and the scrambled words of the sentence changes the word order or the structure of the sentence as it leads to another concept which is different from the original text.

Errors in Determiners

Determiner error refers to the error on marking the noun or on determining the context. This error was committed four (4) times in all the six (6) short stories. This error is the third most common syntactic problem in the translation of the stories selected for this study.

In the story "Why Piña Has a Hundred Eyes", error was only committed once (1), as in line number 67 of the text...

Original Text

*...her daughter had been
turned into a plant.*

Cebuano Translation

*...iyang anak nga babaye
nahimo nga kini nga tanum.*

The Google incorrectly translated the original text “her daughter had been turned into a plant” into Cebuano as “iyang anak nga babaye nahimo nga kini nga tanum”. There is a demonstrative type of determiners error in the Cebuano translation. The Google translation incorrectly used the word “nga” in Cebuano language. The word “nga” is not required for a demonstrative noun as it became redundant in the Cebuano translation. The translation should be “nahimo kini nga tanum”.

According to Jimenez (2012), the demonstrative pronouns are used instead of repeating the substantives. It distinguishes between substantives expressed or understood; and substantives is used for pointing clearly at the distinction.

In the story “The Old Woman of the Candles”, errors were committed two times (2) as in line number 28 of the text...

Original Text

...I saw you lighting...

Cebuano Translation

...nakita ko nimo nga nagdagkot...

Google incorrectly translated the original text “I saw you lighting” into Cebuano as “nakita ko nimo nga nagdagkot”. There is a pronoun and possessive type of determiners error in the Cebuano translation. The original text “I saw you” is erroneous as it is translated to Cebuano as “nakita ko nimo”. Google Translation incorrectly determined the pronoun as it interchanged the “I” by “you” which translated in Cebuano as “ko” instead of “taka”.

Similarly, in line number 45, error on determiners is also committed in the following text...

Original Text

I don't have any answer

Cebuano Translation

Wa koy tubag

Google incorrectly translated the original text “I don't have any answer” into Cebuano translation as “wa koy tubag”. In the original text, the word “any” is c in which it is missing in the Cebuano translation. There is an error in referring to the indefinite noun in the Cebuano translation as the word “any” or “lain” in Cebuano text is missing.

In the story “The Tale of Tonyo the Brave”, errors were committed two (2) times, as in line number 61 of the text...

Original Text

We are not dealing with something...

Cebuano Translation

Dili kami nag-atubang sa usa ka butang...

Google incorrectly translated the original text “We are not dealing with something” into Cebuano as “Dili kami nag-atubang sa usa ka butang”. The Cebuano translation has pronoun and possessive type determiners error. The Google translation incorrectly determined the pronoun “we” to Cebuano as “kami”, instead of “kita” as the original

text referred to all of them not to other parties.

An error on determiners is also committed in line number 68 of the same story.

Original Text

It was done by the not-like-ours.

Cebuano Translation

Gibuhat kini sa dili sama kanamo.

Google incorrectly translated the original text “It was done by the not-like-ours” into Cebuano as “Gibuhat kini sa dili sama kanamo”. There is pronoun and possessive type determiner error in the Cebuano translation. The Cebuano translation “kanamo” is erroneous because the original text is not referring to another party or other group of people, but to themselves. The “kanamo” is an error in the translation as it should be “kanato”.

Therefore, the error on determiner is sometimes caused by the demonstrative type of determiner error as it became redundant in the Cebuano translation. There is also a pronoun and possessive type of determiner error as there is an interchange between the first- and third-person point of view.

Errors in Counting

Counting error refers to the mistake such as not putting an “-s” after countable plural nouns or using plural nouns. This error was committed two (2) times in all the six (6) short stories.

In the story “Why the Pina Has a Hundred Eyes”, error was only committed once (1), as in line number 63 of the text...

Original Text

...with a thousand eyes.

Cebuano Translation

...nga adunay usa ka libo ka mata.

Google incorrectly translated the original text “with a thousand eyes” into Cebuano as “nga adunay usa ka libo ka mata”. As there is no conjugation to the plural form of a counting numbers to Cebuano translation, but the assimilation of the words is incorrect. The assimilation of the Cebuano translation “libo ka mata” is erroneous as the “ka” is used to become more similar or identical with the sound /m/ of “mata”. The “ka” should be replaced by “nga” as it is the correct conjugation of the original text “a thousand eyes”.

In the story “The Necklace and the Comb”, error was only committed once (1), as in line number 24 of the text...

Original Text

...they became the moon and the stars...

Cebuano Translation

...nahimo silang bulan ug bituon...

Google incorrectly translated the original text, “they became the moon and the stars” into Cebuano as “nahimo silang bulan ug bituon”. In Google Translation, the “-s” in the original text “stars” was translated as “bituon” in Cebuano. The “bituon” is a counting error because it should be “mga bituon”.

According to Jimenez (2012), the plural is formed in Bisaya by placing “mga” after the article “ang” or “sa”. The determinate article is “ang” for singular, and “ang mga” or “sa mga” for plural.

Therefore, the counting error is caused by the omission on the “-s” of the original text as the counting is intended to the plural noun. The conjugation of the plural form of the Cebuano language is only for the plural noun and not for counting numbers.

Errors in Adjectives

Adjectival error refers to the mistakes in describing the qualities of the noun or noun phrase. This error was committed two (2) times in all the six (6) short stories.

In the story “The Old Woman in the Candle”, errors in these were committed in the title itself...

Original Text

The Old Woman of the Candle

Cebuano Translation

Ang Daan nga Babaye sa mga Kandila

The Google translation was incorrect in the adjective of the original text “old” into Cebuano translation as “daan”. The original text “old” describes the quality of the woman. However, in the Cebuano translation, the adjective “old” is translated as “daan” which became erroneous. The word “daan” is an inappropriate word to describe the quality of women.

Similarly, in the same story, adjectival error is in line number 170 of the text...

Original Text

Don't be so lazy

Cebuano Translation

Ayaw kaayo tapolan

Google incorrectly translated the adjective of the original text “don't be so lazy” into Cebuano translation as “ayaw kaayo tapolan”. The original text “lazy” is translated as “tapolan” in Cebuano which became erroneous as it only translated the root word. The affix is in the Cebuano translation.

Therefore, the adjectival error is sometimes caused by an incorrect combination of affixes and root words which change the word that describes the subject. Also, the inaccurate use of words to describe the subject is another reason why there is an omission on the adjectives.

Errors in the Subject + Verb agreement

Subject + verb agreement error refers to the error when the subject and verb of a sentence do not agree with each other. This error was committed only once (1) in all the six (6) short stories.

In the story “Why the Pina Has a Hundred Eyes”, error was only committed once (1), as in line number 11 of the text...

Original Text

I am very sick

Cebuano Translation

Sakit kaayo

Google incorrectly translated the original text “I am very sick” to Cebuano translation as “sakit kaayo”. In this translation, the subject “I” is missing in the Cebuano translation, and only the very “very sick” is remaining. The agreement of the subject and verb in the Cebuano

translation is done as if there is no subject in the translation.

Therefore, the errors in the subject + verb agreement are caused by omitting the subject, and only the verb is translated into Cebuano text. The subject is missing in the translation of the text.

Errors in Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

Pronoun- antecedent agreement error refers to when the pronoun used for a noun does not agree with that noun in number, place, or gender. This error was committed once (1) in all the translations of the six (6) short stories.

In the story “The Monkey and the Turtle”, error was only committed once (1), as in line number 23 of the text...

Original Text

He ate some of the food

Cebuano Translation

Mikaon siya sa pagkaon

The Google incorrectly translated the original text “he ate some of the food” into Cebuano translation as “mikaon siya sa pagkaon”. The translation of the pronoun “some” is missing in the Cebuano translation.

Therefore, the omission in the pronoun is due to missing pronouns in a translated text which created an incomplete sentence.

Semantic Translation Problem Present in the Google Translation of the Chosen Philippine Folktales

Table 3. Summary of Semantic Errors in the Translated Stories

	Translated Stories	Semantic Error
1)	“Why Piña has a Hundred Eyes” by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz	1
2)	“The Story of the Monkey and the Turtle” by Jose P. Rizal	1
3)	“The Necklace and the Comb” by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz	1
4)	“The Old Woman of the Candles” by Kevin Piamonte	2
5)	“The Man and the Coconut” by Basab Ghosh	1
6)	“The Tale of Tonyo the Brave” by Maria Aleah G. Taboclaon	2
Total		8

The table 3 is a frequency distribution table that shows the number of semantic errors present in the translated chosen stories. As shown, there are six (6) translated stories with corresponding numbers of semantic errors. The translated story “Why Piña has a Hundred Eyes” by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz has one (1) semantic error. “The Story of the Monkey and the Turtle” by Jose P. Rizal has one (1) semantic error. “The Necklace and the Comb” by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz has one (1) semantic error. “The Old Woman of the Candles” by Kevin Piamonte has two (2) semantic errors. “The Man and the Coconut” by Basab Ghosh has one (1) semantic error. “The Tale of Tonyo the Brave” by Maria Aleah G. Taboclaon has two (2) semantic errors. Therefore, the six (6) translated stories have a total of eight (8) semantic errors.

There are two (2) types of semantic errors committed in the translations. These errors are classified to be referential error and contextual error. However, in the translated texts, there is only one (1) type of semantic error identified committed in the translation of the six (6) stories. This type of error committed in the translated stories is referential error. Referential error has a frequency of 8 or 100% of the total semantic errors committed on the chosen texts.

Referential Error

Referential error refers to the incorrect translation of the literal meaning of the word of the original text. The translation machine chose the wrong word for the Cebuano translation. This error was committed eight (8) times in all the six (6) short stories.

In the story “Why Piña Has a Hundred Eyes”, referential error was committed two times (2), as in line number 17 of the text...

Original Text

*She poked her head inside
her Mother's room.*

Cebuano Translation

*Gidunggab niya ang iyang
ulo sulod sa lawak sa iyang
inahan.*

Google incorrectly translated the original text “poked” into Cebuano translation as “gidunggab”. The original text “poked” means to thrust something in a particular direction, which is in the line, it is the head which is poked inside the mother’s room. However, in the Cebuano translation, it became “gidunggab” which in English word “stab” which means to pierce a pointed thing in a certain direction. The Cebuano word “gidunggab” is an act using a certain pointed object to create a wound, but in the original text it is different. This became erroneous as both the original text and the Cebuano translation have different meanings from each other.

Similarly, in line number 20 there was also a referential error committed on the translation of the text...

Original Text

*...pouting and stomping her
feet.*

Cebuano Translation

*...nagduko ug nagyatak sa
iyang mga tiil.*

Google incorrectly translated the original text “pouting and stomping her feet” into Cebuano as “nagduko ug nagyatak sa iyang mga tiil”. The Google translation incorrectly translated the word “pouting” in Cebuano as “nagduko”. Pouting is an expression in the face, while “nagduko” in English language is “vow” which is to lower the head. The Cebuano word should be “nagyam-id” which means “pouting”. Google translate uses the wrong word for the translation of the original text.

In the story “The Story of the Monkey and the Turtle”, referential error was only committed once (1), as in line number 21 of the translated story...

Original Text

...much out of breath...

Cebuano Translation

...nabugtoan sa gininhawa...

Google incorrectly translated the original text “much out of breath” into Cebuano as “nabugtoan sa gininhawa”. The Cebuano translation “nabugtoan sa gininhawa” means that it is not breathing or dead, while the original translation means that it is still alive and breathing. It

should not be “nabugtoan” but “nakutasan” which means much out of breath.

In the story “The Necklace and the Comb”, referential error was only committed once (1), as in line number 12 of the text...

Original Text

*She fancied herself the
star of her village.*

Cebuano Translation

*Gihigugma niya ang iyang
kaugalingon nga bida sa iyang
baryo.*

The Google translation incorrectly translated the original text “She fancied herself the star of her village” into Cebuano as “Gihigugma niya ang iyang kaugalingon nga bida sa iyang baryo”. It incorrectly translated the word “fancied” to Cebuano as “gihigugma”. The original text “fancied” means a desire or liking, while “gihigugma” means love. It should be “gipangandoy” because it means desire or liking.

In the story “The Old Woman of the Candles”, referential error was committed two (2) times, as in line number 19 of the text...

Original Text

*...spend this particular one in her
Lola Conching's house.*

Cebuano Translation

*...igasto kining usa sa balay sa
iyang Lola Conching.*

Google incorrectly translated the original text “spend this particular one in her Lola Conching’s house” into Cebuano as “igasto kining usa sa balay sa iyang Lola Conching”. Google translate incorrectly translated the word “spend” to Cebuano as “igasto”. The “spend” in the original text refers to an event to be held, however, the “igasto” in the Cebuano translation refers to money to be used to pay. Google translation uses the wrong Cebuano word because it should be “igahin” which means to spend”.

Referential error is also committed in line number 259 of the same story.

Original Text

I heard Doray's voice...

Cebuano Translation

Nabati ko ang tingog ni Doray...

Google translate was incorrect when in the original text “I heard Doray’s voice” in changed into Cebuano as “Nabati ko ang tingog ni Doray”. It incorrectly translated the word “heard” to Cebuano as “nabati”. The word “nabati” in the Cebuano translation means it feels or a feeling which is different from the original text “heard” which means hear or listen to something. It should be “nadungog” which means “heard”.

In the story “The Man and the Coconut”, referential error was committed once (1), as in line number 1 of the text...

Original Text

*...he had almost run out of
food.*

Cebuano Translation

*...hagit na siya mahurot sa
pagkaon.*

The Google translation was incorrect when in the original text “he had almost run out of food” was translated into Cebuano as “hagit na siya mahurot sa pagkaon”. The Cebuano translation means that he was almost eaten by the food which is different from the original text

which means run out of food or not enough food. The correct phrase should be “Mahutdan sa pagkaon” as it has the same meaning as the original translation “run out of food”.

In the story “The Tale of Tonyo the Brave”, referential error was committed two (2) times, as in line number 20 of the text...

Original Text

...calling me a sissy.

It wrongly translated the original text “calling me a sissy” into Cebuano as “nagtawag kanako nga bastos”. The Google incorrectly translated the original text “sissy” to Cebuano as “bastos”. The Cebuano translation “bastos” means pervert which is different from the original text “sissy” which means gay. The Cebuano word should be “bayot” which means gay, not “bastos”.

Referential error is also committed in line number 182 of the same story.

Original Text

We were just teasing.

The Google translation was incorrect wherein in the original text, “We were just teasing” into Cebuano as “Nanguyab ra mi”. It wrongly translated the original text “teasing” to Cebuano as “nanguyab”. The Cebuano word “nanguyab” means to court which is different from the original text “teasing” which means to make fun or annoy. The Cebuano word should be “nanunlog” which means to tease or to make fun.

Therefore, the referential error is committed because of the incorrect translation of the word. There are errors in the words referring to action and emotion. There are also cases where Google translation used an incorrect Cebuano word which is not appropriate for the referral of words from original text to Cebuano language.

Implication of the Problems in the Future of Translation of Filipino Texts

The translation of the Philippines Folktales is crucial in the country’s literature. The translation of Filipino texts such as Folktales from various communities and ethnic groups are important because it is one way of spreading knowledge of the different cultures, traditions, norms, and other exclusive characteristics of Filipinos.

Incorrect translation may change the way of determining the character’s attitude portrayed in a story, such as in the referential error in the story “line number 20 of the story,

“I spent so much time with apo that my brothers picked on me constantly, calling me a sissy.”

In the story, a character is teased in the community and called as sissy if they are together with their apo or grandparents. With this, if Google translation is used to translate this quotation, a problem may occur because google translated the original text sissy into pervert or “bastos” instead of gay or in Cebuano word “bayot”, nstead of calling that person gay as it is in the original translation. Redears may perceive it as a pervert which may contribute to giving a negative

cultural impression or reputation because of the referential error or the incorrect word use. It may be perceived as the character, which embodies or characterizes Filipinos when together with their grandparents or Apo is a pervert which is not good.

Similarly, in the story of “The Monkey and the Turtle” line number 21, “much out of breath” is incorrectly translated into Cebuano as “Nabugtuan sa ginhawa” instead of “nakutasan sa ginhawa”. The word “nabugtuan sa ginhawa” means “not breathing or already dead. This phrase refers to the turtle which is tired from walking but it is still alive, it was just that the turtle is breathing heavy because of tiredness from walking.

In this error, if someone applied this error and talked to a person who is tired and breathing heavily like what happened to the turtle, it may be perceived as the person is cursed to death. It would be disadvantageous if one is purely relying on the Google translated text.

Filipinos are known to be expressive of their emotions through facial gestures and actions. The incorrect translation of the stories, readers may misunderstand the norms of Filipinos. It may cause misunderstanding and create a bad image of Filipino culture.

In line 20 of the story “Why Pina has a Hundred Eyes’ , the text “pouting and stomping her feet” is incorrectly translated as “nagdugo ug nagyatak sa iyang tiil”. The original text pouting and stomping her feet means that the person is against or angry with the other person. But the word “nagduko” in the Cebuano translation “nagduko ug nagyatak sa tiil” is a sign of a bow which is signified as Filipinos’ respect, or it means that the person is respecting or agreeing on the other person. There is a difference which may cause misunderstanding of the norms of the Filipinos. Just like if the person is angry, they pout to the person but if they agree or respect the person then they will bow. The readers may misunderstand that when a Filipino is against or angry with someone, they may think that the response should be a bow. The correct action for this case is pouring or “nag-yam-id” in Cebuano.

There are different translation tools available in translating Philippines Folktales to various languages of the country which made it easier to understand despite the language and communication barriers. Google Translation is one of these translation tools. But, based on the findings of the study, using Google Translation poses problems. There are various errors such as syntactic and semantic errors committed in the translation of the Philippine folktales. As in the study conducted, grammatical, conceptual, and referential errors are found in the translation. This may cause a problem with the readers’ understanding.

Although it is undeniable that Google translation is a good tool in understanding the materials and this gives the translation publishers a fast and easy tool for communication, this may cause a problem.

2. 4.CONCLUSION

There are two problems in the translation of the Philippine folktales using Google. First is the syntactic translation problem and the second is semantic translation problem. In translating the Philippine folktales, the most common problems committed in the translation is the syntactic translation problem.

The identified syntactic translation problems identified in the used

texts for the study are categorized into different types of syntactic errors such as verb error, word order error, determiners error, and counting error. The verb error is the most common syntactic error in the translation of the Philippine folktales to Cebuano language. It is followed by word order error and determiner error. The counting error is the least common error in the translations using Google translation.

Semantic translation problems are rarely committed. It is composed of only one semantic error which is the referential error. Referential error is committed because Google translation used inaccurate words for the Cebuano text.

This implies that much has to be done for google translation to come up with translation that is error free. Users of the platform must be aware of the errors and that validation must be done if ever there is a need to use the platform.

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