

Metonymic Shifts in Translation: Shinzo Abe's Japanese Speeches and Their Indonesian Counterparts

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the use of conceptual metonymy in the Japanese language and its corresponding translations into Indonesian, using as a case study the 2021 commencement speech delivered by former Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, at Kindai University. The speech, titled 「大切なことは失敗から立ち上がること」 (*Taisetsu na koto wa shippai kara tachiagaru koto*), “What matters most is to rise again after failure”, was published on YouTube as a motivational address to new graduates. The research focuses on how metonymic meaning is interpreted within the Japanese cultural context and investigates whether the Indonesian translations can also be classified as metonymy according to the linguistic and cultural conventions of the Indonesian language. The study employs a descriptive qualitative method by analyzing both the original Japanese text and its Indonesian translations. The analysis is grounded in the conceptual metonymy framework by Kövecses and Radden (1998), and is supported by cross-cultural perspectives from Evans (2006) and Lakoff & Johnson (1980). The findings indicate that Abe Shinzo's speech contains multiple metonymic expressions that are deeply rooted in Japanese culture and collective experience. However, in the translation process, several Japanese metonymic expressions are converted into literal meanings or localized idiomatic forms in Indonesian. This transformation results in the loss or modification of the original metonymic structure. The study highlights that the use and interpretation of metonymy are significantly influenced by cultural context. Cross-linguistic metonymy translation often requires adaptive strategies to convey the intended meaning without compromising the communicative purpose of the source text. Nevertheless, such adaptations may involve sacrificing the figurative nuance that characterizes the original Japanese expression. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of conceptual metonymy in intercultural discourse and the challenges of translating culture-bound figurative language.

Keywords: *Metonymy; Translation; Japanese Discourse; Cross-cultural Semantics; Shinzo Abe Speech*