

## **The Translation of English Modals in the Novel Entitled *Deck The Halls***

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**Abstracts** - This study analyzes the translation of English modals into Indonesian within the context of the novel "*Deck the Halls*" by Mary Higgins Clark and Carol Higgins Clark. Modals, such as "can," "could," "may," "might," "should," "would," and "must," are crucial in expressing nuances of possibility, necessity, permission, and ability. Their accurate translation is vital for preserving the narrative's tone, intent, and subtlety. This study examines how these English modals are rendered in Indonesian, highlighting translation strategies employed to convey the original meaning effectively. The analysis reveals that modals are often translated through literal and contextual approaches. For instance, "must" is translated as "harus" to convey strong necessity, while "might" is rendered as "mungkin" to express uncertainty. The study also explores challenges such as nuance loss and context sensitivity, which arise due to structural and cultural differences between English and Indonesian. The effectiveness of the translation is evaluated based on how well it retains the original modals' meanings and narrative functions. Overall, this analysis demonstrates that while translating English modals involves navigating complex linguistic and cultural factors, the strategies employed in "*Deck the Halls*" generally succeed in preserving the narrative's intended tone and meaning.

**Keywords** : novel, analysis, English modals.

**Abstrak** - Penelitian ini menganalisis terjemahan modals bahasa Inggris ke dalam bahasa Indonesia dalam konteks novel "*Deck the Halls*" karya Mary Higgins Clark dan Carol Higgins Clark. Modals, seperti "can," "could," "may," "might," "should," "would," dan "must," sangat penting dalam menyampaikan nuansa kemungkinan, kebutuhan, izin, dan kemampuan. Terjemahan yang akurat sangat penting untuk menjaga nada, maksud, dan subtitas narasi. Penelitian ini menganalisa bagaimana modals dalam bahasa Inggris diterjemahkan ke dalam bahasa Indonesia dengan cara menyoroti strategi terjemahan yang digunakan untuk menyampaikan makna asli secara efektif. Analisis menunjukkan bahwa modals sering diterjemahkan melalui pendekatan literal dan kontekstual. Misalnya, "must" diterjemahkan sebagai "harus" untuk menyampaikan kebutuhan yang kuat, sementara "might" diterjemahkan sebagai "mungkin" untuk menyatakan ketidakpastian. Studi ini juga mengeksplorasi tantangan seperti hilangnya nuansa dan sensitivitas konteks, yang muncul karena perbedaan struktur dan budaya antara bahasa Inggris dan bahasa Indonesia. Efektivitas terjemahan dievaluasi berdasarkan sejauh mana terjemahan tersebut mempertahankan makna dan fungsi modals di teks asli. Secara keseluruhan, analisis ini menunjukkan bahwa meskipun menerjemahkan modals bahasa Inggris melibatkan faktor linguistik dan budaya yang kompleks, strategi yang digunakan dalam "*Deck the Halls*" umumnya berhasil dalam mempertahankan nada dan makna yang dimaksudkan dalam narasi di teks asli.

**Kata Kunci** : novel, analysis, English modals.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Daily, we seek entertainment to fulfill our spare time or our interest in many different ways. Some people prefer to sit at home and watch television or scroll on their phones looking for interesting content; some people prefer reading such as magazines, newspapers, comics, novels, short stories, etc. The novel is one of literature that can be enjoyed by everyone and all ages. A novel is a narrative work of prose fiction that tells a story about specific human or character experiences over a considerable length. Novels are not only an entertaining tool but also a guide to our lives because many novels contain a lot of moral messages.

In this study, the writer tries to find out the translation of English modals from the novel entitled *Deck the Halls* by Mary Higgins Clark and Carol Higgins Clark because the writer wants to analyze the novel more deeply in the grammatical part. Modals are pivotal in language for expressing nuances of mood, necessity, possibility, and permission. Their usage in literary texts is essential for conveying the subtleties of character interactions, narrative progression, and thematic elements. Translating these modals effectively from one language to another is a significant challenge, particularly when translating between languages with different grammatical structures and cultural contexts.



"*Deck the Halls*" is a suspenseful novel involving intricate plots and emotional dialogues where English modals play a crucial role in building suspense and guiding reader expectations. The novel's use of modals contributes significantly to its tone and the development of its characters. Therefore, examining how these English modals are translated into Indonesian can offer insights into how well the translation retains the original text's emotional and narrative impact.

According to Pearsall in his book *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, literature in the broadest sense includes all written material into this general grouping fall history books, philosophical work novels, poems, plays, scientific articles, dictionaries, directories, instructional manuals, travel folder, magazines, and school books and so on. Literature can also mean the work of authors, including prose and verse and especially of lasting quality and artistic merit and writings of relative excellence in lasting or universal appeal; artistically worthy writing; letters or belles-letters; the body of writing in a particular field or on a particular subject; historical or available documents; printed matter (Literary comparison Dictionary, 1984: 215).

One of literary work is a novel. Novel is an extended work of prose fiction. A novel is considerably longer than a short story and even novelette- a middle length work. In comparison to these latter genres, its magnitude allows for a greater variety of characters, greater complication of plot or plots, a fuller development of setting(s) and deeper, more sustained exploration of character and motives (<http://felass.vaniercollege.qc.ca/~kingsmip/novel.htm>). According to Allen in his book *The New Penguin English Dictionary* (2000), novel is an invented narrative that is usually long and complex and deals, especially with human experience and social behavior.

### Definition of Translation

What is theory? An explanation is a theory. A theory may be defined as a statement of a general principle, based upon reasoned argument and supported by evidence, that is intended to explain particular fact, event, or phenomenon (Sofia rangkuti, 2006, p. 159)

According to Nida and Taber (1982, p. 12), translating consists in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. In addition, (Larson, 1984, p. 3), translation consists of studying lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of the source language text, analyzing it in order to determine its meaning, and then reconstructing this same meaning using the lexicon and grammatical structure which appropriate in the receptor language and its cultural context.

### Theoretical Approaches to Modals:

**Semantic Approach:** This approach focuses on the meanings of modals and how they relate to different degrees of certainty, necessity, and permission. Semantic theories often explore how modals are interpreted in various contexts.

**Source:** Kratzer, A. (1991). "Modality". In *Semantics: An International Handbook of Contemporary Research*. Mouton de Gruyter.

**Pragmatic Approach:** Pragmatic theories examine how modals function in communication, including their role in politeness, speaker intent, and context. This approach emphasizes how modals affect the interaction between speakers and listeners.

**Source:** Holmes, J. (1995). *Women, Men and Politeness*. Longman.

**Functional Approach:** This approach studies how modals are used to achieve specific communicative functions, such as requesting, advising, or indicating possibility. It considers the functional roles of modals in constructing meaning.

**Source:** Halliday, M. A. K. (1994). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. Edward Arnold.

### Modality in Translation:

Translating modals poses unique challenges due to differences in modal systems across languages. Theories of translation often address how modals are handled to preserve meaning, tone, and cultural nuances.

**Dynamic Equivalence:** This theory focuses on conveying the same meaning and effect in the target language as

in the source language, even if the exact words differ. It is particularly relevant in translating modals to ensure that their function and impact are preserved.

**Source:** Nida, E. A., & Taber, C. R. (1969). *The Theory and Practice of Translation*. Brill.

**Formal Equivalence:** This approach aims for a direct, word-for-word translation, maintaining the structure and form of the original language. It is useful for preserving the grammatical nuances of modals but may not always capture the full contextual meaning.

**Source:** Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. Prentice Hall.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method. It means that all the data in this research are in the form of sentences and words, not in the form of numbers. As Wilkinson (2000, p. 7) stated that the resulting data is presented in the form of descriptions. So, the data in this research is in the form of descriptions. According to Wilkinson (2000, p.79), qualitative data is usually analyzed by subjecting it to some form of coding process.

### Procedures of the Research

Below are the descriptions of outline form that the researcher plans to do to carry out this study:

- a. Firstly, the researcher reads the source text and its translation consecutively to identify the English modals.
- b. The identified 'modals' are the data that will be analyzed later on.
- c. By identifying the source data and its translation, the researcher then find out the relevant translation theory and strategies affect the overall meaning and tone of the translation
- d. After the researcher find the theory/s mentioned above, then the data will be analyzed based on the theories and the translation strategies.

The procedures of data collection were begun by identifying the needed data which consists of modals in the English and those in Indonesian. Observe how context influences the choice of modal in the target language. For instance, some languages might use different modals based on formality or politeness. The procedure of data collection begins by identifying the needed data which consists of the English modals compared to the Indonesian modals. The collected data is categorized into data containing modal can, could, may, might, must, ought to, shall, should, will, and would.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Data 1

Source Text	Target text
"You <b>may</b> not be gazing at the Pacific Ocean, ... " (P. 15)	walaupun kau tak <b>bisa</b> memandang Samudra Pasifik,... (P.12)

The Indonesian translation "tak bisa" (which translates to "cannot" or "unable to") does not directly translate the modal "may." Instead, it conveys the idea of inability or impossibility. The translation uses dynamic Equivalence theory

### Data 2

Source Text	Target text
" <b>Can't</b> you skip Goodloe's funeral? " (P. 16)	<b>Tidak bisakah</b> kau melewatkan pemakaman Goodloe? (P.12)

The translation "Tidak bisakah kau melewati pemakaman Goodloe?" uses "tidak bisakah" which translates to "can't you" or "isn't it possible for you to." This choice maintains the modal function of expressing a question about the possibility or ability to skip the funeral, aligning with the intent of the original English sentence. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 3

Source Text	Target text
"I suppose you <b>should</b> go." (P. 17)	"Kurasa kau <b>memang mesti</b> pergi." (P.13)

By using "mesti" instead of a direct equivalent of "should," the translation provides a slightly stronger sense of obligation or necessity. This choice aligns with the intent of the original English sentence while adapting to the norms of Indonesian. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 4

Source Text	Target text
"It was a commitment Luke <b>would not</b> be able to keep". (P.18)	"Ternyata, Luke <b>tak bisa</b> memenuhi janji itu." (P.15)

The original English phrase indicates a future difficulty or impossibility regarding keeping a commitment. The Indonesian phrase simplifies this to "tak bisa," which means Luke is not able to keep the promise. While "tak bisa" is less nuanced than "would not be able to," it effectively communicates the essential meaning in Indonesian. The use of "ternyata" adds context to show that this realization is coming to light. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 5

Source Text	Target text
"Nobody <b>should be</b> stuck with a toothache during the Christmas season." (P.20)	"Tak pantas kalau orang <b>harus</b> sakit gigi di saat Natal." (P.17)

The original English sentence expresses a moral or emotional stance about the undesirability of having a toothache during Christmas. The Indonesian translation "Tak pantas kalau orang harus sakit gigi" similarly conveys that it is inappropriate or unfair for someone to endure such discomfort during the holiday season. The use of "kalau" (if) adds a conditional nuance, indicating that it's considered unreasonable for this to happen. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 6

Source Text	Target text
"Oh, well, it <b>could be</b> worse, ..." (P.20)	"Yah, sudahlah, keadaan <b>bisa</b> lebih buruk dari itu." (P.17)

The Indonesian translation "keadaan bisa lebih buruk dari itu" uses "bisa" to translate the modal "could," meaning "can" or "could" in this context. This phrase translates to "the situation could be worse than that," which captures the essence of the original English sentence. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 7

Source Text	Target text
" <b>can</b> I never have an ache or a pain without you telling me how lucky I ..." (P.20)	"tidak <b>bisakah</b> aku menderita sakit atau ketidaknyamanan tanpa kauberitahu betapa beruntungnya aku?" (P.18)

The Indonesian translation captures this frustration effectively, using "tidak bisakah" to maintain the rhetorical and somewhat exasperated tone of the original English question. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 8

Source Text	Target text
"You never <b>can</b> have too much tinsel on the tree," she said aloud. "(P.22)	"Lebih banyak perada kertas perak di pohon, lebih baik," ujarnya keras-keras." (P.19)

The Indonesian translation "Lebih banyak perada kertas perak di pohon, lebih baik," omits the modal verb and translates the idea more directly. "Lebih banyak" means "more," "perada kertas perak" means "tinsel," and "lebih baik" means "better." This conveys the same idea that more tinsel is preferable, though the exact phrasing differs. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 9

Source Text	Target text
"Now both boys clung to Rosita as if they were afraid she <b>would</b> somehow disappear too. "(P.22)	"sekarang kedua putranya menempel terus pada Rosita, seolah khawatir ia juga <b>bakal</b> menghilang." (P.20)

The English modal "would" implies a fear or hypothetical situation regarding the disappearance of Rosita. The Indonesian translation uses "bakal" to reflect this future possibility, thus preserving the sense of worry and uncertainty that the original modal conveys. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 10

Source Text	Target text
"You <b>can</b> have all the extra work you want here, Rosita." (P.22)	"Kau <b>boleh</b> mengambil kerja tambahan sebanyak yang kau mau di sini, Rosita." (P.20)

The Indonesian translation uses "boleh," which means "may" or "is allowed to," to convey permission. This is a direct and appropriate equivalent for the English "can" in this context. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 11

Source Text	Target text
"For a moment she thought it was a joke. Surely that <b>couldn't be</b> a gun Petey was holding?." (P.24)	"Sejenak ia mengira pria itu bercanda. <b>Betulkah</b> Petey sedang mengacungkan pistol padanya?." (P.22)

The English modal "couldn't" implies a strong sense of disbelief or improbability. The Indonesian translation conveys this disbelief effectively through "Betulkah," which indicates questioning the truth or reality of the situation. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 12

Source Text	Target text
"Mr. Dingle, you <b>may</b> know I have two little boys who need me," she said softly. (P.27)	"Mr. Dingle, <b>harap</b> anda tahu bahwa saya punya dua putra kecil yang membutuhkan saya," ujarnya lembut". (P.26)

The Indonesian translation uses "harap anda tahu" which translates to "hope you know." While "harap" (hope) is not a direct equivalent of "may," it serves a similar function in conveying a polite or indirect way of stating the information. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 14

Source Text	Target text
"You <b>can't</b> be planning to put us on that thing in this weather," Luke protested. (P.29)	" <b>Tak mungkin</b> kau bermaksud meninggalkan kami di situ dalam cuaca seperti ini," protes Luke.(P.28)

The Indonesian translation uses “Tak mungkin” which translates to “It’s impossible” or “It can’t be.” This choice effectively conveys the same sense of disbelief or impossibility as the English “can’t.” The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 15

Source Text	Target text
“You <b>would</b> too if you painted rooms all by yourself twelve hours a day. When I’m with people, I like to talk.” (P.29)	“Kau <b>juga akan</b> begitu, kalau setiap hari harus mengecat ruangan seorang diri selama dua belas jam. Kalau ada orang bersamaku, aku suka bicara.”.(P.29)

The Indonesian translation captures this by using “Kau juga akan begitu,” preserving the conditional nature of the statement. It indicates that the speaker’s behavior (liking to talk when around people) is a response to the specific conditions described. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 16

Source Text	Target text
“I <b>should</b> have asked if either one of you cares to use the facilities, but now you’ll just have to wait,” C.B. said cheerfully.” (P.31)	“ <b>Mestinya</b> aku menawari kalian untuk menggunakan toilet, tapi sekarang kalian terpaksa menunggu dulu,” ujar C.B. riang.”.(P.31)

The Indonesian translation uses “Mestinya” which translates to “should have” or “ought to have.” This effectively conveys the same sense of regret or realization that the speaker should have offered the facilities earlier. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 17

Source Text	Target text
“I’m leaving the city in a few minutes, and it <b>shouldn’t</b> take me more than an hour to get there.” (P.35)	“beberapa menit lagi saya akan meninggalkan kota, dan akan tiba di sana tak lebih dari satu jam lagi.”(P.36)

The use of “shouldn’t” in the English sentence implies that the speaker is reasonably confident about the time required, though it’s not an absolute guarantee. The Indonesian translation captures this nuance by stating that it will not take more than an hour, which reflects a similar expectation. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 18

Source Text	Target text
“He looked over at Alvirah. “Willy <b>should be</b> ready to go in about fifteen minutes.” (P.43)	“Dr. Jay mengalihkan pandangannya pada Alvirah. “ <b>Mestinya</b> lima belas menit lagi Willy sudah bisa kesini.”(P.45)

The Indonesian translation uses “Mestinya” which translates to “should” or “ought to” in this context. It effectively conveys the same expectation or likelihood that Willy will be ready in the given timeframe. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

Data 19

Source Text	Target text
“If there had been an accident, there <b>might</b> be a call on the machine. I’ll be fine, Alvirah.” (P.46)	“Kalau misalnya terjadi kecelakaan , <b>mungkin ada</b> yang meninggalkan pesan di telepon. “Aku baik-baik saja, Alvirah.” (P.48)

The Indonesian translation uses “mungkin,” which translates directly to “might” or “possibly.” This effectively conveys the same sense of possibility. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.



Data 20

Source Text	Target text
“Before Regan <b>could</b> answer, C.B. pulled the phone away. “That’s enough from you.” (P.53)	“Sebelum Regan <b>sempat</b> menjawab, C.B. sudah menarik telepon itu. “Sudah cukup buatmu.” (P.57)

The Indonesian translation uses “sempat” which translates to “had the chance” or “had time.” The phrase “Sebelum Regan sempat menjawab” effectively conveys the same meaning of Regan not having had the opportunity to answer due to the action of pulling the phone away. The translation uses dynamic equivalence.

From this research and based on result of the study, the writer concludes that dynamic equivalence is commonly used in translating English modals because it emphasizes conveying the intended meaning, nuance, and functional impact of the original text in a way that is natural and idiomatic for the target audience. This strategy accommodates the complexities of modals and ensures that the translation maintains the original’s effectiveness, readability, and cultural relevance.

## CONCLUSION

Modal Verbs in English like "can," "could," "will," "would," "should," and "might" convey nuances of possibility, probability, necessity, or ability. Their meanings can vary based on context, tone, and speaker intent. Analyzing the translation of modals in *Deck the Halls* sheds light on the complexities of translating nuanced linguistic elements and highlights the effectiveness of dynamic and functional equivalence strategies. It underscores the importance of adapting translations to preserve the original text’s meaning, tone, and cultural context while ensuring that the translation is natural and engaging for the target audience. This analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of translation theory and practice, demonstrating how careful consideration of modals can enhance the quality and fidelity of literary translations. The way English modals are translated affects how readers experience the novel. Effective translation ensures that readers in the target language perceive the same level of urgency, politeness, or uncertainty intended by the original author.

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