

Article

## A Comparative Study of Gerund Translation from English into Spanish, French and Malay

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**Abstract:** This research is descriptive in nature and focuses on translating gerunds, which are grammatical elements that function as nouns and can serve as subjects, objects, or objects of prepositions. This paper is a multilingual comparative study on gerund translation from English into Spanish, French, and Malay. The study aims to describe gerund function, compare translation procedures, and establish translation modelling on gerund. The method used in this research is the qualitative method, describing translation phenomena. In doing so, Vinay and Darbelnet's (1995) translation model is used to support the research. The corpora used to carry out the research are existing translations of the novels *I Am Malala* and *Things Fall Apart*. All the source texts and target texts are wholly read, and 251 occurrences of gerunds in the source texts are identified, categorised, collected and analysed manually; Then, the translation procedures are analysed and compared. The research reveals that Malay lacks gerund structures, leading to unique transpositional strategies. English is found to use more gerund occurrences than Spanish and French due to preference. Few cases of literal translation procedure are used in Spanish and French when the gerund functions as the object of the preposition, 'by'. Most of the English gerund occurrences are transposed into non-finite infinitive verbs or finite verbs, which indicates that the oblique translation procedure prevails over direct translation as far as gerund is concerned. The findings are applicable to both human translation and machine translation.

**Keywords:** Gerund; language preference; multilingual comparativeness; translation procedures; translation modelling

### Introduction

Translation can be intralingual, interlingual, or intersemiotic. Translation intricacies and difficulties may occur in dealing with different grammatical categories from the source language to the target language. This can happen with certain grammatical categories like number (singular and plural), tenses, and gender, which make the translator unable to remain faithful to original texts (Jakobson, 2021). Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) point out that "a theory of translation can be developed" by examining the function of the constituent parts of a system in rendering ideas from one language to another (p. 10).

Descriptive translation studies deal with three aspects: product, process, and function. Their description can be done at three phases: target culture system, textual analysis, and generalizations (Toury, 2012). Among these three phases, textual analysis of the source text and the target text is used in descriptive studies to "identify relationships between corresponding segments in the two texts. Toury called these segments 'coupled pairs'. This leads to the identification of translation shifts, both 'obligatory' and 'non-obligatory'" (Munday, Pinto & Blakesley, 2022, p. 150). Moreover, translation shifts can be described by

carrying out comparative studies. Toury (2014) points out that several translations of different languages can be compared “as an initial means of establishing the effects of different cultural, literary and linguistic factors on the modelling of a translation” (p. 24). Therefore, this study limits itself to the linguistic factor of gerund; its objectives are to:

- i. Describe the function of gerund in translation.
- ii. Compare translation procedures used in translating gerund into the target languages.
- iii. Establish a translation modelling for gerund translation.

This study is justified because there is a gap of knowledge in the literature review about gerund translation from English into Spanish, French and Malay. Unlike other studies like Duffley & Fisher (2021), Alsuhaibani (2022), Karimah (2020), Chierchia (1984), and Moindjie (2016), which examine and explore gerund in terms of grammatical structures, teaching and learning EFL, writing errors, syntax-semantics, and translation methods. The gap of this research is that no study has been done on the occurrence of gerund as a structural semantic translation aspect for a multilingual translation modelling of the languages under study.

Research can be significant if it frames and combines some of these approaches: (a) empirical, (b) methodological, (c) theoretical, and (d) practical for generating new knowledge, new methods, new theory, or new applications (Drotar, 2008; McGregor, 2018). This research is, therefore, empirical research supported by Vinay and Darbelnet's (1995) model to describe phenomena related to gerund translation from English into Spanish, French and Malay. The study is also significant in that it is expected to establish a new model of gerund translation, which will be a contribution to translation studies. Translators, language learners, translation students and practitioners, and linguists are expected to benefit from this research.

## Literature Review

### 1. Linguistic Definitions and Concepts

A gerund in English is a noun formed by a verb stem + ing. That is, it is a kind of the-ing forms. It is different from the types of ing- forms, which can be a present participle in finite clauses, and non-finite clauses because it is “a noun-like (nominal) form which can occur as the head of a noun phrase or as the complement of a preposition” (Carter & McCarthy, 2006, p. 231). It functions grammatically as a noun in a sentence, which can be subject, object of a verb, or object of a preposition (Herring, 2016). Semantic difference between a non-finite and a gerund is due to their grammatical difference. Czeglédi (2007) points out that “some ostensibly unrelated but apparently regular similarities in the semantics of focus phenomena” show that the contribution of the syntactic constituents to the semantic of sentences can be explained through differences of those constituents (P. 174).

In English, there is a difference between a present participle and a gerund. The former is a verbal adjective, whereas the latter is a verbal noun, which has “most of the characteristics of a noun”, “some characteristics of a verb”, and a noun modifier (Eckersley & Eckersley, 1960. pp. 243-234). As a noun, it can be: (1) the subject of a sentence, for example, ‘reading is good’; (2) the object of a sentence, for example, ‘I like reading’; (3) the complement of a sentence, for example, ‘what pleases children is playing’; and (4) the object of a preposition, for example, ‘he is fond of reading’. As a verb, it can: (1) take a direct object, for example, ‘my hobby is reading newspapers’; and (2) be modified by an adverb, for example, ‘she likes eating slowly’. It can also be a noun modifier, for example, ‘a dining room’.

Gerund, in Spanish, is formed by a verb + *ando* for first group verbs and + *iendo* for second and third groups verbs. However, there is a difference between Spanish gerund and English gerund in terms of form and function (Butt, Benjamin & Rodríguez, 2019, p.308). There are six (6) ways of using the gerund in Spanish. It is used to indicate: (1) simultaneous actions of the main clause and subordinate clause, for example. “*Se fue gritando*” (Butt & Benjamin, 2019, p. 311); (2) method, for example. “*Hicieron su fortuna comprando acciones a tiempo*” (Butt & Benjamin, 2019, p. 311); (3) purpose, for example. “*Me escribió diciéndome que fuera a verle*” (Butt & Benjamin, 2019, p. 312); (4) cause, for example. “*Trantándose de usted, no faltaba más*” (Butt & Benjamin, 2019, p. 312); (5) concession, for example. “*Siendo inteligente como es, parece*

tonto” (Butt & Benjamin, 2019, p. 312); (6) *como* + gerund, equivalent to *como si*, for example. “*Me miró como calculando mi edad*” (Butt & Benjamin, 2019, p. 312).

In French, there is a functional difference between present participle and gerund in French even though they both end in *-ant*. The present participle functions as a verb, whereas the gerund must be preceded by the preposition, ‘*en*’, to refer semantically to the subject of the sentence, to indicate manner, and simultaneous occurrence of two actions (Jubb and Rouxville, 2014). Mazet (2017) states that there is no systematic equivalence of the English gerund to French as “several different French verbs forms are used to translate the English *-ing*” (P. 48). In French, the gerund is formed by *en* + verb + *ant*. By using *en* + verb + *ant*, “a speaker or a writer may be emphasizing the fact that the event described in the main clause and the event described in the gerundive clause take place simultaneously” (Hawkins and Towell, 2001, p. 400). In English the gerund can play many roles as a noun, whereas in French it plays an adverbial role (Price, 2008).

Unlike English, Spanish, and French, Malay does not have a grammar aspect called gerund, which can cause problem in translation. Comparatively, English, Spanish, and French are Endo-European languages, whereas Malay is Austronesian (Pulleyn, 2018), which can cause structural perceptions and difficulties. But for the case of French and Malay, translation from French into English can make French possible and easier to learn and understand for Malaysians due to their familiarity with English language (Saad & Rahim, 2022), which can be explored in terms of gerund translation from English into Malay and French.

## 2. Theoretical Model

The theoretical model that supports this study is Vinay & Darbelnet’s (1995) Translation Model. This model consists of two methods: (a) direct translation and (b) oblique translation. The former consists of 3 translation procedures: borrowing, calque, and literal translation, whereas the latter consists of 4 translation procedures: transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation. Alharahsheh, Moindjie & Debbita (2023) point out that Vinay and Darbelnet’s model has been widely used in translation studies since its publication in 1958/1995. It has been used by other researchers like Al-hubaishi (2023) and Safi & Nasser (2022) to investigate its usage in translation. In this regard, Jones (2014, p. 44) advises translators to be “as literal as possible and as idiomatic as necessary” in order to produce a faithful translation. Although Vinay and Darbelnet’s translation model focuses only on the sentence level without considering the text type and the text as a whole, it “has made a considerable contribution to the development of language-pair-oriented descriptive and applied science of translation” (Saridaki, 2021, p. 137).

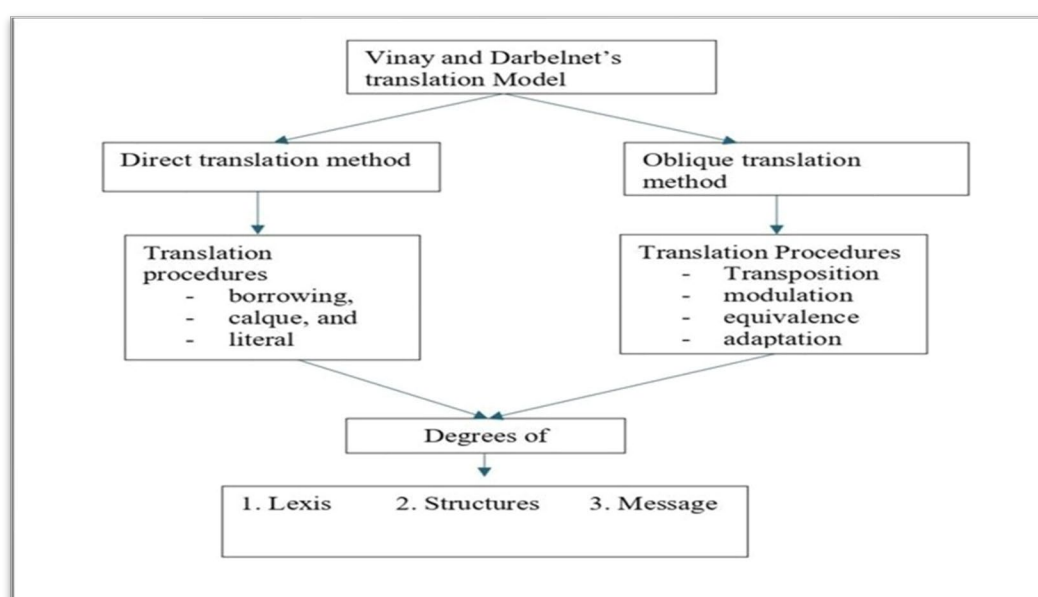


Figure 1. Vinay and Darbelnet’s Theoretical Translation Model  
Source: Adapted from Vinay and Darbelnet (1995)

### 3. Previous Related Studies

This study is a multilingual study on gerund translation. Multilingualism and translation have become important in enhancing world communication, relations, diplomacy, economics, sociability, and employment sustainability (Moindjie, Rahmatullah & Gan, 2025). As a translation problem, Duffley & Fisher (2021) investigate the variation between to-infinitive and gerund-participle complements with the verbs 'dread' and 'fear' about the meaning and function of the gerund-participle, and the to-infinitive. The research reveals that 'dread' and 'fear' are characterized by malleability which can be considered "as a negative predisposition towards the actualization of an event or as an emotional state whose object is the potential (or concurrent) realization of an event." (p. 94).

Alsuhaibani (2022) investigates the impact of using corpora in teaching gerunds and infinitives to EFL students; the study reveals that there are positive perceptions concerning the use of corpora in teaching and learning gerund and infinitive. Jama (2022) studies common errors of using gerund and infinitive in writing by EFL learners; the results indicate that learners have a preference of using infinitives more than gerunds in their writing. Karimah (2020) studies the translation methods of gerund in the translation of *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone* from English into Indonesian; the study reveals that indirect translation methods are more used than direct translation methods in translating gerund. Unlike Karimah (2021), Moindjie (2016) points out that Malay and French share many common characteristics compared to Malay and English as far as non-finite verb translation is concerned. Based on the above related studies found on the internet, no multilingual comparative study done on gerund as a translation structural- semantic translation aspect.

### Methodology

Research can be done by using qualitative method, quantitative method, or mixed methods (Bordens and Abbott, 2011). The main types of qualitative research are interpretive, investigative, participatory, illuminative, instrumentation, sensitization, and conceptualization (see Knafl & Howard, 1984; Shank & Brown, 2007; McGregor, 2018). This research is qualitative research, which is empirical in that it describes and compares translation phenomena of gerund from English into Spanish, French and Malay. The research utilizes purposive sampling because the participants or variables "can best provide information required to answer the research questions" (McGregor, 2018, p. 378). Researchers have the option of identifying, collecting and analysing data manually or by computer (Kumar, 2011).

This study is done manually since it is a qualitative descriptive study. Saldanha & O'Brien (2014) point out that "the use of semantic and discourse tagging is also becoming more common, but it is still done mainly manually" (p. 78). As data are considered "the foundation of scholarly inquiry" (Mellinger & Hanson, 2022, p. 307), the whole texts, the source texts and the target texts are wholly read and linguistic features of gerund and its translation counterparts are identified, selected and analysed. Some examples which reflect gerund occurrence and translation will be provided in the discussion and the unit of analysis in the examples will be put in bold for clarity. Page numbers of similar occurrences in the source texts and target texts will be provided in the discussion.

Reliability and validity are used in participants-oriented translation studies, using questionnaires and interviews. Reliability and validity are downplayed in qualitative research because they "have been criticised as not being applicable to qualitative research and interpretivist stance" (Saldanha & O'Brien, 2014, p. 27). Other criteria called credibility and warrantability criteria are suggested by Lather (1985), Silverman (2006) and Wood & Kroger (2000) like triangulation, comparative case, fruitfulness, etc. for qualitative research. Therefore, this study depends on comparative triangulation as a credible criterion; the triangulation used is comparative triangulation of data sources (Thurmond, 2001), which consist of two published different texts, *I Am Malala*, and *Things Fall apart* in one source language (English), and their existing translations in three target languages (Spanish, French, and Malay) to study a single aspect (gerund) and its translation phenomena. The abbreviations which are used are: EST, which stands for English source text; STs, which stand for source texts; STT, which stands for Spanish target text; FTT, which stands for French target text; MTT, which stands for Malay target text; and TTs, which stands for target texts.

The corpora used in this research are two novels as source texts and 6 translations as target texts. The gerund occurrences which are identified, collected, and analysed from the ESTs are 251 gerund occurrences. That is, 25 gerund occurrences as subject, 43 gerund occurrences as object, and 183 gerund occurrences as object of prepositions in *I Am Malala*; there are 4 gerund occurrences as subject, 4 gerund occurrences as object, and 85 gerund occurrences as object of prepositions in *Things Fall Apart*. The corpora are chosen not only for convenience but also for their literary and linguistic qualities, universality, and representativeness. The samples are representative in that the samples are related to specific types of cases which can reflect broader possible documents (Rapley & Rees, 2018) of literary texts and non-literary texts. Moreover, the data are extracted from existing translations.

The source texts are: (a) *I Am Malala* (Yousafzai & Lamb, 2013) and (b) *Things Fall Apart* (Chinua Achebe, 1958/ 2001). The translations of *I Am Malala* are *Yo soy Malala* translated by Julia Fernández, *Moi, Malala* translated by Pascal Loubet, and *Saya Malala* translated by Zaleha Abidin. The translations of *Things Fall Apart* are *Todo se desmorona* translated by José Manuel Alvarez. Flórez, *Tout s'effondre* translated by Pierre Girard, and *Terlerai Dan Berkecai* translated by Nazel Hashim Mohamad.

## The Findings

All the tables bellow shows the occurrences of gerund in the STs and their counterparts in the TTs. The tables show also that there is no systematic correspondence of gerund from the STs to the TTs in most of the occurrences. Few cases relating to gerund as object of the preposition, 'by', have been translated literally in Spanish and French, whereas they are mostly transposed in Malay translation.

### 1. Gerund in *I Am Malala*

Table 1 contains 16 occurrences of gerund as subject of a sentence in the source text. All of them are translated into the target texts by using transposition procedure.

Table 1. Gerund as subject of a sentence				
Occurrences	Function	Total Number of occurrences	Translation procedure	
Gerund EST	subject	16	Number of literal occurrences	Number of transposition occurrences
Counterparts in STT	16		0	16
counterparts in FTT	16		0	16
counterparts in MTT	16		0	16

Source: Yousafzai & Lamb (2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2016)

The gerund functions as the subject and it is transposed from a noun into non-finite and finite verbs in the TTs, for example (1):

*Taking a rifle away from a Pashtun is like taking away his life...* (Malala & Lamb, 2013<sup>a</sup>, p. 25).

*Quitar su rifle a un pashtún es como quitarle su vida* (Malala & Lamb, 2013c, p. 33).

*Prendre son arme à un Pashtoune, c'est comme lui prendre sa vie* (Malala & Lamb, 2013b, p.48).

*Oleh sebab mengambil senapang daripada orang Pashtun ibarat mengambil nyawanya, ...* (Malala & Lamb, 2016, p. 36)

In the above sentences, the gerund is the subject of the sentence in the EST, whereas non-finite verbs, 'quitar' and 'prendre' are used in the in the Spanish and French sentences, and a finite verb. 'mengambil' is used in the Malay sentence. The translation procedure used is a transposition. However, a noun is found to occur instead of gerund in few cases on pages 33, 96, 120, 149, 180 of STT; 49, 150, 179, 182, 217 of FTT;

and 36, 46, 163, 201, 246 of MTT, which correspond to pages 25, 83, 107, 146, and 161 of the EST. Table 2 contains 39 occurrences of gerund as object of a sentence in the source text. All of them are translated into the target texts by using transposition procedure.

Table 2. Gerund as object of a sentence

Occurrences	Function	Number of occurrences	Translation procedure	
Gerund EST	Object	39	Number of literal occurrences	Number of transposition occurrences
Counterparts in STT	39		0	39
Counterparts in FTT	39		0	39
Counterparts in MTT	39		0	39

Source: Yousafzai & Lamb (2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2016)

The gerund can occur as object of the sentence in English language, but in the TTs, non-finite verbs are used and function as object of the sentence, for example (2):

*I loved **hearing** the story and the songs my father sang to me... (Malala & Lamb, 2013a, p. 15).*

*A mí me encantaba **escucharla**, lo mismo que las canciones que me cantaba mi padre, ... (Malala & Lamb, 2013c, p. 23).*

*J'adorais l'**entendre**, tout comme les chansons qu'il me chantait... (Malala & Lamb, 2013b, p. 36).*

*Saya gemar **mendengar** kisah itu dan lagu yang didendangkan oleh ayah untuk saya... (Malala & Lamb, 2016, p. 21).*

The gerund in the English sentence is the object of the sentence, and in the Spanish sentence, '*escucharla*' and in the French sentence, '*entendre*', and in the Malay sentence, '*mendengar*' are non-finite verbs that function as object of the sentences. The translation procedure used is transposition in that the gerund is transposed to infinitive verbs in the TTs. However, a noun is found to occur instead of gerund or non-finite verbs in few cases on pages 105, 126, 187, 193, 219, 289 of STT; 131, 162, 186, 231, 232, 345 of FTT; and 140, 178, 399 of MTT, which correspond to pages 92, 118, 136, 172 and 265 of the EST.

Table 3 contains 98 occurrences of gerund as object of a preposition in a sentence in the source text. All of them are transposed into the MTT. However, 12 occurrences are translated literally into the STT, and 7 occurrences are translated literally into the FTT by using transposition procedure.

Table 3. Gerund as object of a preposition in a sentence

Occurrences	Function	Number of occurrences	Translation procedure	
Gerund EST	Object of a preposition	98	Number of literal occurrences	Number of transposition occurrences
Counterparts in STT	98		12	86
Counterparts in FTT	98		7	91
Counterparts in MTT	98		0	98

Source: Yousafzai & Lamb (2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2016)

The gerund can also function as an object of a preposition in English but in Spanish, French and Malay languages, they are rendered differently, for example (3):

*I dreamed **of going** to the top of Mount Elum... (Malala & Lamb, 2013a, p. 26).*

*Yo soñaba con **subir** a la cima del monte Elum, ... (Malala & Lamb, 2013c, p. 35).*

*Je rêvais de **grimper** au sommet du mont Ilam... (Malala & Lamb, 2013b, p. 50).*

*Saya berangan-angan **untuk mendaki** puncak Gunung Elum... (Malala & Lamb, 2016, p. 38)*

In the above sentences, the English gerund is the object of a preposition. It is transposed into non-finite infinitive verbs in Spanish, French, and Malay. Even though, ‘*subir*’, ‘*grimper*’ and ‘*mendaki*’ come after prepositions, they do not function as nouns. They function as non-finite infinitive verbs and the translation procedure used is transposition. However, a noun is found to occur rarely instead of gerund or non-finite verbs in a very few cases on pages 112 and 307 of STT; 139 and 365 of FTT; and 150 of MTT, which correspond to pages 99 and 283 of the EST. However, a literal translation is applied in some gerund occurrences preceded by the preposition, ‘by’, i.e. by + gerund. For example (4):

*My father consoled me **by telling** me about the mistakes great heroes made when they were children (Malala & Lamb, 2013a, p. 48).*

*Mi padre me consolaba **hablándome** de los errores que nuestros héroes habían cometido de pequeños (Malala & Lamb, 2013c, p. 84).*

*Mon père me console **en me parlant** des erreurs commises par certains de nos héros quand ils étaient enfants (Malala & Lamb, 2013b, p. 107).*

*Ayah memujuk saya **dengan memberitahu** kesilapan besar yang pernah dilakukan oleh wira-wira yang hebat semasa mereka kanak-kanak (Malala & Lamb, 2016, p. 108).*

In the above sentences, a gerund is used in the English text as object of the preposition, ‘by’. This is translated literally in Spanish and French by using gerund form. However, in Malay, it is rendered with a preposition + non-finite infinitive verb, ‘*dengan memberitahu*’ by using transposition which consists of a preposition + non-finite infinitive verb. Such occurrences and literal translation are found to occur elsewhere on pages 48, 57, 60, 71, 78, 84, 87, 99, 148, 155, and 171 of the STT; 79, 101, 107, 108, 180, 187, and 402 of the FTT; 56, 72, 90, 100, 108, 113, 130, 199, 207, 232, and 469 of the MTT, which correspond to pages 38, 46, 49, 60, 67, 72, 75, 86, 131, 137, 153, and 313 of the EST. However, a transposition on the form of noun or verb is used in very few cases, which occur on pages 216 and 228 of STT; 75, 235 and 274 of FTT; and 68 and 267 of MTT, which correspond to pages 46, 175, and 208 of the EST.

## 2. Gerund in *Things Fall Apart*

Table 4 contains 9 occurrences of gerund as subject of a sentence in the source text. All of them are translated into the target texts by using transposition procedure.

Table 4. Gerund as subject of a sentence				
Occurrences	Function	Number of occurrences	Translation procedure	
Gerund EST	Subject	9	Number of literal occurrences	Number of transposition occurrences
counterparts in STT	9	0		9
Counterparts in FTT	9	0		9
Counterparts in MTT	9	0		9

Source: Achebe (2001, 2010a, 2010b, 2013)

The gerund as subject is found to be transposed into non-finite infinitive verbs, For example (5):

And **supporting** his mother also meant supporting his father (Achebe, 2001, p. 17).

*Y **mantener** a su madre significaba mantener también a su padre (Achebe, 2010, p.39).*

*Sans compter qu'il y avait aussi son père : on ne pouvait pas demander à sa mère de faire la cuisine...* (Achebe, 2013, p. 29-30).

*Menanggung ibunya berarti menanggung ayahnya juga.* (Achebe, 2010, p. 26).

In the above examples, '*mantener*' in Spanish, '*compter*' in French and *menanggung* in Malay, are non-finite infinitive verbs, which are the subjects of the sentences. The translators transpose them because if they are translated literally the translation would not sound natural. However, a noun is found to be used when the gerund is preceded by the definite article, 'the', for example (6):

*As the evening drew near, the shouting and the firing of guns, the beating of drums and the brandishing and clanging of machetes increased* (Achebe, 2001, p. 90).

*Al acercarse la noche, aumentaron el griterío y los disparos de armas de fuego, el redoble de los tambores y el tintineo y el repiqueteo de los machetes* (Achebe, 2010, p.128).

*À l'approche de la nuit, les cris et les coups de fusil, les roulements de tambour et le tintement des machettes entrechoquées redoublèrent* (Achebe, 2013, p. 132).

*Menjelang senja, ruang itu semakin hingar-bingar dengan jeritan dan laungan yang disertai tembakan senapang, paluan endang dan bunyi gemerencing mata parang berlaga* (Achebe, 2010, p. 142)

In the above examples, the gerund functions as subjects of the sentence; it translated by using nouns in the Spanish, French, and Malay translations; this frequently happens when the gerund is preceded by the definite article, 'the'. The translation procedure used is transposition, which consists of transposing the gerund into noun. This case is found to occur on pages 90, 119, and 120 of the EST, which correspond to pages 128, 163, and 165 of STT; 132, 173, and 175 of the FTT; and 142, and 189 of MTT. Table 5 contains 4 occurrences of gerund as object of a sentence in the source text. All of them are translated into the target texts by using transposition procedure.

Table 5. Gerund as object of a sentence

Occurrences	Function	Number of occurrences	Translation procedure	
Gerund EST	Object	4	Number of literal occurrences	Number of transposition occurrences
Counterparts in STT	4		0	4
Counterparts in FTT	4		0	4
Counterparts in MTT	4		0	4

Source: Achebe (2001, 2010a, 2010b, 2013)

The gerund as object is found to an occur, for example (7):

*Only then did she realize, with a start, that Chielo had stopped her chanting* (Achebe, 2001, p. 76).

*Solo entonces se dio cuenta de que Chielo había dejado de cantar.* (Achebe, 2010, p. 112).

*C'est à ce moment seulement qu'elle comprit, en tressaillant, qu'elle n'entendait plus Chielo.* (Achebe, 2013, p. 113).

*Barulah dia sadar bahawa Chielo tidak lagi meratib, sekurang kurangnya buat sementara.* (Achebe, 2010, p. 120)

In the above examples, the gerund, '*chanting*', is used as an object of the sentence in the English sentences, whereas a non-finite infinitive verb, '*cantar*', is used in Spanish; finite verbs, '*n'entendait plus*' and '*meratib*', are used in the French and Malay sentences by using a transposition translation procedure. The following is another example (8):



*He never stopped **regretting** that Ezinma was a girl. (Achebe, p. 2001, 126).*

*Nunca dejó de **lamentar** que Ezinma hubiera sido niña. (Achebe, 2010, p. 172).*

*Il ne cessa jamais de **regretter** qu' Ezinma ne soit pas un garçon. (Achebe, 2013, p. 184).*

*Namun dia sentiasa **kesal** mengapa Ezinma dilahirkan sebagai perempuan. (Achebe, p. 2010, p. 201)*

In the above examples, a gerund, 'regretting' functions as an object of the sentence in the English sentence. Unlike the English sentence, non-finite verbs, 'lamentar' and 'regretter' are used in the Spanish and French sentences, and a finite verb, *kesal* is used in the Malay translation, which functions as the object of the sentence. However, a noun is found to be sometimes used, for example (9):

*It is a bad custom which these people observe because they lack **understanding** (Achebe, 2001, p. 24).*

*Es una mala costumbre que sigue esa gente porque no tienen **juicio** (Achebe, 2010, p. 47).*

*C'est une mauvaise coutume que celle-ci et ces gens manquent de **pitié** (Achebe, 2013, p. 39).*

*Ini merupakan satu amalan adat yang tidak baik kerana mereka kurang **memahami** adat itu. (Achebe, 2010, p. 37).*

In the above sentences, the gerund, 'understanding', is used in the English sentence as object of the sentence. In the Spanish and French sentences, nouns, 'juicio' and 'pitié', are used; they function as object of the sentences, but a finite verb, 'memahami', is used in the Malay sentence. Such case is found to occur on pages 24 of the EST, which correspond to pages, 47 of STT, 39 of FTT, and 37 of MTT.

Table 6 contains 85 occurrences of gerund as object of a preposition in a sentence in the source text. All of them are transposed into the MTT. However, 10 occurrences are translated literally into the STT, and 10 occurrences are translated literally into the FTT by using transposition procedure.

Table 6. Gerund as object of a preposition in a sentence

Occurrences	Function	Number of occurrences	Translation procedure	
Gerund EST	Object of a proposition	85	Number of literal occurrences	Number of transposition occurrences
Counterparts in STT	85		10	75
Counterparts in FTT	85		10	75
Counterparts in MTT	85		0	85

Source: Achebe (2001, 2010a, 2010b, 2013)

A gerund can come after a preposition as object of the preposition, for example (10):

*But Unoka was such a man that he always succeeded **in borrowing** more, and **piling** up his debts (Achebe, 2001, p. 4).*

*Pero Unoka siempre conseguía, por su forma de ser, que le **prestaran** más, y **acumulaba** una deuda tras otra (Achebe, 2010, p. 23).*

*Mais Unoka était ainsi fait qu'il se débrouillait toujours **pour emprunter** encore, et **ajouter** à ses dettes (Achebe, 2013, p. 11).*

*Akan tetapi, Unoka sentiasa dapat **meminjam**, malah dengan lebih banyak lagi, lantas **menimbunkan** lagi dirinya dengan lebih banyak hutang. (Achebe, 2010, p. 6.)*

In the above examples, 'borrowing' and 'piling' are gerunds which function as objects of the preposition 'in' in the EST. Unlike the gerund occurrence in the EST, finite verbs, 'prestaran' and 'acumulaba' are used in Spanish; non-finite verbs, 'emprunter' and 'ajouter', are used in the French sentences; and 'meminjam' and 'menimbunkan' are used in Malay by using a transposition translation

procedure. However, a literal translation is found to occur with gerund preceded by the preposition, ‘by’, for example (11):

*As a young man of eighteen he had brought honour to his village **by throwing** Amalinze the Cat, (Achebe, 2001, p. 3).*

*Cuando tenía dieciocho años había honrado a su aldea **derribando** a Amalíze el Gato (Achebe, 2010, p. 21).*

*Jeune homme, il avait fait à dix-huit ans l'honneur de son village **en battant** Amalinze le Chat (Achebe, 2013, p. 9).*

*Sungguhpun masih muda dan baru sahaja berusia lapan belas tahun, namun dia telahmengharumkan nama kampungnya dengan **menumpaskan** Amalinze Si Kucing. (Achebe, 2010, p. 3)*

In the above examples, the gerund, ‘throwing’ is used in the EST as object of a preposition. In Spanish and French TTs, gerunds, ‘*derribando*’ and ‘*en battant*’ are used, applying a literal translation procedure. But a finite verb, ‘*menumpaskan*’ is used in the Malay sentence by applying a transposition translation procedure. This is found to occur on pages 70, and 88 of the EST, which correspond to pages, 105, and 126 of STT, 105, and 130 of FTT, and 112 and 140 of MTT.

The languages typology has influenced the translation procedures used in translating the gerund through language preferences and peculiarities in terms of gerund function as subject, object, and object of a preposition. The functions that affect and determine translation procedures are that the functions of gerund in English differ from the functions of gerund in Spanish, French, and the non-existence of gerund in Malay. In English gerund plays the role a noun, which can be subject, object, and object of a preposition. Unlike gerund in English, gerund in Spanish can indicate simultaneity, method, purpose, cause, concession and the use of the word, *como* + gerund to indicate manner. Unlike English, and Spanish, the function of gerund in French is adverbial indicating manner and simultaneity, which make that transposition translation procedure prevails over literal translation in gerund translation.

The following table shows that there are 29 occurrences of literal translation, and 222 occurrences of transposition in the TTs out of 251 -ing occurrences of the STs. Literal translation procedure is used when there are no structural or semantic obstacles to render the form and meaning to the target language, whereas transposition is about a change of grammatical categories between source language and target language because of a structural obstacle (Vinay and Darbelnet, 1995; Jones, 2014).

Table 7. Summary table of literal translation and transposition frequency distribution

- ing occurrences - 251		Frequency occurrence number	
STs- English		Spanish	
		Literal occurrences	Transposition occurrences
- ing subject	25	0	25
- ing object	43	0	43
- ing object of a preposition	183	22	161
		French	
		Literal occurrences	Transposition occurrences
- ing subject	25	0	25
- ing object	43	0	43
- ing object of a preposition	183	7	176
		Malay	
		Literal occurrences	Transposition occurrences
- ing subject	25	0	25
- ing object	43	0	43
- ing object of a preposition	183	0	183

Source: Yousafzai & Lamb (2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2016); Achebe (2001, 2010a, 2010b, 2013)

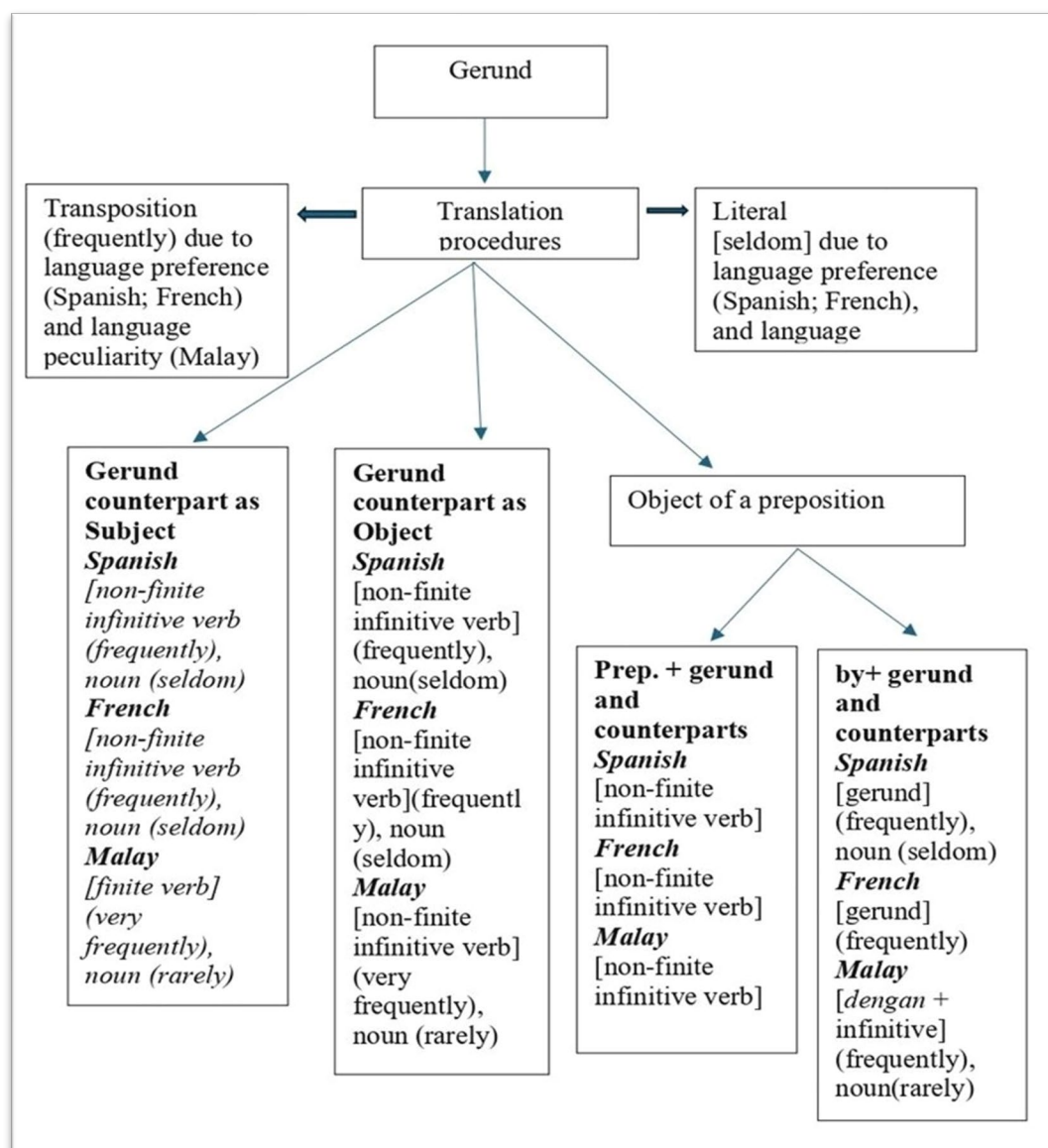


Figure 2. Modelling of the translation of gerund from English into Spanish, French and Malay

Source: Vinay & Darbelnet (1995), Yousafzai & Lamb (2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2016).

Achebe (2001, 2010a, 2010b, 2013)

## Conclusion

This research deals with translating a grammatical aspect, which is gerund from English into Spanish, French and Malay. Gerund functions as a noun and it can be the subject, the object of the verb or object of a preposition. It is found to exist in English, Spanish, and French, but it is not found to occur in Malay texts because it does not exist in Malay language. It is found that gerund is more used in English compared to English and French. The determinants of such occurrences are not related to translators' choices and decisions. The determinants are that English has preference of using gerund more than Spanish and French, which have a preference of using non-finite infinitive and finite verbs instead of gerund. As far as Malay language is concerned, non-finite infinitive verbs and finite verbs are used to render gerund meaning from English into Malay.

The research reveals that the translation procedures that are used by the translators as far as gerund is concerned are transposition procedure and literal translation procedures. Transposition translation procedure is found to be more used than literal translation procedure due to Spanish and French preference of using other grammatical aspects rather than the gerund and the lack of the gerund in Malay language. The research reveals

also that literal translation of gerund is almost applied in Spanish and French when the English gerund is an object of the preposition, 'by' and when the gerund is preceded by the definite article, 'the', whereas in Malay a transposition is applied, using the preposition, '*dengan*' + non-finite infinitive verb, and a noun due to the lack of a gerund form in Malay grammar.

This research has a great significance in terms of usefulness, functionality in English, Spanish, and Malay translation modelling. It is beneficial to human translation, machine translation, and multilingualism. It is relevant for improving translation studies curricula and language learning. Based on the findings, the study informs that Vinay and Darbelnet's theoretical model on translation procedures need to include in its degrees of application (lexis, structures, and message) other aspects, which are language preferences and peculiarities as additional degrees of application because they are found to be translation procedures determinants. Since this research is done on novel translation, it is recommended that other research on other literary text genres and other languages be done so that to have general conclusive statements on gerund translation.

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