1.1 EFL Ability in Translation

In English teaching field there are two types of English situation, they are English as Foreign Language (EFL) and English as Second Language (ESL). EFL situation is the condition where English is not the public mean of communication and in ESL situation, English is spoken in almost every place or can be understood to almost everyone.

1.1.1 EFL Students

In non-English speaking regions, English is rarely spoken by the public, those are usually in the Asia region, most of the people speak their own mother language, or the most common language spoken by the Asian is Chinese.

Students in non-English speaking region usually speak or learn English for the educational purpose, so they learn English to pass the examination or to have a better chance in their career. (Gamoran and Mare, 1989)

Grammatical rule and idiomatic expression take part in the process of translation from source language to target language, one language to another has its own grammatical rule so in translating the text, the students will first need to learn about English grammar.

EFL students get grammar lesson from the school subject and practice it in the formal situation and learning the full grammar lesson will consume time, for the non English department students, learning a detail grammar lesson need additional effort because in ESP field, students only learn about practical language according to their
focus. So, translating a text which needs a deep understanding of grammar is a hard thing to do.

1.2 Translation

The process of interpreting information from the source language to the target language in the written form is called translation. The text can be in the form of documents, articles, literatures, journals, instructions, etc. In this part there are aspects of translation that will be discussed, the first is the types of translation, the second is the elements of translation and the last is the errors in translation.

1.2.1 Types of Translation

There are three types of translation according to the language form and each type has different purpose, they are (1) literal translation; (2) faithful translation; and (3) communicative translation.

Literal translation is the type of translation which translates the text based on the original text. It translates the text from word for word. The second one is faithful translation which translates the precise context of the text according to the grammatical structure. The third one is communicative translation, it translates text which focus on the social condition to make the reader easy to understand the message of the text.

Each of these translation has specific purpose, for the literal translation, it is used to translate the text that value the original meaning, but some researcher say that it is still appropriate to add words to make the text more understandable. Then for the faithful translation, it is used to translate the text that preserves the source language, usually used to translate ancient literature to keep the ancient atmosphere for the reader. The
communicative translation is used to translate popular text so it has the purpose to make an easy process of transferring information. (Newmark, 1987)

1.2.2 Elements of Translation

Creating a good translated text, there are some elements that the writers need to take into account; generally, there are three elements of translation which are needed to be done, (1) faithful, (2) expressive, and (3) close to the original text.

Faithful means the translation can have two options, the first one is to be faithful to the source language, it is used when the text is an ancient one or needs to have the sense of the source language, then the second option is to be faithful to the target language, this type of translation is used for the sake of the target language reader, in this case, the researcher will use the element of faithful to the target language because abstract is an educational written that needs to be easily understood by the reader.

Expressive means that the result of the translation can express the real meaning from the source language to the target language without reduce the original value. In expressing the meaning of a text to the target language, the translator has to consider the cultural and social aspect for the language, as an example, for economy field, there are some specific words, and then the job of the translator is to find right language equivalence for each specific term. (Blake & Bly, 1993)

Close to the original text means that the result of the translation may not have a very different meaning from the original source. Even in the translation there are omissions, additions and substitutions but those steps are only done to reduce the errors
of translation, not to change the real meaning of the original text. So, the translator has to keep the real meaning from the source language.

From those three elements of the translation we can conclude that the principle of translation is to mediate the language from the source to the target in transferring information, then it also needs to preserve or keep the real meaning of original text and the most important is it has to be easily understand according to the use of each text.

1.2.3 Errors in Translation

As we know in the process of translation, a translator needs to consider the grammar rule from the target language. A language has a unique system of grammar, for the EFL learner, they are familiar to the grammar system of their mother language, then in the process of translating, there are some mistakes when the students still loyal to the grammatical system of the mother tongue, since every language has syntactical differences (Swaffar, 1988)

According to Knees (20016), there are some common errors in translation, they are: (1) grammatical error, (2) addition, (3) omission, (4) incorrect article, (5) tense, (6) localization errors, (7) mistranslation, (8) in appropriate use of words, (10) consistency, and (11) redundancy.

1.2.4 Students Tool in Translating Text

Tools in translating text are varied according to the translator, for the traditional translator they use traditional tools such as paper, stationeries and dictionary, then the modern translator use electronic devices such as computer and electronic dictionary (it can be in a for of gadget, application or internet resource).
Because of the vast development of technology, university students, especially in Indonesia, tend to use electronic devices and internet, the most popular one is Google translate. This website is actually really good to translate word-for-word but for the thesis’ abstract, the students have to think about it twice. The problem that arise from the use of Google Translate to translate thesis abstract will lead to some translation error because students sometimes do not write the complete elements in the sentence, this is the reason why that Google Translate is not really appropriate to translate the combination of sentences.

From this activity, the students usually just copy the Indonesia abstract then paste it into Google Translate, after that directly copy the result to English abstract and use it for their thesis.

1.3 Thesis Abstract

Abstract is a type of research writing process in over viewing the points and general purpose of the research. It is often used to help the reader to read quickly to find out the content of the research (Bly & Blake, 1993).

1.3.1 Language in Thesis Abstract

When it has the purpose to conclude or highlight the overall research, abstract has a specific field in the discipline to discuss about the research method, result, data, and conclusion. Therefore it will be more academic in nature.

For the Management Department, the thesis’ abstract will have more economical discussion. Then the abstract is more specific in term, and the translation of the abstract is included in economic translation because it has many economical terms.
Students who want to translate an abstract for the economical research should understand the specific term, related to the students’ tool in the previous section, using Google Translate without reviewing it further will cause many errors in translation. So from the collected students abstract, the researcher wants to analyze the errors of translation in the thesis of Management Department’s students.