In translation, sometimes the students get difficulties in translating English compound words because there are many aspects that the students should considered. The meaning of compound word sometimes can be detected quite easily from its parts but sometimes the students have to make some adjustments to achieve similar equivalent in translation. This research was conducted to know the students’ ability in translating English compound words into Indonesian.

In this research, the descriptive qualitative design was used. Eventhough the data were in a numerical form, this research did not mean to apply quantitative approach. The subjects of this research were the students at the eight semester in 2005-2006 academic year of English Department in University of Muhammadiyah Malang who chose translation as a optional subject. It consisted of 72 students who were divided into two classes where 44 students were in class A and 28 students were in class B. The writer took 36 students as the sample. The students were chosen based on the simple random sampling technique. The students at eight semester who chose translation as the optional subject were chosen because they got the theory about English compound words. The data were collected by using a test as the instrument.

Based on the result of the study, the writer found that no one (0%) got score between 86 up to 90; it means no one of the sample had “excellent” ability. 18 students (50%) of the sample got score between 76 up to 85. These students had “very good” ability. Then, 16 (44.44%) students got score 61 up to 75; it means that they were categorized in “good” ability. In this study, the writer also found that there were 2 students (5.5%) who had “fair” ability and no one had “poor” ability. Generally the students’ ability in translating English compound words into Indonesian was good. It can be seen from the mean score of the students’ ability was 72.62.