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A systematic and in-depth analysis of English collocations and their Indonesian translation errors is somewhat rare. This study which was conducted based on an analysis of English texts and students' translations presents empirical data to verify the observations that Indonesian EFL learners produce "unnatural" translations for the respective English word combinations. A total number of 83 collocations from 15 different types were found in three texts; 57 collocations – 43 belong to the syntagmatic type and 14 to the paradigmatic type – were translated quite well, whereas 26 collocations, which all belong to the syntagmatic type, were proved to be the most problematic ones. The findings suggest the direct teaching of collocations and their respective Indonesian equivalents is necessary.

Keywords: translation, collocation, syntagmatic/paradigmatic collocation.