

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Language is the most important means in communication. With many different languages in the world, people have to master not only their own mother tongue but also another language in order to be able to communicate with other people in different languages. However, translation eases that problem so people can communicate with people in different languages without having to master foreign languages.

Translation also plays an important role in developing the knowledge, such as science, literature, social, and so on. As we know that many information people can get from the communication media moreover from books. Unfortunately, most of the books are written in foreign language, particularly in English as the international language. Therefore, translation is important in the aspect of communication which is should be improved in accordance with the development of the language.

Translation is not merely finding the equivalent word. The characteristic difference between one language to another creates problems for the translator. Bell (1991: 6) says “languages are different in form having distinct codes and rules regulating the construction of grammatical stretches of language and these forms have different meaning”. Thus, the source language text should be translated by concerning the grammatical structure of the target language.

If translation studies were oriented in linguistically approaches, in recent years there has been a shift to give more attention in culturally ones. As we know that every culture has different way in the communication. Although the source language text has been translated into the target language text concerning the grammatical structure of the target language, the translation may be still unnatural. Larson (1998: 470) states as a part of culture, translation from one language to another cannot be done adequately without a knowledge of the two cultures as well as the two language structures.

Translating simile as a figurative speech is one example of the problem in translation. Simile which is often used in literary work, such as novel, poem, prose, etc must be translated appropriately into the target language, or it may have different meaning or even does not have any meaning at all. Therefore, some strategies should be applied in translating simile in order to produce qualified translation.

The example below presents the complication in translating simile in Arthur Golden's novel *Memoirs of a Geisha* into Indonesian translation:

SLT: "You, growing up in a dump like Yoroido. That's *like making a tea in a bucket!*" (02/MOAG/8)

TLT: "Kau, dibesarkan di tempat kumuh seperti Yoroido. Itu kan *seperti membuat teh di dalam ember!*" (02/MSG/12)

Based on the context, this sentence is addressed into a beautiful geisha growing up in an isolated village. The English simile *that's like making a tea in a bucket* is literally translated into *itu kan seperti membuat teh di dalam ember*. The simile *seperti membuat teh didalam ember* sounds foreign for Indonesian people

as the target readers. The real message of this sentence is hard to understand as they do not use this expression to describe a worthy thing comes from a terrible place. The translator does not accurately transferring the message of the simile in the source language into the target language.

The example below will show other unnaturalness in the translation of simile.

SLT: Among the men in their dark Western style suits or kimono, several geisha stood out in brilliant coloring just *like autumn leaves on the murky waters of a river*. (92/MOAG/127).

TLT: Di antara para lelaki yang memakai setelan jas gaya Barat atau berwarna gelap, beberapa geisha tampak mencolok sekali memakai kimono berwarna-warni cerah, *seperti daun-daun di musim gugur di atas air keruh sungai*. (92/MSG/119).

The translation sounds unnatural to the target reader as the translator still uses the image of *daun-daun di musim gugur*. As we know that Indonesia does not have autumn season. Therefore, it is hard for Indonesian people as the target readers to imagine the image of autumn leaves on the murky waters of a river. The translator should use the other image that familiar to Indonesian to make it understandable to the target reader.

The objects of the research are English novel entitled *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden and its Indonesian translation, *Memoar Seorang Geisha* by Listiana Srisanti. *Memoirs of a Geisha* novel is interesting to study as it uses lyrical language and covers so many cultures. Though it is English novel, the author uses many Japanese expressions in his language. Moreover, when the

novel is translated into Indonesian, the Indonesian culture adds its complicated cultural mixture.

Based on the facts above, the researcher is interested to analyze the translation quality of simile in the Indonesian translation of *Arthur Golden's* novel *Memoirs of a Geisha* published by *Vintage Contemporaries*. The researcher wants to reveal the strategy in translating simile from the source language into the target language, which definitely has different culture. Whereas, the strategy used by the translator will influence the quality of translation which can be seen from its accuracy and readability.

Further, the researcher want to write them down in a thesis entitled *Translation Analysis of Simile from English into Indonesian in Arthur Golden's novel Memoirs of a Geisha*.

B. Problem Statement

Considering the research background, this thesis is proposed to answer:

1. What kinds of translation strategies are employed to solve problems in translating simile from English into Indonesian in Arthur Golden's novel *Memoirs of a Geisha*?
2. How is the quality of simile translation from English into Indonesian in Arthur Golden's novel *Memoirs of a Geisha*?

C. Research Limitation

The research is limited to analyze the translation strategies and the quality of the simile translation in Arthur Golden's novel *Memoirs of a Geisha*

dealt with the accuracy and readability. Besides, the similes taken for the data of this research are limited for the similes which use the comparative word *like*, *as*, *as though*, and *as if* to compare two different things.

D. Research Objectives

This research is aimed to describe:

1. The kinds of translation strategies which are employed to solve problems in translating simile from English into Indonesian in Arthur Golden's novel *Memoirs of a Geisha*.
2. The quality of simile translation from English into Indonesian in Arthur Golden's novel *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

E. Research Benefits

It is expected that the result will give some benefits as mentioned below:

1. Translators

The results of the research can contribute to the improvement of the translator's competence in translating simile as a figurative speech.

2. Lecturers

The result of the research can be used as a significant material for developing the translation study, especially in translating simile.

3. Students and other researchers

The result of this research will be helpful for the students in improving their knowledge in translating simile. Moreover, it can stimulate them to conduct further research related to this research.

F. Thesis Organization

This thesis will be arranged as follows:

Chapter I: Introduction covers Research Background, Problem Statement, Research Limitation, Research Objectives, Research Benefits, and Thesis Organization.

Chapter II: Literature Review covers Definition of Translation, Principles of Translation, Process of Translation, Problems of Equivalence, Types of Translation, Definition of Simile, Problems of Translating Simile, Strategies in Translating Simile, and Translation Quality Assessment.

Chapter III: Research Method, Data and Source of Data, Method of Data Collection, Sample and sampling Technique, Technique of Data Analysis, and Research Procedures.

Chapter IV: Data Analysis.

Chapter V: Conclusion and Recommendation.

Bibliography.

Appendix.