

The Strategy of Translating Indonesian Texts With Cultural Nuances Into English

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Abstract—This research discussed the strategies for translating Indonesian cultural texts into English. This research aims to 1) to describe the types of translation found in the process of translating Indonesian culture into English, and 2) to analyze the obstacle in translating Indonesian cultural terms into English. The data were collected from two novels, each written by Pramoedia Ananta Toer entitled *Bumi Manusia*, translated by Max Lane with the title *This Earth of Mankind*, and Ahmad Tohari with *Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk*, translated as *The Dancer* by Rene T.A. Lysloff. Data analysis techniques were carried out through descriptions after receiving respondents' responses. Thus, this research applies reception theory and cultural semantic theory. The application of this theory has led this research to answer the three objectives of this research. The results of the study indicate that the translation of culturally nuanced Indonesian texts into English has complex forms and variations due to the adjustment of the Indonesian cultural context into other cultural contexts in English.

Index Terms—uniqueness and strength of language, figurative language style, cultural meaning, stylistic studies

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the elements in human life that are used most often every day. It can be heard through the human speech organs in the form of regular sounds, which in linguistic terms are known as words, phrases or sentences. It is from the sounds that humans can understand what is being ordered, what is meant, and what other people are thinking (Pym, 2016). These regular sounds are known as spoken language.

Apart from spoken language, whose main element is sound and it also known as written language, whose main element is script. This variety of language is different from spoken language. In written language there are many rules that must be considered (Rahman & Weda, 2019). The sentence structure must be clear so that the message conveyed can be well received by the reader. While in spoken language, the speaker can immediately correct the speech if there is an error in conveying the message so the other person can immediately understand it (Weda et al., 2021; Rahman, 2019). Both of these languages have the same main goal, which is to convey communication messages.

Delivering communication is often a problem for readers of different language speakers. To solve this problem, translation is the best solution (Yuefang, 2012; Sari et al., 2019).

Translation is a process of transferring from one language into another. The transfer the substance contained in the source language into the target language, namely the message conveyed by the author (Rahman, 2017). In the transfer process, there are often changes in sentence structure, word class, even to the punctuation and meaning contained in the dictionary. Language transfer does not replace every word in the source language into the target language but what the author intends or messages to convey (Rezaei & Kuhi, 2014; Hamuddin et al., 2020). The language transfer is usually written in sentences whose structure is different from the source language. The end of the process is called translation (Tukhtabayeva et al., 2021).

Not a few students, lecturers, and scientists often have difficulties in carrying out translation activities. The Google Translate is translation machine cannot be used as a "god" in carrying out these activities. Writing that is processed through these machines often produces a translation result is difficult to understand.

According to Rahman and Rahman (2019, p. 112) Translating texts or documents in a language, for example from English to Indonesian, certainly requires deep and complex knowledge or understanding of both cultures, and macrolinguistic knowledge such as sociolinguistics, pragmalinguistics, anthropolinguistics, ethnolinguistics, etc. These

factors make many people experience difficulties in translating.

Along with the progress of the current era, a lot of information is coming into Indonesia, both information in the fields of science, technology and culture. The information is most often written in English. Unfortunately, only a few people understand the language well. Most of the Indonesian people have not been able to master English well, so it takes quite a long time to get information and understand English book, or anything written in that language (Valdeón, 2008; Hamuddin et al., 2022). This is where the role of translators comes in, which can cut their time to understand English texts or documents.

Translation and culture cannot be separated because culture is closely related to society in terms of behavior, norms and language used because the concept of a word in one society can be different from that in other societies (Yahiaoui & Al-Adwan, 2020).

This research emphasizes and focuses on translation issues related to culture. As previously explained that language is part of the culture of a nation, the main objects of research are terms related to culture, while other aspects not related to culture are not discussed in detail.

II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

This research aims to 1) to describe the types of translation found in the process of translating Indonesian cultural terms into English, and 2) to map the barriers to the process of translating Indonesian cultural terms into English.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Translation is copying or transferring a particular language to another language. According to Machali (2009, p. 26), a linguist at The University of New South Wales (UNSW), translation is an effort to replace text from the source language with equivalent text in the target language, furthermore, the meaning of which is translated as the author intended.

Moreover, Catford (1965, p. 20) stated that translation is the transfer of text from the source language to its equivalent text in the target language. As Catford's definition of translation is the replacement of textual material in one SL language with equivalent textual material in another TL language.

Furthermore, Newmark (1988, p. 5) argued that translation is expressing the meaning of a text into the target language, exactly as what the author wants to convey. The definition he gives is that translation is "rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text". Nida and Taber (1982, p. 12) explained that: translation as the process of reproducing in the receptor language to the closest natural equivalent of the source language message. The first is in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.

A. Translation Techniques

According to Molina and Albir (2002, p. 509) translation techniques are a method used to analyze or classify a translation by commenting on the source text. The intended translation technique has five characteristics, namely 1) influences the translation results, 2) is classified by comparing SL and TL, 3) influences micro units in the text, 4) is discursive and contextual or not. Related to each other but based on a certain context, and 5) functional in nature.

B. Translation Quality Assessment

A quality translation is a translation that contains the entire content or message of the source language text (accurate), a translation that conforms to the norms and culture that apply in the target language (acceptable), and a translation that is easy for readers of the target language to understand (readable). For this reason, a translation quality assessment needs to be carried out to find out whether a translation is accurate, acceptable, and legible or not.

In relation to the translation of texts with cultural nuances, the concept of the translation is carried out as described in the diagram below:

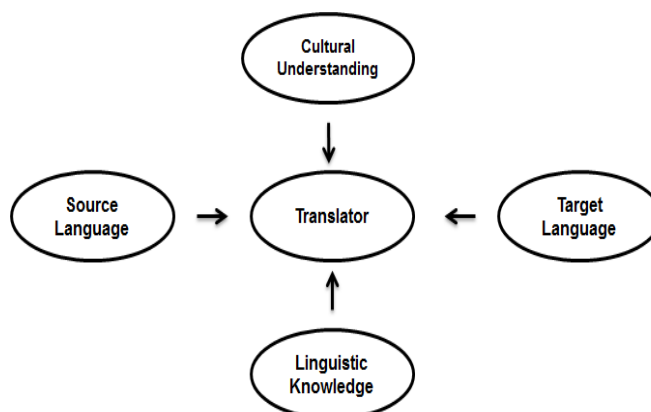


Diagram 1. The Process of Translation of Cultural Nuanced Texts

C. Translation Process

The translation process consists of three stages including: 1) analysis, 2) transfer, and 3) harmonization, each of which can be repeated to better understand the contents of the text. Furthermore, analysis is carried out to understand 1) the purpose of writing, 2) the method or style of delivery, and the choice of language units.

In order to translate documents properly and correctly, a translator must pay attention and do several things, namely: a) have perfect knowledge of the language, b) understand the content and intent (context) of the author in the document, c) be able to use terms that are commonly used in everyday life -days, and d) follow the development of the language.

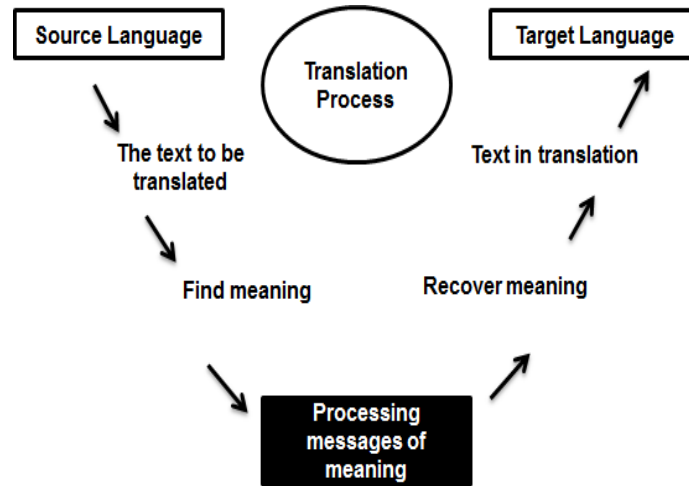


Diagram 2. Translation Process

These are the steps of the translation process. The aim is to provide an equivalent meaning between the source language and the target language.

D. Types and Variety of Translations

According to Catford (1965, p. 21) translation is divided into three types that are; 1) word for word translation, 2) literal translation, and 3) free translation.

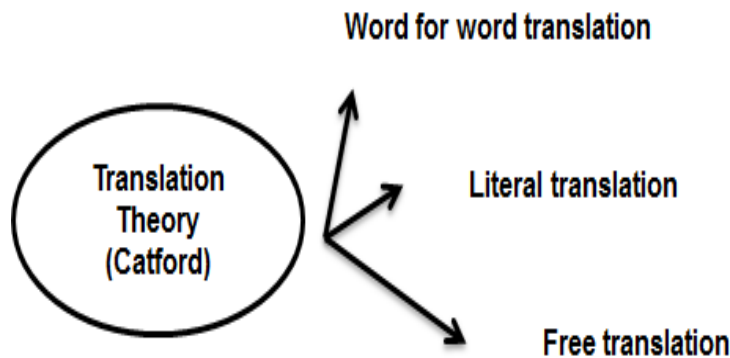


Diagram 3. Translation Theory (Catford)

Of the three types of translation, word-for-word translation is the least possible type of translation to do because the translation results will be very confusing to the reader. This type of translation can only be done if the source language and target language have the same structure.

IV. METHODS

This research used descriptive qualitative. The data used in this research are in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences in Indonesian. The method used aims to explain matters related to the translation from Indonesian into English.

The data sources in this research are Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk Novel, written by Ahmad Tohari, and published by Gramedia; and the novel Bumi Manusia, written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, with an English translation.

There are 100 data in this research and divided into 3 parts, namely semantic translation of 53 data, aesthetic poetic translation of 26 data and free translation of 21 data. However, this article mentions 5 data each to represent each type of categorization.

V. RESULTS

Translation is an attempt to find equivalence in meaning between the text/source language (ST) and the target text/language (TT). Many experts have proposed the meaning of translation and its types. This research summarizes several types of translation, with the types referred to are 1) word for word translation, 2) free translation, 3) literal translation, 4) dynamic translation, 5) aesthetic-poetic translation, 6) communicative translation, 7) ethnographic translation, 8) semantic translation, 9) pragmatic translation, and 10) linguistic translation.

Based on the data previously, there are 100 data units, taken from 1) The Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk novel, by Ahmad Tohari and its translation by Rene T.A. Lysloff, 2) Earth of Mankind, by Pramoedya Ananta Toer and translated by Max Lane. After the data was tested based on the respondents' assessments, this study divided the data into three categories of types of translation, namely free translation, aesthetic-poetic translation, and semantic translation. These three data groups are discussed in this study.

Based on this research data unit, categorization is directed at things namely free translation (PB), aesthetic-poetic translation (PP), and semantic translation (PS). Furthermore, these three abbreviations are applied in data coding. For example, RP-PS 01 reads Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk, semantic translation, first order data. Another example is BM-PP 02 which reads Earth of Mankind, poetic-aesthetic translation, second order data, and so on.

Data units using the coding system as above can be seen in the diagram below:

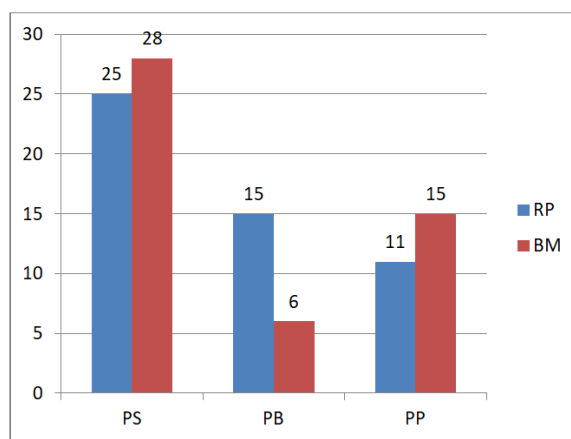


Chart 1. Number of Data Units Based on Category Code

Details of data units are as follows; 25 pieces of RP-PS, 15 pieces of RP-PB, 11 pieces of RP-PP. Furthermore, there were 28 BM-PS, 6 BM-PBs, and 15 BM-PPs (details of data see attachment).

A. Free Translation (PB)

The most popular translation is free translation. This model is often termed the classical method. One of the characteristics of free translation is a type of translation that is not tied to finding equivalent words or sentences, but looking for equivalents is more emphasized at a broader level than the source sentence which may not really represent the ideas conveyed.

TABLE 1
FREE TRANSLATION CATEGORY

No	BSu	BSa	Code
1	“Aku tidak bohong. Bukankah begitu,Warta ? Darsun?” (R7/108)	“No kidding. Don’t you think, Warta? Darsun?” (P.7)	RP-PB.01
2	Mulut Rasmus dan kedua temannya pegal sudah . Namun terus melenggang dan melengok. Alunan tembangnya terus mengalir seperti pancuran di musim hujan. (R8)	The mouth of Rasmus and his two friends grew weary , yet still Srintil swayed and undulated, her singing flowing continuously like a water spout in the rainy season. (8)	RP-PB.02
3	Pelita-pelita kecil dinyalakan. Kelap-kelip dikejauhan membuktikan di Dukuh Paruk yang sunyi ada kehidupan manusia (R9)	In the village, small lanterns were lit. from afar, the flickering lights were only the indication that the remote hamlet was inhabited . (10)	RP-PB.03
4	“Pokoknya Dukuh Paruk akan kembali mempunyai ronggeng. Bukankah begitu, Kang?” (R11)	“The bottom line is that Paruk Village will once again have a ronggeng dancer.” (12)	RP-PB.04
5	“Tak kusangka Srintil bisa menari sebagus itu. ” katanya. “Kalau boleh aku ingin menggendongnya, membuainya sampai dia lelap di pangkuanku.” (R15)	“I never knew Srintil could dance so well. ” she said. “I just want to cradle her in my arms and rock her until she falls fast asleep on my lap.” (16)	RP-PB.05

B. Aesthetic-Poetic Translation (PP)

One form of data group found in this research is the aesthetic-poetic translation data group. Aesthetic-poetic translation is translation intended to translate literary works, such as poetry, novels, plays and so on. This type of translation is the translator as much as possible to maintain the beauty of the language as the source language.

Regarding the data units included in the Aesthetic-poetic Translation category were 26, as presented in the table below:

TABLE 2
CATEGORY OF AESTHETIC-POETIC TRANSLATION

No	BSu	BSa	Code
1	<u>Aku terperanjat mendengar kata-kata lelaki itu.</u> Orang lain mengatakan Sulam-lah orangnya yang mewisuda Srintil (R82)	<u>I was taken aback on hearing these words.</u> Other people had claimed that it was Sulam who had deflowered Srintil. (84)	RP-PP.01
2	Pekerjaan selanjutnya <u>tidak memerlukan banyak tenaga</u> (R96)	Cutting up the meat <u>didn't require as much strength.</u> (99)	RP-PP.02
3	<u>Serasa aku akan kehilangan emak buat kali kedua</u> (R58)	<u>I felt as though I was losing my mother for a second time.</u> (62)	RP-PP.03
4	"Maka aku sungguh minta maaf, Sersan." <u>"Hanya kali ini kau kumaafkan. Kali lain tidak.</u> (R99)	"I'm trully sorry for all of this, Sergeant." <u>"I'll let it go this one time, but not again.</u> (103)	RP-PP.04
5	Dia tersipu. <u>Terkadang tertawa kecil bila dia mendengar orang berbisik memuji kecantikannya.</u> (R13)	<u>She giggled a little when she heard people whispering together, praising her beauty.</u> (14)	RP-PP.06

As shown in the table above, the data for the Aesthetic-poetic Translation category and it should be in the highest order because the data is the translation of literary works. But in reality, the translator of a literary work makes translation like this a strategy for achieving his translation.

C. Semantic Translation (PS)

Based on data categorization, one of the data groups found in this research is the type of data with the category of semantic translation. In principle, semantic translation does not only dominate the results of translations of literary works or cultural texts, but also occurs in the translation of document texts in general, for example, historical documents, religious stories, and mythical stories. This kind of translation relies heavily on semantic translation.

In the following, 53 data units are presented, which are related to the Semantic Translation category as shown in the table below:

TABLE 3
SEMANTIC TRANSLATION CATEGORY

No	BSu	BSa	Code
1	"Bagus sekali," kata Rasmus setelah melihat <u>badongan daun nangka</u> itu menghias kepala Srintil "Sungguh?" balas Srintil meyakinkan.	"That's great, said Rasmus after examining <u>the crown of leaves</u> adorning her head. "honestly?" asked Srintil coyly.	RP-PS.01
2	Srintil diam. <u>Dipandangnya</u> ketiga anak laki-laki di hadapannya. Dalam hati Srintil merasa penasaran. (R7/108)	Srintil was silent. <u>She gazed at</u> the three boys standing in front of her, feeling slightly annoyed. (P.7)	RP-PS.02
3	<u>Seorang gadis kencur</u> seperti Srintil telah mampu menirukan dengan baiknya gaya seorang ronggeng. Dua orang Dukuh Paruk tidak bakal heran (8)	The fact that Srintil, <u>a naive little girl</u> , was able to imitate a ronggeng dancer's style with considerable skill would not have come as a surprise to anyone from Paruk. (8)	RP-PS.03
4	Kartareja <u>mengangguk-angguk.</u> Bibirnya yang merah kehitaman oleh kapur sirih bergoyang ke kiri-kanan. Lalu disemprotkannya sisa tembakau yang tertinggal di mulutnya (R11)	Kartareja <u>shook his head</u> vigorously. His red lips, blackened by chewing betelnut, tobacco, and lime, jiggled from left to right. As he spoke, bits of tobacco and other debris sprayed from his mouth. (12)	RP-PS.04
5	"Eh, ya. Memang begitu. <u>Kita yang tua-tua di pedukuhan ini</u> tak ingin mati sebelum melihat Dukuh Paruk kembali seperti aslinya dulu (R12)	Kartareja sighed, "I hope it is as you say. <u>Those of us in this hamlet who are elderly</u> don't want to die before seeing Paruk return to what it once was. (12)	RP-PS.05

Based on the previous data, the comparison of data based on categorization (Semantic Translation, Aesthetic-Poetic Translation, and Free Translation) can be seen in the Data Group Categorization diagram below:

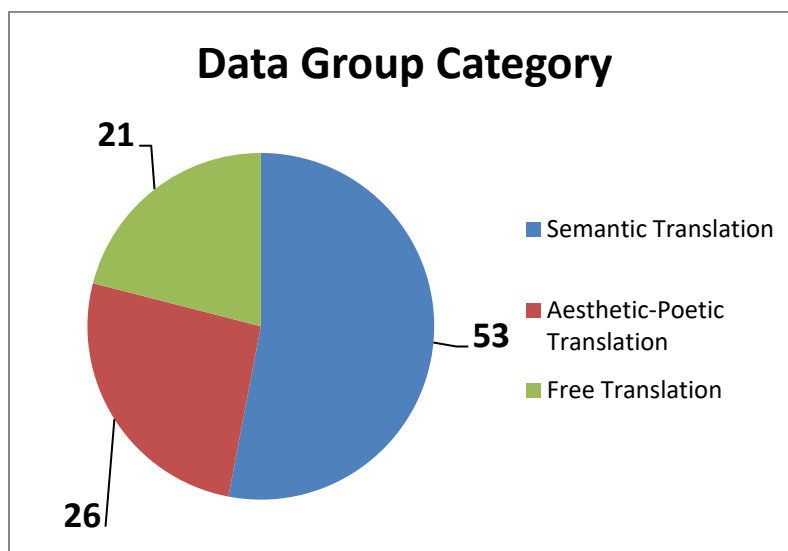


Diagram 4. Categorization of Data Groups

This category of data group comes from two sources of literary data, namely; 1) Novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk, by Ahmad Tohari and his translation work by Rene T.A. Lysloff, 2) Earth of Mankind, by Pramoedya Ananta Toer and translated by Max Lane.

D. Recent Challenges in the World of Translation

The current challenge in the world of translation is found of various translation machines that are intended to help those who have difficulties in reading foreign languages.

Now there are at least 3 important things related to the latest challenges in the world of translation especially related to this research topic, namely the presence of machine translation, the limitations of a translator, and the transfer of cultural meaning into the target language

1) Presence of a Translation Machine

The presence of machine translation greatly influences the world of translation in general. Many things that become historical records of translation are in line with developments in information technology (IT). Of the new things achieved by IT developments, the Internet has had the most impact. The internet is a computer network connection with the same standards so that messages can be sent from one computer to another computer network on another network. Thus, the internet is a new medium for exchanging messages. It should be explained that the variety of languages used on the internet has its own characteristics in terms of: (a) graphic features, (b) graphological features, (c) grammatical features, (d) lexical characteristics and discourse characteristics. Since voices can also be displayed, Crystal has also added (e) phonetic features and (f) phonological features. Some experts like Crystal, for example, identify several situations using the internet: (a) e-mail, (b) chat groups, (c) virtual worlds (online games), (d) world wide web, (e) instant messaging, (f) blogging, and so on.

2) Limitations of a Translator

Long before the birth of machine translation, a translator, even a professional, was seen as having some fundamental weaknesses, namely technical knowledge of translation, cultural knowledge of the text being translated, and mastery of linguistics both the source and target languages of translation activities.

Translation machine has combined the field of translation with computer science, namely the process of translation based on computers and their networks. In other words, machine translation is automatic, technical, and practical, even if the results are sometimes clunky. In regular operations, machine translation involves computers and machine translation software. During the translation process, the machine works automatically. The system converts source text in a certain language into another specific target text. One example of machine translation is Google Translate.

3) Transfer of Cultural Meanings

The most difficult thing in translation is transferring cultural meaning. A meaning is sometimes very contextual and difficult to express in language outside the cultural context itself.

Language and Culture are two important elements in translation. Every nation has a culture that is different from other nations. This difference becomes an obstacle in the process of translating from one language to another because a text in the source language often cannot find its equivalent in the target language. Obstacles in translation can be found in a number of texts within different cultural categories, including: the category of material culture, the category of religious culture, the category of social culture, the category of linguistic culture, and ecology.

VI. CONCLUSION

In transferring messages, the role of culture is very influential on the success of the translator to be able to produce

good quality translations. This can be traced from a cultural perspective to see the relationship between the cultural aspects of the source language and the target language.

In diverting the message, the translator tries to divert the message as close as possible to the target readers, namely young people and uses the right translation strategy so that the translation results can be understood by the readers. Likewise in ideology, translators use more domestication ideology which is oriented towards the target language.

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