

# Masculinity Unveiled: Exploring the Translation of Male Characters in the Twilight Saga Across Cultures

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**Abstract**—This study aims to identify the manifestations of masculinity portrayed by the main characters in the Twilight Saga novel series and to examine the appraisal system utilized to articulate masculinity and its subsequent translation. This research employed qualitative descriptive research. This research was oriented towards translation products. Data sources, including documents and informants, were selected through purposive sampling. The novels Twilight Saga Series, along with their translated versions, served as primary documents. Informants comprised experts in translation and linguistics. Linguistic and translation data form the basis of the research, encompassing shifts in translation and expressions of masculinity alongside evaluation schemes. Data analysis employed domain, taxonomy, component, and cultural theme analyses. The research findings revealed the presence of both invoked and inscribed expressions of masculinity. Five distinct types of masculinity emerge: sexual, intellectual, emotional, physical, and interpersonal. Graduation and attitude constitute the appraisal system for these expressions, with judgment being the most prevalent attitude type in Edward and Jacob's manifestations of masculinity. The research shows two shifts in masculinity type and appraisal systems. While both characters exhibit strong masculinity, the author provides more detailed descriptions of Edward's masculinity than Jacob's. Edward Cullen's masculinity is heavily influenced by his family background, particularly emphasizing physicality over other forms of masculinity. The study identifies data shifts, encompassing changes in masculinity type and appraisal system. Suggestions for future research include exploring translation methods and ideologies not addressed in this study and investigating prototype translation models for translating masculinity.

**Index Terms**—masculinity, appraisal system, translation, twilight

## I. INTRODUCTION

In daily life, conversations around the idea of masculinity frequently arise. Since everyone views what makes a man manly differently, there is a great deal of diversity in masculinity. Cultural, societal, and historical settings can all influence one's perspective on what it means to be a man. Traditional characteristics of masculinity include physical prowess, emotional fortitude, domination, and courage. Over time, society has developed expectations, norms, and ideals about what it means to be a man and how he should act to demonstrate his masculinity. These elements impact how society views and defines masculinity and what makes a man manly.

Masculinity, a multifaceted concept shaped by societal norms and cultural constructs, is a recurrent literary motif. Throughout literary history, authors have depicted masculinity in various forms, reflecting evolving societal perceptions and expectations. However, examining masculinity in popular contemporary literature, mainly through linguistic analysis, remains underexplored. Literature can be a medium to explore various cultural concepts of masculinity, and novels, in particular, often paint a nuanced picture of masculinity concerning other cultural conceptions. Authors often examine societal roles and personal identities through character, story, and conflict to highlight masculinity. As a result, readers can better comprehend the complexities surrounding the idea of masculinity in diverse cultural situations.

The Twilight Saga, penned by Stephenie Meyer, has captivated millions worldwide, transcending its status as mere young adult fiction to become a cultural phenomenon. Amidst its romantic narrative, the series subtly delves into

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complex themes, including the portrayal of masculinity. In the novel "Twilight Saga," the author links several elements to the concept of masculinity, even though the themes are fantasy romance and supernatural life. In this case, the author describes Edward and Jacob's masculinity through Bella Swan's perspective. Bella Swan, the central character in the story, expresses her views on masculinity by depicting her interactions with male characters in the story.

According to the novel, Edward and Jacob live in two worlds: Edward is a human vampire, while Jacob is a werewolf. Because they are both human, they have a male side, which leaves Bella unsure about her decision. In the books of the Twilight Saga, Edward is viewed as a man. Research by Lindén (2013), Azmi and Mustofa (2013), Merdeka (2013), Charlebois (2014), and Vogels (2017) claims that Edward is a male figure and supports this view. According to Rahma (2014), Jacob is viewed as a manly character. Due to their dual existence in two different worlds, Edward and Jacob's displays of masculinity throughout the book make for fascinating literature. It takes careful research to understand the masculinity of these two characters. Several prior studies suggest that the traditional masculinity idea proposed by Chafetz (1974) is a more appropriate framework for analyzing the masculinity of Edward and Jacob. The concept of masculinity exhibited by the two figures is based on Chafetz's idea of masculinity.

Expressions of attitudes can be considered the embodiment of Chafetz's definition of masculinity. Functional systemic linguistics, particularly appraisal, is a highly appropriate analytical tool for dissecting expressions and language that incorporate evaluation. Understanding the appraisal system in this context will help to understand how masculinity is created, including who made the statement that a character is manly, the attitude the character exhibits, and the strength of the attitude.

Readers of the English-language Twilight Saga book include people from several nations, including Indonesia. In this instance, translation is crucial in helping readers grasp the author's message. Cultural ideas about masculinity also need to be made clear. However, the translator faces a challenging task in rendering these ideas accurately. The translator must convey the meaning as precisely as possible without sacrificing any content.

The Twilight Saga novel presents the author's interpretation of masculinity. Therefore, when translating masculinity, the translator must also use the author's point of view and involve the author's understanding. Translators must be able to convey the subtleties and meanings of the original material. If not, the writer's and translator's disparate cultural upbringings may change how masculinity is perceived. It is crucial to embrace the richness of the words and go beyond their literal meaning when translating terms related to masculinity in the given cultural and social context. The translation outcomes will demonstrate how the translator understood and used the idea of masculinity in a particular cultural setting. Is it possible for the translation to preserve the masculinity concept in the original language?

Despite the widespread popularity of the Twilight Saga, scholarly investigations into its treatment of masculinity still need to be conducted. Existing studies have primarily focused on broader themes such as romance, feminism, and supernatural elements, overlooking the intricacies of gender representation within the series. By narrowing our focus to masculinity and employing linguistic appraisal systems, we aim to fill this research gap and contribute to a deeper understanding of gender dynamics in popular literature. By employing linguistic appraisal systems, we strive to decipher the underlying attitudes, emotions, and power dynamics that inform the representation of masculinity in the Twilight Saga. Through close textual analysis, we aim to illuminate how male characters navigate societal expectations, grapple with internal conflicts, and assert their identities in a world fraught with supernatural dangers and romantic entanglements.

This research combines translation studies with masculinity and appraisal theories. This translation research looks at the characterizations of Edward Cullen and Jacob Black from the perspective of masculinity and appraisal. Previous researchers have also conducted studies related to translation, masculinity, and appraisal, including Rodrigues and Barbara (2013), White (2016), Khrisna (2018), and Meng (2019). Rodrigues and Barbara (2013) investigated the representation of gay characters in the novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray" in the Brazilian language and its adaptation using an appraisal approach. They focused their investigation on the utterances delivered by the narrator, which were seen through verbal processes and evaluations from the narrator or the dialogue delivered by the characters in the novel.

In this research, the researcher aims to explore the representation of masculinity within the Twilight Saga novels through the lens of linguistic appraisal systems. Linguistic appraisal systems provide a powerful tool for dissecting the textual nuances of literary works, offering insights into the evaluative language and emotional undertones embedded within the narrative. By applying linguistic appraisal, the researcher seeks to uncover the subtle cues and linguistic markers that shape the portrayal of masculinity in the Twilight Saga. This study evaluates masculinity based on more than just the physical attributes of the male characters. Additionally, masculinity is evaluated from broader perspectives, such as how a character handles and resolves conflict. What is fascinating is that the author uses explicit (inscribed) and implicit (invoked) terms to highlight Edward and Jacob's masculinity. Researchers limit the research by using gender studies theory from Chafetz (1978) to classify the concept of masculinity areas. This research also examines the expressions of masculinity of the characters Edward and Jacob, which contain evaluative words. In assessing masculinity, the position of the assessor/reader is Bella.

## II. METHODOLOGY

This study investigates the use of masculine expressions by the characters Edward and Jacob in the Twilight Saga novels through qualitative descriptive research and multiple case analyses. It utilizes systemic functional linguistic

theory, specifically Appraisal, to interpret the masculine expressions found in translations. This research falls under the category of translation product research in translation studies. Translators have produced products by translating source languages into target languages, which are examined in this study. This research focuses on expressions of masculinity exhibited by Edward and Jacob. The primary data sources consist of words, phrases, and sentences demonstrating masculinity in the four Twilight Saga novels and their translations.

Data for this study were sourced from two main channels: documents and informants. The novels authored by Stephenie Meyer, namely "Eclipse," "Breaking Dawn," "New Moon," and "Twilight," featuring Edward and Jacob as primary characters, serve as the source documents. Additionally, raters, knowledgeable advisors, and specialists in translation and appraisals contributed as research informants. Purposive sampling was employed to select data sources for this study based on specific criteria. The selection of raters, translation specialists, and experts in systemic functional linguistics was crucial in purposive sampling. Data collection in this research utilized document analysis and focus group discussions. Two forms of triangulation were applied to ensure data accuracy: technique and data source triangulation.

The analysis began with a thorough examination of the textual content from the four novels authored by Stephenie Meyer: "Eclipse," "Breaking Dawn," "New Moon," and "Twilight." Through close reading and document analysis, words, phrases, and sentences that convey masculinity in the dialogue and actions of Edward and Jacob were identified and compiled for further scrutiny. Simultaneously, focus group discussions were conducted with knowledgeable advisors and specialists in translation and Appraisal to gather insights into the nuances of masculinity portrayed in the novels and translations. These discussions provided valuable qualitative data, enriching the analysis with diverse perspectives and interpretations. Once the data were collected, two forms of triangulation were employed to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings. Technique triangulation involved cross-referencing data collected through document analysis and focus group discussions to corroborate interpretations and identify discrepancies or inconsistencies. Data source triangulation, on the other hand, entailed comparing insights from different informants to validate the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the analysis.

Domain, taxonomy, componential, and cultural analyses were employed in this study's data analysis process. These analytical approaches were utilized to scrutinize and interpret the expressions of masculinity exhibited by Edward and Jacob in the Twilight Saga novels and their translations. Domain analysis examined the thematic domains related to masculinity, such as power, control, and emotional expression, within the textual corpus. Taxonomy analysis involved categorizing the identified expressions of masculinity into distinct linguistic and semantic categories, providing a structured framework for further analysis. Meanwhile, componential analysis delved into the underlying components and dimensions of masculinity represented in the text, exploring variations in intensity, agency, and emotional resonance. Cultural analysis contextualized the expressions of masculinity within broader socio-cultural frameworks, considering how they reflect and negotiate societal norms, values, and expectations.

This study employs these analytical approaches to offer a nuanced understanding of masculinity in the Twilight Saga novels and their translations. The findings will contribute to translation studies, literary analysis, and gender studies, shedding light on the portrayal of masculinity in popular literature and the complexities of linguistic and cultural representation. Additionally, the methodological rigour and interdisciplinary approach adopted in this study enhance the validity and reliability of the findings, ensuring that the analysis remains grounded in empirical evidence and theoretical frameworks.

### III. RESULTS

Researchers used Chafetz's (2006) theory to classify Edward Cullen's type of masculinity as expressed in evaluative language. Based on the results, five forms of masculinity represent Edward's character. The following table presents the findings related to Edward Cullen's masculinity in the Twilight Saga tetralogy novel.

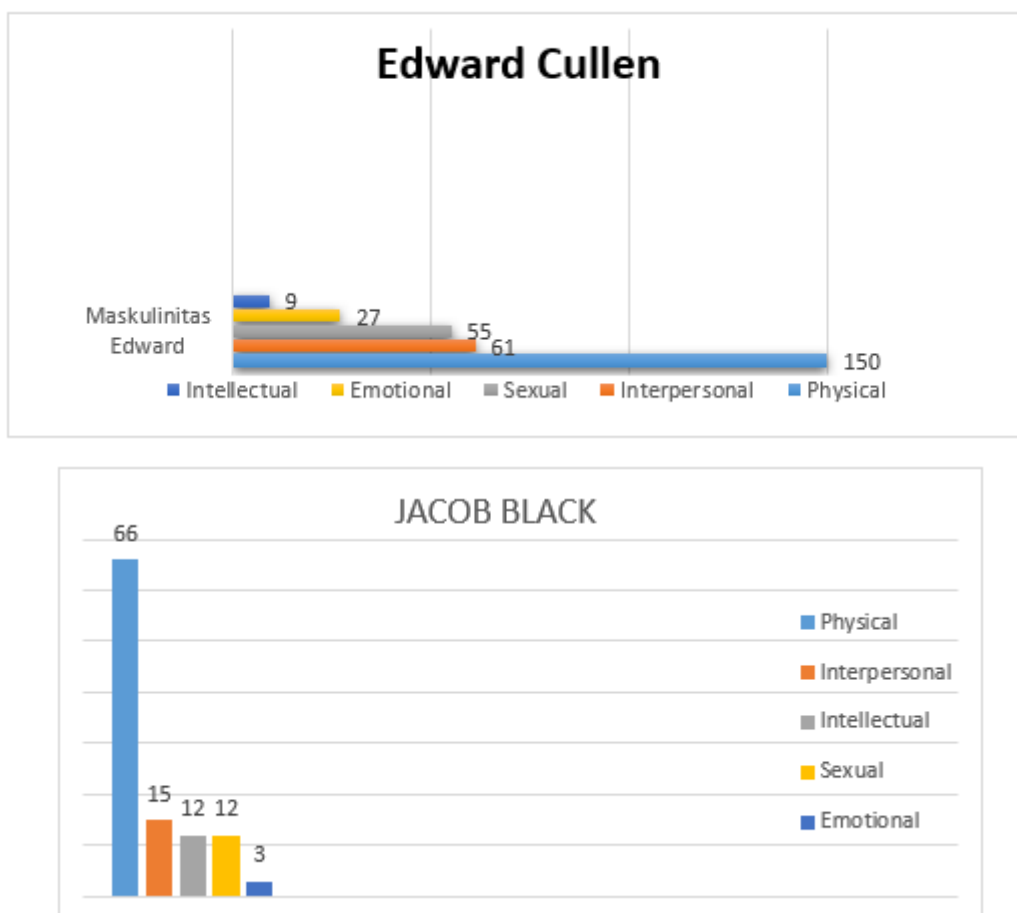


Figure 1. Edward Cullen's and Jacob Black's Masculinity

**The Types of Masculinity**

Figure 1 indicates that of the 150 data points (49.67% of the total data), the most prevalent kind of masculinity observed is physical. Next, in order of prevalence, are interpersonal (61 data points, 20.20%), sexual (55 data points, 18.21%), and emotional (27 data points, 8.94%). The least commonly observed masculinity type is from an intellectual standpoint. The researchers found only nine instances that demonstrated Edward's masculinity when analysed from an intellectual perspective. Comparatively, out of 108 data points, 66 (61.11%) indicated that Jacob Black's most prevalent masculinity was physical. Next came the categories of intellectual (12 data points), sexual (12 data points), and interpersonal (15 data points, 13.89%). Emotionally-driven data is the least commonly found, with researchers identifying only three instances (2.78%) demonstrating Jacob's masculinity.

**Appraisal System**

Edward and Jacob's masculinity was assessed using appraisal tools such as attitude and graduation. In analysing the data, researchers found that Edward and Jacob's masculinity was expressed directly (inscribed) and indirectly (invoked).

Based on the research results, each type of masculinity is assessed using different tools. Regarding attitude, researchers found that Edward and Jacob's masculinity was assessed through appreciation, judgment, and affect. The most dominant type of attitude used is appreciation, followed by judgment and affect. After analysing attitude, the researchers examined the strength of masculinity using the graduation tool. Researchers found both types of graduation when assessing the masculinity of the two figures. However, the numbers found needed to be balanced. The power of masculinity relies more on force than focus. The following is a more detailed explanation of the appraisal system that describes Edward and Jacob's masculinity.

Edward Cullen's realizations of masculinity are assessed through attitude in the form of judgment and appreciation. Researchers found that 132 instances of physical masculinity were realized using appreciation, and 18 were realized using judgment to assess Edward's physical masculinity. Meanwhile, masculinity is realized through judgment in 61 types of interpersonal cases. However, in the sexual type, masculinity is not realized through judgment or appreciation but through affect. In this research, 55 instances of masculinity with sexual types are realized using effect. On the other hand, in the emotional and intellectual types, masculinity is only realized through judgment.

Meanwhile, Jacob Black's realization of masculinity is expressed with an attitude of appreciation, judgment, and affect. Researchers found 61 instances categorized as physical masculinity, discovered through appreciation. In the judgment assessment, only five instances of physical masculinity were found. The interpersonal, intellectual, and

emotional types are only realized through judgment. Like Edward, masculinity is assessed using affect tools in the sexual aspect.

This research used the graduation tool to assess the strength of masculinity. The results of the analysis showed that force sources were used more often than focus. Researchers found that masculinity data expressed directly (inscribed) and indirectly (invoked) had different graduation tools. The forces used to increase or decrease the intensity of inscribed data include attitudinal lexis, intensifiers, sharpening, infusion, and metaphor. Meanwhile, isolation, infusion, repetition, and metaphor modes characterize the invoked masculinity data.

### **The quality of translation**

The main problem in translation is how to achieve equivalence between the source and target languages. Form and content cannot consistently be replicated simultaneously, even if they are fully compatible. Therefore, this causes an unavoidable shift in translation. Sometimes, translators make these shifts to produce good translation results. In this research, several translation techniques resulted in shifts, both in the form of masculinity and in the appraisal system. The techniques that cause shifts are discursive creation, reduction, modulation, explicitation, common equivalents, adaptation, and deletion. The translation techniques that result in a shift in the form of masculinity are deletion and discursive creation. Twenty-nine instances show shifts in both forms of masculinity and the appraisal system. Researchers found 18 instances of Edward's masculinity that had shifted. These shifts consist of 11 graduation shifts, one shift in attitude, four shifts in masculinity data and appraisal systems, and one shift in the degree of implicitness. Meanwhile, in Jacob's masculinity data, researchers found 11 instances that experienced shifts: 10 in graduation and 1 in both masculinity and the appraisal system. The following is a more detailed explanation regarding the shift in both forms of masculinity and the appraisal system.

#### **Example 001**

ST: "Despite his ridiculous size,"

TT: "*Meski ukuran tubuhnya sangat besar*".

The expression in Example 1 shows Jacob's masculinity in terms of his physical appearance. It can be seen from the phrase appraising his "ridiculous size." The attitude shown by the author is in the form of judgment: normality (+), and the same applies to the target language text. Moreover, masculinity is expressed in the gradation system constructed by force: attitudinal lexis (+) in the source language. The word "ridiculous" is categorized in attitudinal lexis. Translators use standard matching techniques to translate these appraising items. This causes differences in the gradation system between the target and source language texts. Attitudinal lexis changes to an intensifier. The word "Sangat" in the target language text is a form of intensifier that shows an increase in meaning.

#### **Example 002**

ST: His white shirt was sleeveless, and he wore it unbuttoned, so that the smooth white skin of his throat flowed uninterrupted over the marble contours of his chest, his perfect musculature no longer merely hinted at behind concealing clothes

TT: *Kaus putihnya tanpa lengan dan ia tidak mengancingkannya, sehingga kulit putihnya yang mulus terpapar dari leher hingga ke dada, otot-ototnya yang sempurna tak lagi tampak smar dari balik pakaian yang membalutnya.*

In the source text, Example 002 contains an appraising item that shows Edward's physical characteristics, especially his chest. This indicates Edward's masculinity, as seen from his physical appearance. However, the researcher did not find expressions indicating Edward's masculinity in the target language text. After analysis, the translator did not translate the expression, so reduction techniques were applied. Reduction techniques were used to translate "marble." This technique results in the loss of expressions for assessing masculinity and its appraisal system. As a result, there is a shift in the form of masculinity and its appraisal system in the target language text. Edward's masculine expression appears in the source language text but is not found in the target language.

## **IV. DISCUSSION**

The study revealed that Edward and Jacob's masculine attributes align with the traditional concept of male masculinity, as identified by Chafetz (2006). Their masculinity is observed across physical, interpersonal, sexual, emotional, and intellectual domains. However, the researchers did not identify traditional male characteristics from a functional perspective. Notably, the predominant form of masculinity portrayed in both characters is physical strength, as noted in Bedoya's (2011) research, which suggests that readers admire their robust masculine traits. Chafetz (2006) underscores the significance of physical appearance as a cornerstone of traditional male masculinity, a notion supported by the analysis indicating that Edward and Jacob share similar physical attributes described as intense, manly, athletic, and handsome. This finding echoes the observations of Little et al. (2011), who assert that women consistently evaluate masculinity based on facial features, physique, voice, and body odour. Overall, the research highlights the enduring perception of physique as a critical determinant of masculinity.

However, the author sometimes indirectly portrays Edward and Jacob's physical masculinity. Unlike explicit descriptions, where physical attributes are directly observed, the author implies their physical prowess through the characters' actions and demeanour. Consequently, this implied masculinity is often interpreted through judgment. Conversely, when physical traits are explicitly depicted, they are typically assessed positively. Additionally, the

depiction of Edward's masculinity is influenced by the author's choice of language. Clear descriptions utilise expressive language, such as intensifiers and modifiers, to underscore masculinity. Conversely, implicit portrayals rely on subtler literary devices like metaphor and repetition to convey masculinity.

Unlike physical masculinity, which can be evaluated with appreciation and judgment, the interpersonal, intellectual, and emotional facets of masculinity are primarily assessed through judgment. This distinction is attributed to the complexity of these aspects, which cannot be fully captured through direct observation alone. Instead, assessments of these dimensions of masculinity are intertwined with emotions and perceptions of Edward and Jacob's attitudes. Their interactions and behaviours play a significant role in shaping how their masculinity is perceived. Consequently, portraying masculinity in these domains tends to be more implicit. Connell's seminal work on masculinities provides insights into the multifaceted nature of masculinity, emphasising that it encompasses various dimensions beyond physical attributes. He argues that masculinity is socially constructed and involves not only physical strength but also social, emotional, and intellectual aspects. This research supports the assertion that masculinity's interpersonal, intellectual, and emotional facets are primarily assessed through judgment due to their complexity (2005). Anderson's research challenges traditional notions of masculinity by highlighting the diversity and fluidity of masculine identities. He argues that masculinity is not solely defined by physical prowess but also encompasses qualities such as empathy, emotional intelligence, and relational skills. This perspective aligns with the idea that portraying masculinity in interpersonal, emotional, and intellectual domains tends to be more implicit, as these aspects cannot be fully captured through direct observation alone (2009).

In the realm of sexuality, the author conveys emotions because sexual experiences involve feelings. The appraisal tool used to assess these feelings is affected. In this scenario, Bella and Edward develop a romantic connection, leading to mutual affection. Consequently, their romantic relationship influences Bella's perception of Edward's masculinity. Embracing emotions within the sexual context evokes feelings of happiness. Since sexuality is inherently complex and difficult to articulate, the portrayal of masculinity in this domain is depicted indirectly. Harris and Kolonko (2010) explore the relationship between gender and emotional expression, emphasising the role of societal norms and developmental factors. They argue that emotional expression, including feelings of happiness and affect, is intricately linked to gender identity and can influence perceptions of masculinity. The findings from this research provide theoretical support for the assertion that the portrayal of masculinity in the sexual aspect of the *Twilight Saga* novels involves affect and emotional engagement.

The translator's choices play a significant role in shaping the translated text. For instance, one decision involves replacing attitudinal lexis with intensifiers. Despite this alteration, the quality of the translation remains unaffected, mainly due to linguistic differences between languages. The suffix "er" emphasises corresponding words in English, whereas it lacks a direct equivalent in Indonesian. Consequently, Indonesian translations often rely on auxiliary words like "very" or "most" to convey emphasis. However, translating masculinity expressed through intensifiers into attitudinal lexis can potentially diminish its impact. This shift can manifest in changes in gradation, masculinity portrayal, and appraisal terms, ultimately affecting the level of implicitness in Edward and Jacob's expressions of masculinity. Chesterman (2018) discusses the impact of translation decisions on transmitting cultural ideas and concepts. In particular, he examines the role of linguistic factors and equivalence in shaping translation outcomes. This research provides insights into how shifts in linguistic forms, such as changes in attitudinal lexis and appraisal terms, can influence the portrayal of masculinity in translated texts, as observed in the analysis of the *Twilight Saga* novels.

Changes in the portrayal of masculinity and the appraisal of expressions can occur as translators strive to achieve equivalence of meaning in the target language, leading to alterations in form. The findings regarding shifts in the attitudes of expressions depicting Edward and Jacob's masculinity—regarding attitude, gradation, and implicitness—provide concrete linguistic evidence that inadequate or inappropriate translation techniques can adversely affect translation outcomes despite some data showing consistent quality. These shifts result in discrepancies in the assessment of masculinity expressions in target language texts. According to Landers (2005), translators must evoke emotional and psychological responses in the target language text that mirror those in the source language text. This study employs psychoanalytic theory to explore how individuals' identities, including masculinity, are constructed within discourse. It emphasises the role of emotions, perceptions, and relational dynamics in shaping subject positions. This research provides theoretical support for the notion that assessments of masculinity in the interpersonal, emotional, and intellectual domains are intertwined with emotions and perceptions, influencing how masculinity is perceived and portrayed (Frosh et al., 2002). Zhang (2014) comprehensively reviews translation equivalence theories, focusing on functionalist approaches. This research highlights the importance of achieving equivalence of meaning and function in translation, particularly in conveying cultural nuances and affective elements. Zhang's insights contribute to understanding how shifts in form, such as changes in appraisal terms and degree of implicitness, can impact the portrayal of masculinity in translated texts.

## V. CONCLUSION

Researchers identified five concepts of masculinity in this study: physical, interpersonal, sexual, intellectual, and emotional. The most dominant concept is Edward's physical appearance. Even though the masculinity of both characters

is equally strong, the author describes Edward's masculinity more than Jacob's. Edward Cullen's masculinity is greatly influenced by his family background, and this type of physicality is more common than other types of masculinity.

The five masculinities are assessed using an Appraisal system consisting of attitude and graduation. This research also identified another aspect: masculinity conveyed implicitly (invoked) and explicitly (inscribed). Researchers found data that had shifted. These shifts consist of a shift in the type of masculinity and a shift in appraisal (a shift in attitude, a shift in graduation, and a shift in the degree of implicitness).

The theoretical contribution of this study lies in its integration of masculinity studies with translation theory, offering a comprehensive framework for analysing how masculinity is constructed, portrayed, and transformed across cultures through translation. By identifying and analysing the types of masculinity and the appraisal system used in the Twilight Saga and its translations, this research contributes to the broader discourse on gender representation in literature and media. It challenges existing stereotypes and norms about masculinity, encouraging a more nuanced understanding of gender roles. Furthermore, the study's findings regarding the shifts in masculinity types and evaluations through translation contribute to translation studies by highlighting the impact of cultural and linguistic factors on gender portrayal. This research broadens the theoretical understanding of masculinity and translation and proposes a methodological approach for future studies in these fields, emphasising the importance of cultural sensitivity and awareness in translation practices.

This research can still be developed by involving aspects of translation methods and ideology that have not yet been addressed in this study. Researchers also suggest exploring prototype translation models for translating masculinity. Another notable research gap is the comparative analysis of masculinity portrayal across a broader range of cultures and languages, as this study is limited to the Twilight Saga and its translated versions. Expanding the scope to include more diverse literary works and translations could enrich our understanding of cultural differences in depicting masculinity.

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