

The Translational Procedure of English Poetry into Bahasa Indonesia

Usman Sidabutar, SS., M.Hum
Prof. Dr.Dra.Selviana Napitupulu, M.Hum

ABSTRACT

The objective of the study is to find out the types of translations are dominantly used by the student to translate the English Poetry and the differences existence of English version different from the contents of Indonesian version. The researcher wants to reveal the reasons why the translation problems exist in translating English Poetry into Indonesian and also to find out what way that the students will use to solve the translation problem in translating English Poetry into Indonesian. There are 4 % were found on the first poetry translated in Idiomatic translation. It means that the students didn't find the equivalence of the English poetry in Bahasa. The semantic translation occurs on the student translation with 27 % on first and the second English poetry and 26 % on the third English Poetry. Then, 28 % of the second English Poetry is translated by the second English Poetry translated in Bahasa Indonesia. The Student mostly translated in word for word translation since there still many students encounter linguistic problem and literal translation. There are 33% of the first English poetry which has been translated literally by the students as the dominant. It means that the students have already understood the equivalence of the English poetry context by concerning to symbolism and fiction.

Keywords : *Indonesian Poetry; English Poetry; Literal; Idiomatic; Semantics*

1. Background of the Study

Translation is the process of turning an original or source text into a target text which the purpose of translation is to produce a readable and comprehensible text for readerships. Newmark (1988: 5) states that translation is used as a means of communication. As a means of communication, translation is used for multilingual notices. For instance, translation is used for instructions issued by exporting companies; for tourist publicity; for official documents; for reports, papers, articles, textbooks to convey information. In brief, translation is used in every branch of knowledge.

Therefore, it is important for the students to master the translation particularly someone who are interested in working as a translator or interpreter. As a translator, someone has a responsibility to produce a good and comprehensible translation which could be understood well by the readerships. For producing a good or the best translation, there are three requirements which are required by a translator.

The first requirement is the use of the normal language forms of the target language in translation. The use of normal language forms in translation will make easier to readerships for understanding the translation. The second one is the communicative translation. A communicative translation is easy to understand by the readership due to the simple language used not monotone language. Then the last is the maintenance of the dynamic of the original of the Source Language text. It means that the translation is presented in such a way that the translation will evoke the same response as the source text attempted to evoke.

Although the three requirements have been fulfilled, there is a situation where a translator has a difficulty to translate a text, particularly a text which contains some cultural expressions. This difficulty will become a serious problem for a translator. Moreover, if the aspects of target language are immensely different from the aspects of source language such semantics, phonology, morphology, syntax and pragmatics.

The difference aspects from the source language to a target language cause frequently the translation differences. It is not rare that the translation differences cause the incomprehensible translations. The case occurs in translating cultural expressions from Indonesian as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia into English which has role as an international language. To translate the cultural expressions from Indonesian to English is not an easy work. Moreover, Indonesia is famous for its variety of ethnic groups which has many cultures. The cultures influence Indonesian people whether consciously or unconsciously and automatically also influence the process of cultural expressions translation from Indonesian into English.

One of Indonesian cultural expressions is Poetry. In Indonesia, Poetry are known as “pepatah” which are believed to contain the wisdom of the elders or ancestors in the society because Poetry often evolve from traditional lore, history and religion.

Ashipu (2007:521) views Poetry as a dominant means of communication in the unlettered culture and are quoted constantly when folks engage in a discourse. It means that Poetry are used as means of communication in a discourse by folks who have unlettered culture. Meanwhile, the folks consider that the use of Poetry is the best way to express the feeling or the desire such as quipping someone.

The students' failure in translating Indonesian Poetry into English can cause the failure to comprehend English culture.

Based on the background of the study, researcher conducts a research to find out the Problems Encountered in Translating Indonesian Poetry into English. The objectives of the study are to find out the types of translations are dominantly used by the students to translate the English Poetry and to find the differences existence of English version different from the contents of Indonesian version?

2. Review of The Literature

a. Translation of poetry

Poetry is one of the three literary kinds and it has its own specific features and genres. Poetry is defined as a "language sung, chanted, spoken, or written according to some pattern of recurrence that emphasizes the relationships between words on the basis of sound as well as sense; this pattern is almost always a rhythm or metre, which may be supplemented by rhyme or alliteration or both". (Baldick 2008: 262) This definition indicates one of the problems of translation of this literary kind.. The sound part can carry the main significance in poetry and the final result can be reached only by using the acoustic possibilities of speech, e.g. sound symbolism associating certain feelings. "Poetry is valued for combining pleasures of sound with freshness of ideas, whether these be solemn or comical." (Baldick 2008: 262) To keep at least part of this double freshness in the target language is for the translator crucial.

The number and sort of difficulties connected with translation depends on the sort of poetry. "The three major categories of poetry are narrative, dramatic and lyric, the last being the most extensive." (Baldick 2008: 198) In the narrative poetry translator should be concentrated on the plot of the story and he should also comprehend to the author's aims. The dramatic poetry is spoken by actors on the stage and due to it the special attention to the language style and other elements of the text is demanded.

b. Verse

The basic attribute of poetry is the bounded language. Speaking about poetry it is necessary to deal with term verse. “The term is usually more neutral than „poetry“, indicating that the technical requirements of rhythm and metre are present, while poetic merit may or may not be. It is almost always reserved for metrical compositions, the looser non-metrical category of free verse being a special case.” (Baldick 2008: 350)

Because the verses in English and in Indonesia are based on a similar principle of counting syllables, there were sometimes no problems with keeping the proportion of the original, e.g. in Morning has broken, especially when the number of syllable is large enough for the Indonesia language.

Morning has broken, like the first morning - 10 Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird - 9 Praise for the singing, praise for the morning- 10 Praise for them springing fresh from the world-9	Mentariku yang menyedihkan seperti disaat kemarin Begitu juga dengan suara burung tidak jauh dengan yang lalu Di kala pagi aku Hanya bias berdoa - Berdoa menantikan hidup yang lebih indah selama aku di dunia - 9
---	---

C. Procedures of Translation

Product-related strategies, as Jaaskelainen (2005:15) writes, involves the basic tasks of choosing the SL text and developing a method to translate it. However, she maintains that process-related strategies "are a set of (loosely formulated) rules or principles which a translator uses to reach the goals determined by the translating situation" (p.16). Moreover, Jaaskelainen (2005:16) divides this into two types, namely global strategies and local strategies: "global strategies refer to general principles and modes of action and local strategies refer to specific activities in relation to the translator's problem-solving and decision-making." Newmark (1988b) mentions the difference between translation methods and translation procedures. He writes that, "[w]hile translation methods relate to whole texts, translation procedures are used for

sentences and the smaller units of language" (p.81). He goes on to refer to the following methods of translation:

- a. *Word-for-word translation*: in which the SL word order is preserved and the words translated singly by their most common meanings, out of context.
- b. *Literal translation*: in which the SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents, but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context.
- c. *Faithful translation*: it attempts to produce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures.
- d. *Semantic translation*: which differs from 'faithful translation' only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value of the SL text.
- e. *Adaptation*: which is the freest form of translation, and is used mainly for plays (comedies) and poetry; the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture is converted to the TL culture and the text is rewritten.
- f. *Free translation*: it produces the TL text without the style, form, or content of the original.
- g. *Idiomatic translation*: it reproduces the 'message' of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original.
- h. *Communicative translation*: it attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership (1988b: 45-47).

d. Translation Problem

A problem is a matter or situation regarded as unwelcome or harmful and needing to be dealt with and overcome. A problem can be caused by different reasons.

Meanwhile, translation problem is generally the problem which encounters in translation field. In accordance with Barber (1964:73), some of translation problems arise from linguistics and cultural differences. As Indonesian and English which have different linguistics and cultural differences. The different linguistics between Indonesian and English can be seen in grammatical particles like articles, verbs tense,

case makers, singular and plural noun, etc. For instance, in English the word “dinner” is a single word, but the word “dinner” becomes two words.

Another problem would be the grammar, because there are several constructions of grammar poorly understood.

According to online translation journal (2000) in the article entitled translation problems:

“... problems of ambiguity, problems in the translation process, problems that originate from structural and lexical differences between languages and multiword units like idioms and collocations”.

(<http://accurapid.com/journal/izeduc.htm>. 12/10/2008)

The above source further argues that the words that are really hard to translate are frequently the small common words, whose precise meaning depends heavily on context.

Translation problems may be broadly categorized into two; linguistic and cultural. Linguistic problems involve structural variation among languages. For instance, the fact that Indonesian and English belong to different language family cause the two languages become structurally different. This may pose a serious problem to a translator.\

2.4 Indonesian Poetrays

Every culture has a collection of wise sayings that offer advice about how to live in life. These sayings are called Poetry. Poetry are also popularly defined as short expressions of popular wisdom.

According to Wolfgang (1993:25), a Poetry is a phrase, saying, sentence, statement, or expression of the folk which contains above all wisdom, truth, morals, experience, lessons, and advice concerning life and which has been handed down from generation to generation. Then, Dundes (1984: 48) defined a Poetry is a traditional saying that sums up a situation, passes judgment on a past matter or recommends a course of action for the future. Meanwhile, Moon (2009:110) considered Poetrays means of understanding a culture and also as a bridge for communication. Then, according to Honeck (1997:1) Poetryare said to be an intuitive aspect of adults“ mental

functioning. It means that how Poetry are used and understood is maintained to be less intuitive.

2.6 The Concept of Translation

Newmark (1988:47-48) categorizes the methods of translation into eight methods, as follows:

1. Word-for-word translation: in which the SL word order is preserved and the words translated singly by their most common meanings, out of context.
2. Literal translation: in which the SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents, but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context.
3. Faithful translation: it attempts to produce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures.
4. Semantic translation: which differs from 'faithful translation' only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value of the SL text.
5. Adaptation: which is the freest form of translation, and is used mainly for plays (comedies) and poetry; the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture is converted to the TL culture and the text is rewritten.
6. Free translation: it produces the TL text without the style, form, or content of the original.
7. Idiomatic translation: it reproduces the 'message' of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original.
8. Communicative translation: it attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership.

3. Research Design

Descriptive Qualitative analysis is used as the data analysis techniques in this study. Weber (1990) characterized the content analysis as “a set of procedures for collecting and organizing the information in a standardized format that allows analysts to make inferences about the characteristics and meaning of written and other recorded

material. Similar to Krippendorf (2003) who states that content analysis is a research technique for making replicable and valid inferences from the texts (or other meaningful matter) to the contexts of their use. As a technique, descriptive qualitative analysis involves specialized procedures

Meanwhile, according to Long (2004), a unit of analysis is the most basic element of a scientific research project. The unit of analysis is the subject (who or what) of study about which a researcher may generalize. In this study, the unit of analysis is problems encountered in translating English Poetry into Indonesian. Primary data which involves the result of translation Poetry from English into Indonesian which were done by the students; 2) secondary data which involves the result of the questionnaire about the Poetry which have done by the students. Furthermore, data source of this study is written text and questionnaire.

4. Data Analysis

This chapter is concerned with the analysis and findings. The analysis is done in order to answer three research questions and is reflected in the objectives of the research. The analysis is stressed on the students’ translation from English Poetry into Indonesian.

Table 4. 1. The Result of The Students’ Translation Procedure

No	Percentage of Translation Procedure			
	Types of Translation Procedure	Percentage		
		Poetry 1	Poetry 2	Poetry 3
a.	<i>Word-for-word translation</i>	19 %	28 %	24 %
b.	<i>Literal translation</i>	33 %	23 %	32 %
c.	<i>Faithful translation</i>	-	-	-
d.				

e.	<i>Semantic translation</i>	27 %	27 %	26 %
f.	<i>Adaptation</i>	15 %	8%	-
g.	<i>Free translation</i>	12 %	14 %	18 %
	<i>Idiomatic translation</i>	4 %	-	-
TOTAL		100 %	100 %	100 %

Based on the table 4.6, it can be seen that there are three English poetry encounter the translation procedure. So, there are 33% of the first English poetry which has been translated literally by the students as the dominant and 32 % of the second English Poetry were translated literally. It means that the students have already understood the equivalence of the English poetry context by concerning to symbolism and fiction. Then, 28 % of the second English Poetry were translated by the second English Poetry translated in bahasa Indonesia. The Student mostly translated in word for word translation since there still many students encounter linguistic problem and literal translation. Then, the semantic translation occurs on the student translation with 27 % on first and the second English poetry and 26 % on the third English Poetry. The student mostly understand and concern the words with the target meaning. The linguistic problem occurs when the students find the lexical problems. Meanwhile, 4 % were found on the first poetry translated in Idiomatic translation. It means that the students didn't find the equivalence of the English poetry in Bahasa.

5. Research Findings

Based on result of data analysis, the findings of this study are formulated as the following:

1. There are 33% of the first English poetry which has been translated literally by the students and 32 % of the second English Poetry were translated literally. It means that the students have already understood the equivalence of the English poetry context by concerning to symbolism and fiction. Then, 28 % of the second English Poetry were translated by the second English Poetry translated in bahasa Indonesia. The Student mostly translated in word for word translation since there still many students encounter linguistic problem and literal translation.

The semantic translation occur on the student translation with 27 % on first and the second English poetry and 26 % on the third English Poetry. The student mostly understand and concern the words with the target meaning.

2. The contents of English version are different from the contents of Indonesian version due to the linguistic problem occurs when the students find the lexical problems. Meanwhile, 4 % were found on the first poetry translated in Idiomatic translation. It means that the students didn't find the equivalence of the English poetry in Bahasa.

6. Discussion

Translation of Poetry refer to the difficulties or the obstacles that the translators encounter in translating a fiction story from a source language to a target language. In translation field, there are some problems that the translators face. Barber (1964:73) divides translation problem into two categories, linguistic differences and fiction differences. Linguistic differences refer to grammatical differences, lexical ambiguity and meaning ambiguity. Meanwhile, fiction differences refer to different situational features such as living environment, traditional customs, material cultures and religious beliefs.

The literal difference becomes the most dominant problems because the students could not find the equivalence of the Indonesian poetry in English so that the students preferred to translate the Indonesian poetry literally. Meanwhile, linguistic difference is also the problem which is encountered by the students. It is shown by the six Indonesian poetry which are translated inappropriately due to the wrong lexical word or meaning. The linguistic difference occurs when the students put the wrong lexical word or lexical meaning in translating Indonesian poetry into English.

REFERENCES

- Bell, Roger T. (1991). *Translation and Translating: Theory and Practice (Applied Linguistics and Language Study*. Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data: London.

- Bogdan, Robert & Biklen, Sari Knopp. (1982). *Qualitative research for education: An introduction to theory and methods*. Boston.
- Brislin, R.W. (1976). *Translation: Application and Research*. New York: Garden Press,
- Catford, J. (2004). *A Linguistic Theory of Translation: an Essay on Applied Linguistics*. Moscow: Editorial URSS; Russian.
- Grzybek, Peter. 1994. "Proverb." *Simple Forms: An Encyclopaedia of Simple Text-Types in Lore and Literature*. Ed. Walter Koch. Bochum: Brockmeyer.
- Gutt. (1991). *Translation and Relevance: Cognition and Context*. Oxford
- Larson, Mildred L. (1984). *Meaning-based translation: A guide to cross-language equivalence*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.
- Lincoln, YS. & Guba, EG. (1985). *Naturalistic Inquiry*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.
- Long, Karen J. (2004). *Unit of Analysis*. The SAGE Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods. Retrieved from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781412950589>
- Miles, M. B & Huberman, A. M. (1984). *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Sourcebook of New Methods*. California; SAGE publications Inc.
- Newmark, Peter. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. Prentice-Hall International
- Zakhir, Marouane Zakhir. (2008). *Translation Procedures*. University of Sultana Moulay Slimane, Morocco.