



Translation of Cultural Terms in Mirah of Banda Novel

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ABSTRACT

This research, entitled Translation of Cultural Terms in Mirah of Banda Novel, deals with the analysis analysis of the translation of cultural terms in the novel. The main objectives of the study were to answer the research problems under study; which is to identify categories of cultural terms which found in the novel, Mirah of Banda . The data were collected from Mirah dari Banda, as the SL; and Mirah of Banda, as the TL, by applying documentation method of close-reading and note-taking technique. Then, the data was classified into some groups according to their categories and displayed in table. The data was descriptively analyzed based on theories from Newmark to find out the answer of the research problems. The result of the data analysis shows that there were six categories of cultural words in Mirah of Banda Novel namely (1) ecology (2) material culture, (3) social culture, (4) custom, concept, (5) gestures and habits and (6) Indonesian metaphor and Indonesian metaphor was the new categories found besides the prior categories which is proposed by Newmark. In detail, it is dominated of ecology in 33.75% (27 data), material culture 25.00% (20 data), social culture 23.75% (19 data), custom 6, 25% (5 data), concept 6. 25% (5 data), gestures and habits 1. 25 % (1 datum), and Indonesian Metaphor 3.75% (3 data) and The cultural words in Mirah of Banda Novel were translated by applying ten strategies, namely: transference (12%), cultural equivalent (2,5%), functional equivalent (10%), descriptive equivalent (2,5%), synonymy (20%), through translation (22,5%), modulation (6, 25%), compensation (5%), couplet (1, 25%), as a new strategy, trope change (3,75%)

Keywords: Translation, Cultural Terms, Mirah of Banda Novel, Concept

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INTRODUCTION

Translation is one of the ways of cross-cultural communication which is language as the object. McGuire (1980) states that translation may be perceived as a means as well in terms of transferring message in a language (source language) into that of another language (target language). Language and culture are two inseparable phenomena that underline any act of translation. Catford (1965) defines language as type of pattern human behavior that is way in which human being interact each other in social situation. Moreover, Lotman states that (1978) no language can exist unless it is steeped in the context of culture; and no culture can exist which does not have at its center, the structure of natural language. Culture is a challenge for a translator in translating a text. A translator should have profound knowledge of cultures in both languages in order to convey the message from the source language (SL) and translate it to the target language (TL). Moreover, a translator must also be able to find an appropriate equivalent to the message or information contained in the source language.

A translator as the mediator and client or reader of TL (Nababan: 2004). Actually, the success of translation depends on the translator's effort to reach accuracy, clarity and naturalness. , a translators will be faced by, at least, two different languages and culture so that, they have to be bilingual-competent and *biculturally competent* as well. Again, this is intended to gain the understanding in communication, for translation is a communication act. However, the absence of the equivalent cultural words in SL (Source language) is still the biggest problem for a translator in translating process. Especially in translating literary works. In translating the literary works such as novel, poems, prose, play, short stories it is needed slightly different way to translate it since they are different from non-literary works. Hodges said that literary translation which not only need changing words from a language to another but also need particular manners to express the text in target language as sense which is contained by source language text.

Thus, a translator should have background knowledge about the culture so the message of the text of story can be conveyed well to foreign readers. In order the message can be transferred

well a translation have to consist of closest natural equivalent. Nida and Taber (1969). In line with Nida's concept, Newmark(1988) categorizes cultural words into some categories namely (1) Ecology: flora, fauna, winds, plains,hills: 'tundra','plateau,' selva (tropical rain forest), savanna; (2) Material culture (artefact): food, clothes, houses and towns, transport; (3) Social culture: Workand Leisure (4) Organizations, Customs, activities, concept; (5) Gestures and habits. Related to Material culture (food) *Pecal* is a common term for Indonesian people but it will lead a translator into a problem when she or he could not find any closest equivalent in other language such English for word *pecal* because the difference of the culture. The term of *ngunduh mantu* for example, has no English equivalent and this concept is unknown in the English-speaking culture. Culture has a very broad understanding and involves all aspects of human life that is influenced by social aspects. (Hornby, 1995:39). Newmark (1988: 94) "*culture is defined as the way of life and its manifestations, which are unique to a society that uses a particular language as a means of expressions*"

In *Mirah of Banda* novel there are many terms or words that are closely related to Indonesia culture especially Maluku as one of a province in Indonesia. In this novel is told about the culture of Maluku and its natural wealth exploited by foreign invaders and the story of the second world war. The information or message contained in this novel is closely related with phrases or cultural terms. Translating a novel is not as easy as translating plain text. In novel translation is closely related to the cultural terms held by other communities. Therefore, the translator must have a good cultural understanding of source language so he or she can diverting the message from source language into the target language in the novel and also finding the closest equivalent word in target language.

Associated explanation above this current research is conducted to meet the objective of identifying categories of cultural terms in *Mirah of Banda* Novel.

Translation

Munday (2001) states that *as changing of an original written text in the original verbal language into a written text in a different verbal language. Translation is the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL).* Catford (1969).

In translating activities, theory of language and general linguistics is always being used. It will be helpful in the translating process so it can produce good translation. Newmark (1988) said that “*Translation is a craft consisting in attempt to replace a written message and or statement in another language.*”⁷ This statement warns us to understand deeply about translation before translating. When doing translation activities, reproducing.

The message in the text is important. Another explains more detail, “*The process of translation between two different written languages involves the translator changing an original written text (the source text or ST) in the original verbal language (the source language or SL) into a written text (the target text or TT) in a different verbal language (the target language or TL)*” Munday (2001) States translation activities involve two aspects, first is written translation and message in the text.

Translation and Culture

A translator is a cultural mediator, who may move from the source culture to the target culture, choosing as much as he/she thinks appropriate to serve the aim of the translation. . One basic purpose why we translate from language A into language B is to enrich linguistically and culturally language B. In this case the translator aims at preserving as much as possible the source culture. He/she translates the content and the style of the source text and introduces these into the target text. When translators do their job, they will be faced not only by two different languages, but also by two different cultural senses within.

Therefore, the relation between translation and culture should become consideration for the translators to render what is in the ST to the TT carefully; particularly to the cultural text such as literary works; poems, films, plays, prose, novels, lyrics, etc. The message which the target readers of the TT get or feel from it, should be the same way with the reader of the original work acquired. Thus, the translated text readers will understand what the author intended, then the text itself is readable or Understandable.

When translating, the thing that must be concerned is the message from source language into target language. Now, when meeting the word that have not relevant meaning with target language, what should be done. This problem will be encountered by translator and it is called Untranslatability. Catford (1965) said that “*Translation fails-or untranslatability occurs- when it*

is impossible to build functionally relevant features of the situation into the contextual meaning of the TL text.”. Catford (1965) points out every language has their pattern and different culture. Translator has hard duty to convey the message of the text. In this case, translator does not need to transfer into new language because it can decrease the concept of that word.

The Diversity of culture, the way of life, territorial, and environment also affect some people speaking, and language. Different place, different language, culture and the way of life. It makes a gap of among language. As translator, this problem has to be solved by giving additional information of text like endnote, footnote, body note and bracket in getting the equivalence expression. Adapting Newmark (1988), the category of cultural words classified as follows.

1) Ecology

Ecology is defined as the study of relations of living things to their environment or surroundings.

(2) Material Culture

Material culture is the history and philosophy of objects and the myriad relationship between people and things. Every culture has its own characteristic and it is expressed in its materials. The materials involved in some categories. They are food, clothes, houses and towns, transportations, etc.

3) Social culture

Considering about social culture it relates to work, leisure, the names of music, games, dance or so on. The activities done is various depends on their place. This happens because every place has its own culture. Organizations, customs, activities, procedure, concepts, etc. The political and social life of a country is reflected in its institutional terms Newmark, (1988) Organizations, customs, activities, procedures, concepts, relate to the things above which exist in certain culture. The concepts relate to things above which exist in certain culture. The concepts may include political and administrative, religious, artistic, etc.

a) Political and administrative

Political and social life of a country is reflected in its institutional terms. For instance, the title of a head of state” president, prime minister, King” is transparent made up of international or easily translated by through- translation. Meanwhile the name of parliament is not readily translatable such as *storting* (Norway); *riksdag* (Sweden);

eduskunta(Finland); *Knesset*(Israel); and so on. Name or ministries are usually literally translated but “ finance ministry’ is translated into “treasury”.

b) International terms

International institutional terms usually have recognized translation which are in fact through translation, are now generally known by their acronyms such as WHO (World Health Organization), ILO(International Labor Organization), etc.

c) Religious terms

In religious language, the proselytizing activities of Christianity, particularly the catholic Church and the Baptist, are reflected in manifold translation(*saint siege, papsilicker stuhl*).

d) Artistic terms

The translation of artistic terms referring to movements, processes and organizations generally depends on the putative knowledge of the readership. Names of buildings, museums, theatres, opera houses, are likely to be translated, since they form part of street plans and addresses.

5) Gesture and habit

For gesture and habits, there is a distinction between description and function which can be made where necessary in ambiguous cases.

METHODOLOGY

This research employed by using qualitative research, Bogdan and Biklen (1992) explain that qualitative research is descriptive which means what is going on and what data shows. Qualitative means to find out how a theory works in different phenomena whose data collected are in the form of word rather than numbers. Furthermore, this research was descriptive explanative, it means that it explains what were cultural untranslatability words found in *Mirah dari Banda* novel translated by Toni Pollard and what methods used the translator in translating the novel. Descriptive is the collection of the data to give explanation or description about the even or accuracy of the report (Moleong, 2006).

The data used in this study are words. Miles and Huberman (1984) states the data concerned appear in words and phrase rather than in numbers. In consideration of cultural terms, this research will analyze an Indonesian novel entitled *Mirah dari Banda* “ in original

version that was published in 1983 and the English version entitled *Mirah of Banda* translated by Toni Pollard was published in 1986. The novel used as the main source in this research. The novel was divided into seventeen chapters. And the seventeen chapters that made up *Mirah of Banda's* story.

The data of this study collected by applying documentary technique suggested by Bogdan and Biklen (1992) in which only the data that support the research questions taken. The instrument for collecting the data. The data of this research collected by using documentary technique as following steps :Reading The first step is the researcher read some text of literatures about cultural words as the references. The researcher also read the *Mirah of Banda* novel to find cultural terms that are discussed in this research as the data. The next step of data collection is identifying the data and making an inventory of the classified data. The inventory of the classified data is the cultural terms find in the novel. The next step is Classifying. All data classified into their category or classification based on Newmark theory The researcher classified the data and then classified them into each type. The last step of collecting the data is displaying. Displaying is an activity to display the data which are collected by the researcher. The collected data are ready to analyzed.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data analysis was conducted through three steps. These steps are adopted from theory developed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2004) namely data reduction, data display and colclusion drawing.

Table I. Types of Cultural Words in *Mirah dari Banda*

Categories	Data	Percentages (%)
1. Ecology	27	33.75
2. Material culture	20	25.00
3. Social culture	19	23.75
4. a. Organization	-	-
b. Customs	5	6.25
c. Activities	-	-
d. Procedures	-	-
e. Concept	5	6.25

5. Gestures and habits	1	1.25
6. Indonesian metaphor	3	3.75
Total	80	100

Table 4.1 have seen that there were five categories cultural words found in *Mirah of Banda* novel they are ecology,material culture,social culture, organization, customs, concept,gesture and habits. As a new type of culture specific item, Indonesian metaphor was found.

DISCUSSION

Culture is an complex concept. It embraces almost everything in the world. However, how complex it is, culture is roughly categorized into mental culture and material culture. Metal culture does not include any physical objects or artifacts. It refers to people mentality and behaviors, thought patterns, beliefs, conception of value, aesthetic tastes may help shape society. In contrast, material culture refers to all the physical objects that human make. These objects inevitably reflect the historical, geographic, and social conditions of the origin.This study is limited to material culture in order to know physical aspect of a culture which determine the people's perception.

Based on the research finding, there is another type of cultural words our of Newmark's theory (1988) found in *Mirah of Banda Novel*, that is Indonesian metaphor. Metaphor is a type of cultural item that describes one thing in terms of another or is not meant to be understood or applied literally.

This type was found because the writer's backgrounds are Indonesian. Indonesian is culturally rich with figure of speech such as metaphor. Therefore, this study has new type of cultural words. The comparison between the previous theory and the research finding are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Types of Cultural Words

Newmark (1988)	The research Finding
1. Ecology	√
2. Material Culture	√
3. Social Culture	√
4. a.Organization	-
b. Customs	√

c. Activities	-
d. Procedure	-
e. Concept	√
5. Gestures and Habits	√
6.	Indonesian metaphor

In addition, with ecology as the dominant type of cultural words, it indicates that this novel is different from other novel because novel is usually dominated with type of social culture.

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the data, it can be concluded that there were six types of cultural words in *Mirah of Banda Novel* namely (1) ecology (2) material culture, (3) social culture, (4) custom , concept, (5) gestures and habits and (6) Indonesian metaphor. It was found Ecology (33.75%), Material culture (25%) social culture (23.75 %), Custom (6.25 %),concept (6.25 %), Gestures and habits (1.25%), Indonesian metaphor (3.75) Ecology and social culture were the dominant types found in *Mirah of Banda Novel*.

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