

The Use of Translation Technique in Translating the Lyrics of Owl City's *Fireflies* Song from English to Indonesian

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the translation techniques applied in translating the lyrics of Owl City's *Fireflies* song from English into Indonesian by a blogspot user. The source of data of this research is the lyrics of Owl City's *Fireflies* song, and method applied is qualitative descriptive approach. The results of this study in the first form are word translation techniques that have given rise to 24 data in lyrics or equivalent to 11.52% of the overall data observed. Second, the amplification technique that has been found is 9 data in lyrics or equivalent to 4.32% in the overall existing data. The third is the transposition technique where it is found as much as 1 per whole data or equivalent to 0.48%. The fourth is a reduction technique that provides data as much as 6 with a percentage of 3.84%. Finally, it is a common technique that provides data of 8 with a percentage of 2.88%. Meanwhile, the total of all data that has been analyzed is 48 or equivalent to 23.04% of the lyrics of the song Owl City's *Fireflies*.

Keywords: *descriptive, lyrics, qualitative, song, translation technique*

Introduction

Translation is the process of moving from one language to another. The translation is an attempt to change the message in the source language or English using a message or statement that is commensurate with the target language or Indonesian. The translation is the act of converting the textual material of the source language into textual material in the target language. Translation also means an attempt to reshape the message as naturally as possible. One of them is with song lyrics, in song lyrics a person can pour out the content of his feelings, and give ideas of the thoughts to be conveyed as well as the words he wants concretely, so song lyrics become one of the ways for a musician to create his work. Currently, many song lyrics have been translated into foreign languages, including English into Indonesian translation (Nasution, 2016).

Moreover, from the beginning, English songs were translated a lot into Indonesian because there were so many fans. Through the occurrence of this phenomenon, it is necessary to have a process of translating songs. By translating the song, connoisseurs of foreign language songs can easily understand the meaning contained in the song. Translating a song's lyrics and finding its equivalent in the target language is not easy. Good translation skills cannot be separated from the translator's skills to divert meaning and aesthetic elements. One of the problems faced in translation is the existence of cultural differences between the source language and the target language, for example, differences in mindset and feelings, or material cultural differences. The most difficult translation is the translation

of a literary work and the translation of one's opinion because the meaning of one word is as important as the meaning of the whole sentence (Zaki et al., 2019).

The translation method is a plan or systematic way to translate so that it can adjust the text in the target language. A translator is required to have the clearest possible method of translating the lyrics of the target language so that there is no misunderstanding of meaning. For example, when translating text for children, a translator has planned words that are easy for children to understand or can eliminate difficult words that the child's vocabulary does not understand, and may cause difficulties for the reader of the text. So that way the translation method is very important to do a good translation to facilitate and achieve the desired goals.

Translation technique is a procedure in translating, if the technique can determine the form and structure in linguistic units then it can help solve errors in the target language problem to choose the most appropriate equivalent or evaluate the use of translation techniques in the form of words, clauses, phrases, and sentences in translation (Andriyane et al., 2016).

In this case, the song sung by Owl City called *Fireflies* can be translated into Indonesian from the original language by blogspot user. In addition to being easier to understand, it will get various meanings. Therefore, the author will write this study which certainly refers to previous studies written by Virdaus (2019). The results of the study are in the form of metaphors contained in the lyrics of this song there are 3 types, namely structural metaphors, orientational metaphors, and ontological metaphors. The song Owl City called *Fireflies*, hints at many meanings. The song gives an idea of how much He (the author) should appreciate the little things and should also value time. Because this cannot be repeated. He hopes to be able to do everything he likes without wasting time. Fireflies which are described as an idea or inspiration become the dominant thing in the message of the song. Another meaning implied in the lyrics is that the Author wants things to be eternal (as he wishes) and if that is not realized he will be sad. That's the ego side of the text (Virdaus, 2021).

Apart from that, there is research from Agy and Anggraeni (2019). The result is that the translation of the songs *Of Extraordinary Love*, *Perfection of Love*, and *From the Eyes* does not apply all existing translation techniques, the translation techniques applied by translators are dominated by a single technique that focuses on literal techniques. Based on the analysis of translation techniques, 5 translation methods were found, namely literal, communicative, adaptation, free, and idiomatic methods. It can be concluded that translation methods tend to be oriented toward the target language. Of the 40 data obtained from this study, there were 28 data with accurate translation (70%), 7 data translated less accurately (17.5%), and 5 data with inaccurate translation (12.5%). When calculated, the average overall accuracy value is 2.53%. The value indicates that the translation of the lyrics of Indonesian songs into Chinese has a fairly accurate accuracy. (Agy & Anggraeni, 2019).

Method

The researcher used a literature study that used descriptive analysis with a qualitative approach. Because this research is a theoretical study which means it is not in the form of numbers, the data collection in this study is from references to journals, the internet,

YouTube, books, notes, and other scientific studies that are also related to translation methods and techniques (Rosdiana & Natalia, 2022).

Methods and techniques are divided into three, namely, data collection methods and techniques, data analysis methods and techniques, and methods and techniques for presenting data analysis results. At the data collection stage using the listening method and tapping techniques. After the data is collected, it is then analyzed by the high method, which is a method whose determining tool is precisely part of the language itself, and the technique used is a technique for direct elements. Data analysis using the theory of Molina and Albir's Translation Techniques. Molina and Albir's theory of Translation Techniques are used to find out the translation methods and techniques applied in translating the lyrics of Owl City's Fireflies song from English to Indonesian. The results of the analysis are presented using both informal and formal methods. The informal method of presentation is the formulation in ordinary words, albeit with the terminology of a technical nature; While formal panyajian is a formulation with signs and symbols.

Results and Discussion

Exposure to translation techniques is carried out first before identifying the translation method used. The underlying reason is that translation methods that are at the macro level or are at the next level will be known only if the translation techniques that are at the micro level or are at the level of lingual units have been identified first (Wang et al., 2019).

Literal Translation

The literal technique of translating verbatim although there is also the omission of words in SL into TL, word-for-word translation is very prominent. Word-for-word translation is a type of translation that is still fundamentally tied to the wording level. (Wikandayani, 2022). In other words, verbatim translation is a type of translation that simply transfers directly the text content of the source language into the target language verbatim without changing the wording of the source language into the target language. The results of translation using this method usually feel stiff, and often difficult to understand the intention. Therefore, this translation can only be applied properly when there is a structural similarity between the source language and the target language. If there is no structural similarity between the source language and the target language, the translation results using this method will not be satisfactory. A translator who still tends to translate verbatim shows that he does not yet have enough ability. He has not mastered the source language and is not yet experienced (Molina & Albir, 2002) As in the following data (1) & (6):

SL	:	You-would-not-believe-your-eyes-if-ten-million-fireflies Kamu-akan-tidak-percaya-kamu-mata-jika-sepuluh-juta-kunang-kunang
TL	:	Kau takkan percaya matamu jika sepuluh juta kunang-kunang
SL	:	That-planet-earth-turns-slowly Bahwa-planet-bumi-memutar-perlahan
TL	:	Bahwa planet bumi berputar perlahan

In the example data (1) & (6), there is no visible shift in meaning or difference in expression in SL and TL. The meaning contained in each translation of the word such

explains. Although in the end, it becomes a combination of two words into one, namely *tidak akan* to *takkan* and *memutar* to *berputar*. It doesn't change anything basically in the lyrics because to sing would-not is more appropriate in tone than wouldn't. It even applies also to you being you on TL Meanwhile in this phenomenon there is neither an influence for SL nor an influence of meaning for TL. This technique also used in data (8), (12), (13), (20), (21), (22), (23), (26), (27), (30), (32), (33), (34), (39), (40), (41), (42), (43), (44), (45), (46), (47). In addition, TL's efforts can adjust the rhythm of the original song.

Yo-u-wo-ul-d-no-t-bel-ie-ve-yo-u-r-e-ye-s-if-ten-mil-lion-fir-e-fli-es
Ka-u-tak-kan-per-ca-ya-ma-ta-mu-ji-ka-s'-pu-lu-h-ju-t-a-ku-na-ng-ku-nang
Tha-t-pla-ne-t-ear-th-tur-n-s-slo-w-ly
Bah-wa-pla-ne-t-bu-mi-be-r-pu-ta-r-pe-r-la-han

In addition to literal translation and word combination, the word '*sepuluh*' is pronounced /s'puluh/ to match the rhythm of the original song.

Amplification Techniques

Amplification Technique is a translation technique by explicitly or paraphrasing a piece of information that is implicit in SL. In other words, adding information that is not listed in TL. (Adriyansyah & Mulya, 2022) The amplification technique is a translation that adds details of the information that is not contained in the text of the source language. The addition in this technique is only information that is used to aid the delivery of the message or the reader's understanding. This addition should not change messages that are in the source language text. This translation technique is the same as explicit, addition, and exclusive paraphrasing. The footnotes are part of the amplification (Molina & Albir, 2002) As in data (2) & (7) below:

SL	:	'Cause-they'd-fill-the-open-air-and-leave-teardrops-everywhere karena-mereka-itu-penuh-sebuah-terbuka-udara-dan-tinggal-tetesan air mata- dimana-mana
TL	:	Karna kunang-kunang penuhi angkasa dan tinggalkan tetes air mata di mana-mana
SL	:	You'd-think-me-rude Kamu-mungkin-berpikir-aku-tidak sopan
TL	:	Kamu mungkin mengira aku tidak sopan

In example data (2) & (7), it can be seen that there is a change in information by changing the expression *udara terbuka* on TL to *angkasa* on SL. Similarly, *penuhi* is supposed to be *penuh*, and changing the expression *berpikir* to *mengira* on TL. This technique also used in data (9), (10), (11), (15), (18), (24), (28) This change is also one of the attempts to adjust the TL to the rhythm of the original song.

'Ca-u-se-th-e-y-'d-fi-ll-t-he-o-pe-n-a-ir-an-d-le-a-ve-te-ar-dro-ps-ev-er-y-wh-e-re
Kar-na-ku-na-ng-ku-na-ng-**pe-nu-hi-ang-ka-sa**-da-n-ti-ng-ga-lk-an-te-te-san-air-ma-ta-dima-na-ma-na
Y-o-u-'d-thi-n-k-me-ru-d-e
Ka-mu-mu-ng-ki-n-**me-ngi-ra**-a-ku-ti-da-k-so-pa-n

Transposition Techniques

The transposition translation technique is a technique by which the translator changes the grammatical category of the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). For example, converting the target text word into a phrase from the difference between the

source grammar and the target grammar. Shifting or transposition is a translation technique by changing grammatical categories; for example, converting clauses to phrases and verbs to nouns. (Molina & Albir, 2002) The transposition technique is also called the shifting technique. In contrast to transposition techniques that change their grammatical categories, modulation techniques are translation techniques that change the point of view, focus, or cognitive category related to the source text. (Christy, 2016) As in data (3) below:

SL	:	But-I-would-just-stand-and-stare Tapi-aku-akan-hanya-berdiri-dan-menatap
TL	:	Tapi aku hanya diam dan menatap

The structure described in your SL in data (3) is I, and the structure it describes is would just stand and stare. While the sentence in TL has an explained-explaining element. The structure described in the TL is aku and the structure that describes it is *hanya diam dan menatap*. So that this difference in structure is the cause of the use of transposition translation techniques in data 3, which also causes structural differences between two languages, namely those involved in translation so the technique of use in this translation is structural category transposition.

Bu-t-l-wo-uld-ju-st-sta-nd-a-nd-st-are
Ta-pi-ak-u-ha-nya-di-am-dan-me-na-tap

Reduction Techniques

A reduction technique is a translation technique that does not translate the source text to the target text. This is the omission or reduction in translating a word or term. (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020) Use of this technique is quite effective to use because the absorption of information in the target language for the content of the message conveyed looks accurate so that it appears clear and has a high level of readability. Reduction is a reduction or removal technique with the aim of condensing information from SL to TL. This technique is similar to omission or deletion or subtraction) or implication. In other words, the explicit information in the SL text is made implicit in the TL text (Molina & Albir, 2002) As in data (4) & (14) below:

SL	:	It's-hard-to-say-that-I'd-rather-stay-awake Itu-sulit-untuk-dikatakan-bahwa-aku-akan-memilih-tinggal-bangun
TL	:	Sulit dikatakan bahwa aku memilih bangun
SL	:	'Cause-I'd-get-a-thousand-hugs Karena-aku- akan-mendapat-sebuah -seribu-pelukan
TL	:	Karena aku mendapat seribu pelukan

In data (4) & (14) this translation can be seen in SL *It's hard to say that I'd rather stay to sulit dikatakan bahwa aku memilih bangun* and *'Cause I'd get a thousand-hugs to karena aku mendapat seribu pelukan*, the translation TL does not add the word *itu, untuk, akan, tinggal, and sebuah* because the word is only a particle language unit that connects the sentence in front of the word. This technique also used in data (16), (25), (29), (31). In addition, some words have been changed such as *rather stay to memilih*.

It-'s-ha-rd-to-sa-y-th-at-l'-d-ra-the-rs-ta-y-a-wa-ke
Su-li-t-di-ka-ta-kan-ba-h-wa-a-ku-me-mi-li-h-ba-ngu-n
'Ca-u-se-l'-d-ge-t-a-tho-u-sa-n-d-hu-g-s
Ka-re-na-a-ku-me-n-da-pa-t-se-ri-bu-pe-lu-ka-n

Prevalent Matching Techniques

The usual equivalent technique is familiar to the reader's eye. That understanding is that the matching technique commonly uses familiar or familiar words or terms that we often hear, the use of this technique uses colloquial language so that it makes it easier for the target reader to better understand the meaning of the message conveyed. Common alignment is a technique for using a term or expression that is prevalent/recognized in the dictionary of the target language as equivalent to the text of the source language. (Molina & Albir, 2002) As in data (5) & (48) below:

SL	:	'Cause-everything-is-never-as-it-seems Karena-segalanya-adalah-tidak pernah-seperti-itu-terlihat
TL	:	Karna semuanya tak pernah seperti yang terlihat
SL	:	I'd like to make myself believe Aku-ingin-untuk-membuat-diriku-percaya
TL	:	Ku -ingin- tuk - buat -diriku-percaya

Based on data (5) & (48), it can be seen that there is an equation in the meaning of the expression contained in SL and TL. It can be seen that the word *because* has been shortened the word to *cause* in SL also the word *tidak pernah* becomes *tak pernah*, *aku* becomes *ku*, *untuk* becomes *tuk*, and *membuat* becomes *buat* in TL because it adjusts in the rhythm of the original song and the translation sounds more commonly used in SL and TL when viewed at the meaning of the sentence to be conveyed. So this translation technique seeks the meaning of the message content by giving a more familiar impression of everyday use in the target language. This technique also used in data (17), (19), (35), (36), (37), (38)

'Cau-se-ev-ery-thi-ng-is-ne-ver-as-it-se-e-ms
Kar-na-se-mua-nya-**tak**-per-nah-sper-ti-yang-ter-li-hat

The following is a classification of the translation techniques used by the authors in this study:

No	Translation Technique	Sum	Percentage
1	Literal Translation	24	11,52%
2	Amplification Techniques	9	4,32%
3	Transposition Techniques	1	0,48%
4	Reduction Techniques	6	2,88%
5	Prevalent Matching Techniques	8	3,84%
Total data studied		48	23,04%

From this, it can be known the amount of use of translation techniques in the form of numbers. The first is a word translation technique that has given rise to 24 data in lyrics or equivalent to 11.52% of the overall observed data. Second, the amplification technique that has been found is 9 data in lyrics or equivalent to 4.32% in the overall existing data. The third

is the transposition technique where it is found as much as 1 per whole data or equivalent to 0.48%. The fourth is a reduction technique that provides data as much as 6 with a percentage of 3.84%. Finally, it is a common technique that provides data of 8 with a percentage of 2.88%. Meanwhile, the total of all data that has been analyzed is 48 or equivalent to 23.04% of the lyrics of the song Owl City's Fireflies.

Conclusion

The conclusion that can be drawn from this study is that the first is a word translation technique that has given rise to 24 data in lyrics or equivalent to 11.52% of the overall data observed. Second, the amplification technique that has been found is 9 data in lyrics or equivalent to 4.32% in the overall existing data. The third is the transposition technique where it is found as much as 1 per whole data or equivalent to 0.48%. The fourth is a reduction technique that provides data as much as 6 with a percentage of 3.84%. Finally, it is a common technique that provides data of 8 with a percentage of 2.88%. Meanwhile, the total of all data that has been analyzed is 48 or equivalent to 23.04% of the lyrics of the song Owl City-Fireflies. In this case, the author hopes that his research will be developed by new theories and methods discovered based on the development of the times. Because research like this will not be completed until here if the context is a new literary innovation that constantly gives birth to various new methods and theories as well.

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