GUNADARMA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF LETTERS

STRATEGIES IN TRANSLATING ENGLISH SIMILES INTO INDONESIAN

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Abstract


Keyword: Strategies in Translation, Similes

In English language or Indonesian there is one way for securing variety written expression, and it is called as figure of speech that also can be found in any other languages. Because any figure of speech introduces an ambiguity between literal and figurative interpretation. Some important figure of speech are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, and symbol. This study entitled Strategies in Translating English Similes into Indonesian discussed the problems of translation and some strategies of translation is dealing with English simile. The aim of this study was to identify strategies that are employed in translating English Similes into Indonesian language. There were 64 items classified into faithful translation and 36 classified into communicative translation that were analyzed. The researcher used some theories of translation and process of translation. There are 30 difficulties that were annotated consisting of 15 faithful translation and 15 communicative translation. Translation means the activity of translating about errors in translation from different language to target language.

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Research

We know that in communication we use language. In this world, there are kinds of languages, even in one country has several of different language. But, in globalization era, international language which is used and known by every country is English. Most of books, magazines, newspapers, articles, computer programs and movies are in English.

In English language or Indonesian there is one way for securing variety in written expression, and it is called as figure of speech that also can be found in any other languages. Because any figure of speech introduces an ambiguity between literal and figurative interpretation. Some important figure of speech are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole and symbol.
The writer chose similes as her research because we can use similes to make descriptions more empathic or vivid and to draw attention to similarities about two things that are seemingly dissimilar.

**Problem Formulation**

What strategies are employed in translating English similes into Indonesian language?

**Aim of Study**

To identify strategies that are employed in translating English similes into Indonesian language.

**Significance of the Research**

The advantage that might be learned by beginner translator from this research is what strategies that can be used in translating English Similes into Indonesian.

**Theoretical Review**

**Translation**

Based on *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (1995), translation means the activity of translating about errors in translation from different language to target language.

**Strategies of Translation**

There are many kinds of translation strategies that can be employed in translation according to Newmark in his book “A Textbook of Translation”. (1988:45)

- **Literal translation**
  
  The SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents but the lexicon words are again translated singly, out of context.

- **Faithful translation**
  
  A faithful translation attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures.

- **Semantic Translation**
  
  Semantic translation differs from ‘faithful translation’ only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value (that is, the beautiful and natural sound) of the SL text, compromising on ‘meaning’ where appropriate so that no assonance, word-play or repetition jars in the finished version.
Adaption
This is the ‘freest’ from translation. It is used mainly for plays (comedies) and poetry; the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture converted to the TL culture and the text rewritten.

Free translation
Free translation produces the matter without the manner, or the content without the form of the original.

Idiomatic translation
Idiomatic translation reproduces the “message” or the original but tends to distort nuance of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original.

Communicative translation
Communicative translation attempts to render the contextual meaning of the original in such way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership.

Figure of Speech
Figure of speech is a mode of expression in which words are used out of their literal meaning or out of their ordinary use in order to add beauty or emotional intensity or to transfer the poet’s sense impressions by comparing or identifying one thing with another that has a meaning familiar to the reader.

Simile
Simile is a figure of speech in which an explicit comparison is made between two essentially unlike things, usually using ‘like’ and ‘as’. For example: ‘As alike as two peas’ or ‘Like white on rice’.

Metaphor
Metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one object or idea is applied to another, thereby suggesting a likeness or analogy between them, as ‘The Leaves of life keep falling one by one --- Edward Fitzgerald’.
Personification

Personification is a type of metaphor in which distinctive human characteristics. For example: honesty, emotion, volition, etc. Personification is commonly used in allegory.

Symbol

Symbol is an image transferred by something that stands for or represents something else, like flag for country, or autumn for maturity. As in Robert Zfrost’s Acquainted with the Night, in which night is symbolic of death or depression.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a bold, deliberate overstatement. Example: I’d give my right arm for a piece of pizza.

Litotes

Litotes is a type of meiosis (understatement) in which an affirmative is expressed by the negative of the contrary, as in “not unhappy” or “a poet of no small stature”.

Imagery

Imagery is the elements in a literary work used to evoke mental images, not only of the visual sense, but of sensation and emotional as well.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This study belongs to the area of analysis of the original and source text which covers a study on strategies translation. Faithful and communicative research are included in this strategies translation study.

Source of Data

The data of this research was taken from two websites, i.e.:

a. The first one was retrieved in

b. The second one was retrieved in


Techniques of Collecting Data

1. Search similes in related website.
2. Collecting the data randomly.

Techniques of Analyzing Data

Classifying the data into two categories:

1. Similes of Faithful Translation
2. Similes of Communicative Translation

RESULT OF STUDY AND DISCUSSION

Strategies in translating English Similes into Indonesian

There are two strategies employed in translating English Similes into Indonesian, namely faithful and communicative strategies.

The number of English Similes translated into Indonesian Similes employing faithful translation strategy is 64 (64%).

The number of English Similes translated into Indonesian Similes employing communicative translation strategy is 36 (36%).

Discussion

Faithful Translation

A faithful translation attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures. It ‘transfers’ cultural words and preserves the degree of grammatical and lexical ‘abnormality’ (deviation from SL norms) in the translation. The researcher made fifteen examples. I.e.:

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Text</th>
<th>Target Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Her clothes is as nice as nínpence</td>
<td>Serapih pin bowling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The term of “as nice as ninepence” literally is “serapih pin bowling”. Because in dictionary ‘nice’ is translated become ‘rapi’ and ninepence ‘pin bowling’. It makes the translation easier to be understood by the reader.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Text</th>
<th>Target Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Her skin will have been as pure as snow all her life until she gets acne.</td>
<td>Semurni salju</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The term “as pure as snow” is translated “semurni salju” because in Oxford Dictionary ‘pure’ literally means ‘murni’ and ‘snow’ means ‘salju’.

**Communicative Translation**

Communicative translation attempts to render the contextual meaning of the original in such way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership. The researcher made fifteen examples. I.e.:

**Examples :**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Text</th>
<th>Target Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>She is as active as quicksilver</td>
<td>Segiat semut</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The term “as active as quicksilver” originally means “aktif sebagai air raksa”. But the writer translated the term into “segiat semut”, because we could see when the quicksilver react, the process like ants which looks destroy the thing exposed the quicksilver quickly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Text</th>
<th>Target Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karen is as agile as a monkey</td>
<td>secerdik kancil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the term was translated word-for-word, “as agile as a monkey” means “setangkas monyet”, but to appropriate cultural, legendary at Indonesia, the writer translated the term into “Secerdik kancil”. It makes the translation easier to be understood by the reader.
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Based on the result of the analysis, conclusion that can be drawn is that faithful and communicative translations are employed in translating English similes into Indonesian. Most English similes were translated into Indonesian using faithful translation (64%) and the rest (36%) were using communicative translation.

Suggestion

Based on the scope of the research, the researcher suggested that other researchers do research on strategies translating other kinds of texts. It is important due to the necessity of improving translation theory. Besides, the researcher expects that this research will be the best input for those who are interested in translation practice.