A STUDY OF INDONESIAN TRANSLATION OF SIMILES AND METAPHORS IN JULIUS CAESAR

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on a study of Indonesian translation of similes and metaphors in Julius Caesar. It was a qualitative study. The data were collected from Julius Caesar written by William Shakespeare and its Indonesian version translated by *Dewan Kesenian Jakarta*. The collected data were analyzed based on Keraf's and Larson's frameworks on the classification of similes and metaphors.

The main objectives of this study is to answer the following research problems: (1) to find out the types of similes and metaphors, (2) to find out the translation methods, and (3) to find out how the simile and metaphor Indonesian translation meets the principles of accuracy, naturalness and clarity. The result shows that first, the use of closed simile (24 item) was more dominant than open simile (18 items). Of metaphors, live metaphors definitely became the foremost figure found in the Julius Caesar (110 items), while dead metaphors only appeared in 36 items. Second, the most dominant procedure in simile translation were literal with 13 items (6.91 %) of open simile and 14 items (7.45 %) of closed simile. In the metaphors, modified literal translation were found with 21 items (11.17 %) of dead metaphor, and 51 items (27.13 %) of live metaphors. The fact showed that the metaphors were not easy to translate because their meaning are implicitly stated, and hard to identify. Therefore, the translator should pay more attention to the metaphors in order to catch the source language meaning, master the translation methods, and consider the contents of the text in a whole unit of sentence in order to avoid mistranslation. It is also found that accuracy, naturalness and clarity were connected one another in the translation process.

Key Words: simile, metaphors, accuracy, naturalness, and clarity.

INTRODUCTION

People need language to communicate with others, in order to express feelings, ideas or opinions to other people. It is in line with Hornby's statement (1995:662) that "language is the system of sounds and words used by humans to express their thought and feelings; a particular way or style of speaking or writing".

Since English is one of the main international languages in the world, its function becomes very important in many aspects of human life. However, not everyone speaks and understands English in Indonesia. Therefore, it may become a problem to understand the message expressed in the language. In this matter, a translation plays an important role to the transfer source language (SL) text into the appropriate target language (TL) text.

The American Heritage Dictionary of English language (1992:1902) states that "The translation is the act or process of translating, especially from one language into another; the state of being translated; a translated version of a text". Translation covers a large scope, including the process of translating, such as short story, novel, poetry, play, etc. In translating a novel, play or short story, a translator is expected to translate the text differently into a more suitable form, since the translator has to view formal and thematic concentration and unity of the text in the receptor's language (Newmark, 1988). Translation activity and translation product are inseparable from the concept of culture and language. Every language as a means of communication in this world reflects its user's culture. Every nation has its own culture, which is automatically different from other's cuture, including the use of figurative language.

Figurative language is one of the phenomena in language. In accordance with translation, figurative language must be translated carefully in order to avoid misunderstanding. Simile is one type of figurative languages which is often defined as a word or phrase by which anything is likened, in one or more of its aspects to something else, i.e. a poetical or imaginative comparison. Keraf (2005:138) explains that simile is a comparison which is explicit in nature. It means that it explicitly states that one thing is similar to the other thing. Because of this explicitness, simile needs words, such as *like* and *as* to show its similarity explicitly. Of metaphor, Reaske (1966:33) describes it as a figurative

language which encompasses one thing by another differently, and it is usually created through that use of some form of the verb to be. In addition to this, Larson (1984:246) claims that in English, a simile has the word *like* or *as*, while in the contrary a metaphor does not use those words. In summary, a simile states that A is like B, a metaphor states that A is B or subtitutes B for A.

This study sets out with an assumtion of misperception that similes and metaphors are difficult to understand by the readers. It is hoped that the findings can give insight about simile and metaphors translation and the degree of accuracy, naturalness and clarity of the translation.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The theories used in this study are a combination of Larson's (1984), Machali's (2000) and Wilkerson and Lang's (2007) theories. Larson's (1984) translation method is used as translation methods framework, while Machali's (2000) translation evaluation is used to measure naturalness and clarity of the translation by the assistance of three raters, and Annova (SPSS 15.0) are used to measure the accuracy translation.

Larson (1984) classifies the translation methods into two categories: form-based or literal translation and meaning-based or idiomatic translation. Larson (1984:17) also divides five categories of translation methods. They are: literal, modified literal, near idiomatic, idiomatic, and unduly free, as shown in the following table.

Larson's Translation Methods

Translation methods	Definition	Example
Literal	A translation of individual word by following the forms of the source language.	"Nor heaven or earth have been at peace tonight." (PB, p.33:17-18) The translation is "*Baik langit maupun bumi tak ada yang tenang malam ini*." (PJ, p.47:9).
Modified literal	It transfers literal meaning in the forms of the target language.	"Here was thou bay'd brave heart." (PB, p. 47:21) The translation is *"Di sini kau dikepung, hati perkasa."* (PJ, p. 67:17-18)
Near idiomatic	It conveys the message intended in the source language, which is almost natural in the target language forms.	"Enjoy the honey-heavy dew of slumber." (PB, p.29:30) The translation is *"Nikmatilah embun kantuk yang sarat madu."* (PJ, p.42:17-18)
Idiomatic	It conveys the message	"Thy spirit walks abroad." (PB, p.84:23)

	intended in the source language in the natural forms of the target language.	The translation is *"Ruhmu menerawang kemana-mana."* (PJ, p.123:1)
Free	The translation is not stated in the source language text and it changes the meaning of the source language.	"They fall their crests, and like deceitful jades sink in the trial." (PB, p.64:6) The translation *is "Mereka tiba-tiba jadi layu, dan bagai kuda betina dan pengecut tenggelam dalam ujian."* (PJ, p.92:6)

Translation theory is concerned with choices and decisions. Translation theory can be viewed in two senses; in a wide and a narrow sense (Newmark, 1988). In the wide sense, translation theory concerns the knowledge of translating, including general principles, guidelines and suggestion. In the narrow sense, it deals with choosing appropriate translation methods for a certain text. The function of translation theory is identifying translation problems, indicating all factors that have to be taken into account in solving problems, listing all possible translation methods, and the appropriate translation (Newmark, 1988).

Hornby (1995:1270) defines translation as "The activity of translating; a text or word that is translated" and Catford (1965:1) defines translation as "a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another", or in other words, translation is the replacement of textual material (Source Language) in another language (Target Language)." Therefore translation describes as a process of messages transfering in source language (SL) into the appropriate target language (TL). In contrast, Nida and Taber (1969) emphasize the importance of naturalness for readers who read the translation will get the same meaning as the people who read the source language. Therefore the three raters were asked to rate naturalness and clarity of the translation using Machali's (2000) translation evaluation benchmark, and Annova (SPSS 15.0) was used to determine accuracy.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study was a descriptive qualitative research. Nazir (1983:87) states that "a descriptive method is a method used to investigate of an object, a set of condition, which takes place in the present time." Therefore a goal of descriptive research is to systematically, factually, and accurately describe or illustrate the facts, characteristics, and relationships of the element of the object investigated. This

study is designed to describe the translation of similes and metaphors in *Julius Caesar* from English to Indonesian.

Data

The data were collected from the English similes and metaphors and their translation in Indonesian, which was taken from *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare and its Indonesian version translated by *Dewan Kesenian Jakarta*.

Procedure

The data were gathered using generally three methods. First, both similes and metaphors classification and their translation methods were obtained using Larson's (1984). Second, to determine naturalness and clarity of the translation of the translation, the three raters were asked to rate the Indonesian translation using Machali's (2000). Third, to determine the accuracy of the translation, the score were analyzed using Annova (SPSS 15.0).

RESULTS

The Findings

Simile and metaphor are two similar language phenomena as they both contain comparison. They are the most common figures of speech that can be found in our daily routines or in literary works, such as short stories, novels, or play. William Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar* also contains similes and metaphors. There were 188 similes and metaphors in *Julius Caesar* , which can be divided into 18 items (9.6 %) of open similes, 24 items (12.7 %) of closed simile, 36 items (19.2 %) of dead metaphor, and 110 items (58.5 %) of live metaphor. In other words, the live metaphor was the most frequent figures of speech used by the author in communicating the message.

In translating all those similes and metaphors, the translator, in this case the translator from *Dewan Kesenian Jakarta*, used some translation methods in order to deliver the meaning into the Indonesian translation entitled *Julius Caesar*. The translator's translation strategies in translating the similes and the metaphors can be seen in the following table. They are classified using Larson's (1984) framework. They are: literal, modified literal, near idiomatic, idiomatic, and unduly free.

The methods in translating the English similes and metaphors

Translation Methods	Open Simile		Closed Simile		Dead Metaphor		Live Metaphor		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Literal	13	6.91 %	14	7.45 %	12	6.38 %	51	27.13%	90	47.87%
Modified literal	2	1.06 %	5	2.66 %	21	11.17%	45	23.94%	73	38.83%
Near idiomatic	2	1.06 %	2	1.06 %	2	1.06%	3	1.56%	9	4.79%
Idiomatic	1	0.53 %	2	1.06 %	1	1.06%	11	5.85%	15	7.98%
Free	-	-	1	0.53 %	-	-	-	-	1	0.53%
Total	**18**		**24**		**36**		**110**		**188**	**100%**

As shown on the table above, in translating the open similes, the translator used 13 literal (6.91%), 2 modified literal (1.06 %), 2 near idiomatic (1.06 %), and 1 idiomatic (0.53 %). In translating closed similes, the translator used 14 literal (7.45 %), 5 modified literal (2.66 %), 2 near idiomatic (1.06 %), 2 idiomatic (1.06 %), and 1 free translation method (0.53 %). In translating dead metaphors, the translator used 12 literal (6.38 %), 21 modified literal (11. 17 %), 2 near idiomatic (1.06 %), and 1 idiomatic (1.06 %). In translating live metaphors, the translator used 51 literal (27.13 %), 45 modified literal (23.94 %), 3 near idiomatic (1.56 %), and 11 idiomatic (5.85 %).

Of the translation methods used by the translator above, it can be summarized that: first, in translating open similes, literal method was the most frequent method used by the translator, while modified literal, near idiomatic, and idiomatic methods are the least frequent methods used. Second, in translating closed simile, literal method was mostly used while free translation is the least method used. Third, in translating dead metaphors, modified literal method was the most frequent method used while idiomatic translation was the least method used. Last, in translating live metaphors, literal and modified literal methods were mostly used by the translator, while idiomatic and near idiomatic ones were the least method used.

The accuracy findings

Annova (SPSS 15.0) was used to find the *Mean (M)* and *Standard Deviation (SD)* to classify the accuracy for each instrument. Then from the subtraction and addition of the mean and standard deviation got *range of scores,* which can be divided into three categories, they are: *Accurate (A), Less Accurate (LA)* and *Not Accurate (NA)*. From the subtraction and addition of the mean and standard deviation used get the lowest score of 115.1, and the highest score of 198.12, from those results then set up the accuracy level into three, which were: less than 115.1 is classified into not accurate (NA), the score between 115.2 until 198.12 is classified into less accurate (LA), and the score above 198.12 is classified into accurate (A). Then I look through ∑Xr for each item in the open simile to classify whether each item is accurate (A), less accurate (LA) or not accurate (NA). For example, the item number 1 has the ∑Xr of 164 then it is categorized into less accurate (LA). In this case, the accuracy levels were different for each group, because each rater gave different scores for each item in different groups or instrument. Third, Annova was used to find the inter-rater reliability (P) as another tool to measure the accurateness of scoring the instrument. As Wilkerson and Lang (2007: 128) state that if the coefficient reliability is above 0.70, it means that the raters are consistent in their scoring the instrument or in other words, they meet the coefficient reliability. The results of the inter-rater reliability in this research were as follow : P=0.95 for open simile; P=0.94 for closed simile; P= 0.95 for live metaphor; and P=0.78 for dead metaphor. All of the results were above 0.70, meaning that they meet the coefficient reliability or the raters are consitent in scoring the translation. Therefore, the accurateness level was accountable.

The Accuracy Table

	Open Simile		Closed Simile		Dead Metaphor		Live Metaphor	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Accurate	2	11.11%	1	4.17%	12	33.33%	11	10 %
Less accurate	12	66.67%	17	70.83%	17	47.22%	91	82.73%
Not accurate	4	22.22%	6	25 %	7	19.44%	8	7.27%
Total	18	100%	24	100%	36	100%	110	100%

The Naturalness and Clarity Table

	Open Simile		Closed Simile		Dead Metaphor		Live Metaphor	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Natural	5	4.63%	42	29.17 %	47	21.76 %	249	37.73 %
Clear	41	38 %	54	37.5 %	61	28.24 %	296	44.85 %
Unnatural	49	45.37%	30	29.83 %	61	28.24 %	80	12.12 %
Unclear	13	12 %	18	12.5 %	47	21.76 %	35	5.3 %

CONCLUSION

Similes and metaphors are dominantly used in most literary works to give more emotional efffects and to beautify the story. The use of figurative languages, e.g. simile and metaphors, makes a literary work more colorful and provides readers with implied description and expression that the readers need to figure them out in order to understand the work.

Having analyzed all the translation of similes and metaphors in *Julius Caesar* and interpreted the results, it can be concluded that: first, the use of closed similes might be intended to make the figurative comparison clear. In closed simile, all elements of simile, i.e. the topic, the image, and the point of similarity, are explicitly stated. Meanwhile, in open simile, the topic and the image are not clearly stated. This might be one of the reasons why closed simile is frequently used in most literary works. In this study, the closed simile was found as many as 24 items compared to the open simile with 18 items. Second, the literal translation was mostly used in the translation of the open and closed simile into Indonesian. The translator translated them literally from the source language text to expect similar effect such as the aesthetic effect and to make it more precise and interesting. The rank order of the methods used in the translation based on Larson's framework was respectively 1) literal, 2) modified literal, 3) near idiomatic, 4) idiomatic, and 5) unduly free translation methods. Third, in this study, the live metaphor is dominantly used with 110 items and the dead metaphor with 36 items. The live metaphor is dominantly used to gain the metaphorical effect. It departs from the laguage communicated traditionally. Using the metaphor makes the description more attractive, aesthetic, and

vivid. In addition, it meets aesthetical level of language and provides readers with imaginative description. Fourth the translation of the English metaphors used the literal and the modified literal method mostly. The translator translated them in order to emphasize the figurative expressions, and to maintain the source language message. The rank order of using the methods was respectively 1) literal, 2) modified literal, 3) idiomatic, and 4) near idiomatic translation methods. Fifth, there were 35 items of mistranslated cases or inaccurate translation in translating the English similes and metaphors into Indonesian. There were 4 samples of open similes, 6 samples of closed similes, 7 samples of dead metaphors, and 8 samples of live metaphors. The findings showed that the metaphor was more difficult to understand than the simile because their meaning were implicitly stated, and hard to identify. Therefore, the translator should pay more attention to the metaphor in order to catch the source language meaning. Sixth, from the mistranslated cases, it can be concluded that the mastery of translation method may influence the results of the translation works to emphasize the figurative expressions and the source language message. For example, in translating the English metaphor into Indonesian, the literal method and the modified literal method were mostly used. However, in some text, the modified literal can not be used because it may lead to a wrong meaning, as Newmark (1988) said that transferring the message into the target language is the core in translation. Seventh, besides the mastery of the translation method, the translator should consider the contents of a text in a whole unit of sentence. If the the translator translated the text literally or word for word, it may lead to a wrong meaning or no meaning at all. Therefore, the contents in a whole unit of sentence may determine the meaning of a word, a phrase or a sentence. Eight, the accuracy, naturalness and clarity were connected one another in the translating process. Eventhough there were found some unaturalness and unclear translations found in this study, the three raters meet the coefficient reliability or in other words they are consistent in scoring. The three raters are proficient in both English and Indonesian language, thus their accurateness level were accountable, as all the P (inter-rater reliability) results were above 0.70.

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