

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviews the general outlines of present study. It begins with background of the study, statement of problem, research question, purposes of research, significance of research, and previous research.

1.1 Background of Research

Language is a vehicle for the expression or exchanging of thoughts, concepts, knowledge, and information as well as the fixing and transmission of experience and knowledge” (Bussmann, 1996: 627). Exchanging is everyone can transmit thoughts, concepts even meanings through language. The possession of language, perhaps more than any other attributes, distinguishes human from animal (Fromkin et al, 2003:3). The statements above show how important language in our daily life is. Through language, people can communicate, interact each other, transmit information containing knowledge, thought, experience, etc. The user of language uses language to communicate and interact among them, directly in the interaction is controlled by culture that they have (Soenjono, 2003: 18).

Furthermore, language is a system of oral’s symbol which is arbitrary used by a community of particular society to communicate and interact each other, based on their culture (Soenjono, 2003: 16). It faces us that languages contain culture. Every different language contains different cultures as well, included Sundanese. Sundanese as one of the traditional language in Indonesia also contain

culture. In the same way as Rosidi (in *Voices of Modern Poetry*, 2001), Sundanese the language of West Java, is one of the languages of Indonesia with a modern tradition.

However, people who used language to communicate cannot spontaneously understand what the content of it (the meaning, information, knowledge, culture, etc.), prominently people who communicate using different languages. There is a complicated process that they, in case communicating by different languages, should be passed. It is usually called translation process.

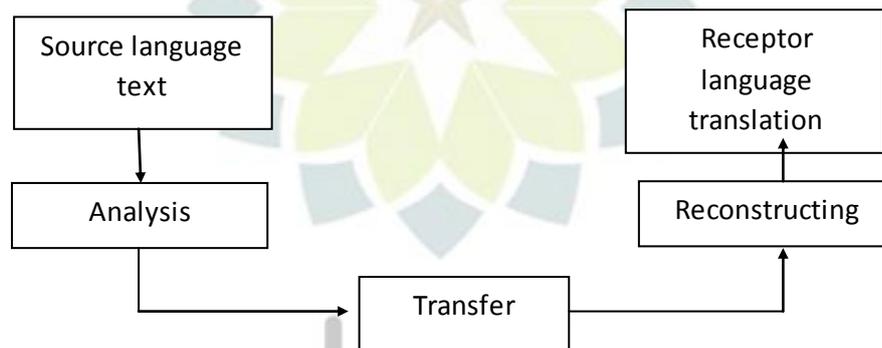


Figure1. Process of translation by Nida (Cited by Bassnett, 2002: 25)

A translation is not a monistic composition, but an interpenetration and conglomerate of two structures. On the one hand, there are the semantic content and the formal contour of the original, on the other hand the entire system of aesthetic features bound up with the language of the translation (Bassnett, 2002: 16). In addition, Newmark (1988: 22) also said that translation is pre-eminently the occupation in which you have to be thinking of several things at the same time. Translation pushes us thinking the language literally whilst us learning and trying to take the semantic content of it.

This process of translation also happened in the poem anthology ‘*The Voices from West Java*’ written by Ajip Rosidi. Ajip Rosidi is a famous poet, novelist, and essayist from Jatiwangi, Majalengka. He concern to the Sundanese literary works. One of the evidence works shows how active he is in the Sundanese literature is this book, which entitled, “Modern Sundanese Poetry: Voices from West Java”. In this book, he not only works alone but also together with more than fifty famous Sundanese poet wrote Sundanese poems. Not only stopped to write the Sundanese poems, but Ajip Rosidi also tries to publish the Sundanese poems in the different language (English and France). It is as an effort to introduce modern Sundanese poetry to the wider public. Rosidi (2001: 5) states that there have been efforts in the past to introduce modern Sundanese poetry into Indonesian, so that it might become known in the national arena, so far no efforts have been made to translate it into English.

Moreover, in this anthology, a poet or a poem often accidentally wrote or is written the same words with the other poet or poem, though the purpose and the semantic content is different each. For example, word “mangsa”, is written like below:

.....
Ari mangsana ngagarap
Taya nu haat ngagarap
Ari parang jeung pacul
Karahaan di juru dapur
(Usep Romli HM, Tanah Warisan)

.....
 When the time came to plough the earth
 No-one was ready
 Machetes and hoes
 Were rusting in the corner of the kitchen
 (Wendy Mukherjee, The Inheritance)

Sakilat-sakilat. Mangsa demi mangsa
Ngaliwat. Meheulaan langkah jeung niat
(Usep Romli HM, Nu Lampah Mawa
Langkah)

Second by second. Moment by moment
Passed. Ahead of my steps and my
intent
(Wendy Mukherjee, The Traveler)

Afterward, the same words that have their own semantic content were translated into similar English words that have closed meaning each other. In this anthology, researcher found *mangsa* is translated into when; while; time; moment, *manusa* translated into our; the person, *ainng* into me; our, etc. The words translation then became synonymous in English, yet the semantic content and the authors' authorities are still different. The responsibility that the translator, Wendy Mukherjee, took then is about the translation techniques that he used to translation the poems well, both literally and figuratively.

These appeared problems then interest the researcher to take apart to analyze the background behind this observable fact. Therefore, the researcher entitled this research, Synonymous Words Translation in “*Modern Sundanese Poetry: Voices from West Java*”.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

Based on the explanations above, it can be underlined that the appeared problem in this research is the synonymous words translation that have closed meaning each other in Ajip Rosidi's Anthology “The Voices from West Java”. Therefore, to make it clear, the following questions are devised as the identification of problems:

1. Based on the semantic features, how are the synonymous words in the poems in the Ajip Rosidi's poem Anthology '*Modern Sundanese Poetry: Voices from West Java*' translated into its English version?
2. What factors caused the different translation of synonymous words in the poems in the Ajip Rosidi's poems Anthology '*Modern Sundanese Poetry: Voices from West Java*'?

1.3 Purposes of Research

Generally, the purpose of the research is to explain and analyze the translational phenomenon related to translation technique and the words translation. Furthermore, this research is a reference for those who are interested in analyzing reduplication in the literary work. The researcher hopes that the result of the research gives the benefit especially for Linguistics and generally for English development. Especially, this research is:

1. To find out how the synonymous words are translated into its English version by seeing the semantic features of it in the poems Ajip Rosidi's poems Anthology '*Modern Sundanese Poetry: Voices from West Java*'.
2. To find out the factor caused the different translation of synonymous words in the poems Ajip Rosidi's poems Anthology '*Modern Sundanese Poetry: Voices from West Java*'.

1.4 Significance of Research

As the purposes of this research are for knowing the translator's technique in translating the synonymous words translation, the significance of this research is:

1. For the researcher, it can gain the new experience and knowledge about Sundanese, Sundanese poems, synonymous words translation, and translation techniques.
2. For the reader, it can be a benefit research and can be used as a reference about translation task or paper.
3. Then, the researcher expects this research to be contributed the positive effect that are useful in developing Linguistics study, especially related to translation.

1.5 Previous study

According to the earlier research, the researcher has found a research that work on synonymous words translation. The research belongs to Efa Faoziyatussa'adah who comes from Islamic State University. The research which is entitled *'The Translation Of Synonymous Words From English Into Bahasa Indonesia In Rowling's Novel Harry Potter And The Sorcerer's Stone'* shows that English synonymous words are translated into the same equivalent word in Bahasa Indonesia based on their similar meaning and the same part of speech. In addition, the same equivalent target language is used because there are no other words to state the intended word. The last reason of using the same word as the

translation is that the source language uses the other words that more formal, more common or regional which refer to the same thing. For the different translation appear in the novel is based on the differences in the meaning specifically; the adjustment to the context of sentence an Indonesian grammatical structure; and the last one is the connotation considering in the target language.

Moreover, in translation area, especially in translation technique, the researcher found Sutarno as one of the researcher comes from University of North Sumatera researched about translation technique that used to translate the Chinese treaty book that is entitled *Sun zi's Art of War* from Mandarin into English. In his thesis entitled, *The Translation Techniques, Methods and Ideology of The Art of War*, the research found that there are eight translator techniques used to render *The Art of War* into English. In addition, the finding of this research shows the use of translation techniques and the selections of translation method tend to be based on the adoption of the ideology of foreignization.