

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research

Adaptation is defined as bringing somethings from a work and then creating a new story or framework with the inspiration from it (Corrigan, 2017). This phenomenon encompasses a wide range of adaptations, from novels turned into films and stage plays to reinterpretations in poetry or graphic novels. At its essence, literary adaptation involves taking the core element such as plot, characters, and theme of an original text and reshaping them to fit the conventions and expectations but also invites fresh perspectives and insights, reflecting contemporary cultural contexts and audience sensibilities. By engaging with it, adaptations create a dialogue between the original work and its new incarnation, expanding the narrative's reach and relevance in diverse ways. The result of adaptation varies depending on the creativity and background of the author.

There have been many great novels that are adapted into films. These novels are usually ones that have great influence on mass people. Several significant American novels have been adapted into acclaimed films, showcasing the rich narrative depth and cultural impact of their source material. *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962), based on Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, features Gregory Peck's iconic portrayal of Atticus Finch, addressing themes of racial injustice and moral integrity in the Deep South. Another notable adaptation is *The Great Gatsby* (2013), which brings F. Scott Fitzgerald's exploration of the American Dream to life with vibrant visuals and a modern soundtrack, though it has received mixed reviews regarding its fidelity to the novel's themes¹. *The Godfather* (1972), adapted from Mario Puzo's novel, is often hailed as one of the greatest films ever made, depicting the complexities of family loyalty and power within the Mafia. Additionally, Stephen King's *The Shining* (1980) was transformed into a chilling cinematic experience by Stanley Kubrick, despite some deviations from the original plot. These adaptations not only reflect the stories' enduring relevance but also highlight the diverse ways literature can be interpreted through film.

However, the concept of adaptation can also be done from one language to another. In Indonesia, In the last decade, many literary works have been adapted in Indonesia. Interestingly, forms of literary works that are adapted are not only limited to the novel but also trending written stories on social media like *KKN di Desa Penari*. Furthermore, There have been many popular novels that are adapted into screen films namely *Seperti Dendam Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas*, *Yuni*, *Merindu Chaya de Amstel*, *Garit Waktu*, *Thank You Salma, Geez & Ann*, *Layla Majnun*, *Mariposa*, *Milea: Suara dari Dilan*, *Teman Tapi Menikah*, *Imperfect*. These adapted novels have gained so much popularity that the production houses of screen films are interested in making adaptation work based on those novels. These films are not only aired in the cinema but also on online streaming platforms like Netflix, Prime Video, Viu, and many more.

In other forms, Bunga Penutup Abad Theatre adapted a novel written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. This adaptation play is presented to commemorate the 10 years after the death of the novelist Pramoedya Ananta Toer. The novel that is adapted in this play is *Bumi Manusia* and *Anak Semua bangsa*. Famous actors are also featured in the play namely Reza Rahadian, Lukman Sardi, and Chelsea Islan. This is an example that an adaptation can also be done from a novel to a drama play. Furthermore, there had been a great number of adaptation from English novels to Bahasa Indonesia since 2000 in the form of translated novels such as the translation of *Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire* by J.K Rowling, *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown, *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel, and *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho and more. Although this is not the first time a translation of an English novel had appeared, It is the beginning of the era where many popular English novels are translated to Bahasa Indonesia. All the popular literature generally one universal aspect so that it can be relatable to the readers form other cultures. Two of the universal aspects are bullying and manipulative behavior.

To see the adaptation work around the researcher, annually, every fifth-semester student UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung must write a drama adaptation from an English literature drama scripts. This is a mandatory project to complete

the Further Studies in Drama class. The drama options each year vary. Specifically in 2023, the options that were available for the students are *Bull* by Mark Bartlett and *Buried Child* by Sam Shephard. There are six classes in 2023 and class E and F had chosen *Bull* to be adapted into a new drama script in Bahasa Indonesia. The process of writing an adaptation is a challenge to the students. The students must consider the similarities of cultural aspects from the original work. The goal for the student is to write a new story with a different culture while keeping the message the same as the original. This challenge challenges the student's critical thinking.

Bull (2013) is an absurd drama that tells a story about bullying in a workplace that is resulting in the layoff of one of the workers. *Bull*, a play by Mike Bartlett, centers around the intense and brutal dynamics of office politics as three ambitious employee namely Thomas, Isobel, and Tony. They have to wait for the arrival of their boss, Carter, who will decide which one will be let go. Set in a stark environment designed to resemble a boxing ring, the narrative unfolds as Isobel and Tony mercilessly torment Thomas, exploiting his insecurities and weaknesses in a sadistic display of psychological manipulation. As they engage in a vicious verbal battle, Thomas's attempts to defend himself only lead to further humiliation, highlighting the cutthroat nature of their corporate culture. The play serves as a darkly comic yet poignant exploration of power dynamics and the inherent cruelty that can arise in competitive environments, ultimately leading to Thomas's emotional collapse as he confronts the harsh reality of his situation. The story of *Bull* takes place in a modern office while *Buried Child* tells a story that is more conservative in terms of its problem while *Bull* tells a story that is more modern with the context of the problem in the story. The modernity of *Bull* drama takes more interest from the researcher and hence why the researcher provided more information about the adaptation of the *Bull* Drama. *Buried Child* tells a story about a forbidden love story between a family that ultimately results in the born of an unwanted baby that, later on in the story, is buried in the back of the house.

In 2023, class E performed the adaptation of *Bull* Drama entitled “*PDI: Pegawai Di Intimidasi*”. Class F (Socha Salsabila, Tegar Tri Surya Kencana, Tasya

Putri Redina, and Ucha Mutiara Anggela as the scriptwriters) performed their adaptation of it entitled “*Bonkers*”. Based on the performance they have given, these two adaptation go differently in terms of the approach and treatment towards the story while also keeping the same inspiration from the inspiration work. This same inspiration is what becomes the base of the similarities between the two. The similarities lie in the bullying aspect and manipulative behavior characterization in the story.

1.2 Statement of Problem

This research, that analyzes bullying and manipulative behaviour characterizations in Bull, *PDI* and *Bonkers*, can provide novelty regarding the translation study of adaptation work from English drama script to Bahasa Indonesia drama scripts. This annual assignment of writing drama adaptation for every fifth-semester of English literature students at UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung has posed a challenge for the students. With the original work being written by English native speaker, there is a challenge for the students to translate its language and culture through adaptation which can be analyzed with John Sallis’s theory of adaptation.

Based on the provided information above, the researcher concluded that the following questions are be the main focus of this research:

1. What are the cultural influences that affect the practice of bullying in *PDI*: *Pegawai Di Intimidasi*, and *Bonkers* compared to Bull?
2. What are the aspects of culture that influence the characteristics of manipulative behavior that emerge in each adaptation?
3. How close are the adaptation of bullying and manipulative behavior characterization represented in each adaptation to the target language and culture according to John Sallis’s Variety of Untranslatability?

1.3 Significance of The Research

The researcher hypothesizes that the results of this research can provide knowledgeable insights and discussion to the field of literature, specifically in

translation study in the form of adaptation. This research is intended to give further theoretical understanding of the representation of bullying and manipulative behavior in the context of adaptation work done by undergraduate English Literature Students. Practically, this research can be used as a reference for future students when they have to write an adaptation work from drama script to drama script.

1.4 Research Purposes

Based on the question stated in the research problem, the purposes of this research are as follows:

1. To find what are the cultural influences that affect the practice of bullying in *PDI: Pegawai Di Intimidasi*, and Bonkers compared to Bull.
2. To find what are the aspects of culture that influence the characteristics of manipulative behavior that emerge in each adaptation.
3. To find how close are the adaptation of bullying and manipulative behavior characterization represented in each adaptation to the target language and culture according to John Sallis's Variety of Untranslatability.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

This part clarifies the key terms used in this research which are:

1. Bullying

Bullying in workplace is a persistent attempts on the part of one or more individuals to annoy, frustrate, wear down, or elicit a reaction in another. Bullying denotes continual behavior that provokes, presses, humiliates or creates unpleasantness in the recipient (Matthiesen & Einarsen, 2010). Within the act of bullying, it involves two parties which are the bully and the victim.

a. bully

A bully is an individual who does the bullying action another or more individuals.

b. victim of Bullying

Victim of bullying is an individual who receives the act of bullying. According to Leymann (1990) in Matthiesen and Einarsen (2010), a victim of bullying is characterized by claim to suffer weekly for a period of at least a month. The timing of the suffer may differ according to how much intentional aggression is the person exposed to. Victim of bullying often has a difficulty in defending or protecting themselves against the behavior as their chance for retaliation is ruled out.

c. imbalance of power

In the context of bullying, it is when a person concerned has little control or few possibilities to retaliate in kind.

d. types of Workplace Bullying

1. dispute related bullying

This is a type of Bullying that arises from unresolved interpersonal or organizational conflicts that escalate into persistent aggression. It is usually characterized by mutual hostility, power struggles or perceived injustices.

2. predatory bullying

Predatory Bullying is a concept of bullying that occur when a perpetrator/bully targets a victim without prior provocation, often due to prejudice, personal dislike, or a desire to dominate. It is characterized by the sole motivation from the perpetrator.

3. scapegoating

Scapegoating means a an individual or group of individual that is unjustly blamed for organizational failures or problems, becoming a target for collective aggression. The cause of this bullying type is often rooted in a systemic dysfunction.

4. sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is a bullying situation of unwanted sexual advances, behavior or remarks that creates a hostile work

environment. The perpetrator usually asks for sexual favor or environmental harassment such as sexist jokes.

5. humore-oriented bullying

Humore-oriented bullying is a type of bullying that uses sarcasm jokes, or teasing to humiliate someone under the guise of humor.

6. work-related stalking

Work-related stalking is a persistent and unwanted attention such as excessive monitoring that disrupts victim's personal life or work.

7. bullying of Workplace Newcomers

Bullying of Workplace Newcomers is when the perpetrator targets new employees through exclusion, excessive criticism, or sabotage to assert dominance or enforce conformity.

8. The Judicial Derelicts/Institutional Betrayal

Judicial Derelicts is a type of bullying when organization protect the perpetrators rather than protecting the victim.

9. Retaliation From Whistleblowing

It is a form of bullying that is targeting the an individual/employee who report misconduct, ethical violation, or safety issues.

2. Manipulative Behavior

According to Simon, G.K. (Simon, 2010), manipulative behavior is a deliberate and covert strategy to exploit and control others by undermining their autonomy, often through deceptive, indirect or emotionally exploitative tactics. The motive is to avoid responsibility, gain power, or fulfil self-serving needs while masking true intentions. He emphasized that manipulative people often exhibit personality disorders namely narcissistic, borderline or antisocial traits. Manipulative people often need for dominance, avoidance of shame and feel like they deserve better entitlement. Simon denotes that there are several types of manipulative behavior based on their psychological mechanisms:

a. guilt-Tripping

Guilt-tripping is manipulation technique by inducing guilt to compel compliance. For example “if you love me you’ll do this”

b. gaslighting

Gaslighting is a technique of twisting or altering facts to make the victim question their sanity. For example “you’re overreacting, that never happened”

c. playing the Victim

Playing the victim is feigning helplessness or persecution to evade accountability. For example, “a worker who blames others for his mistakes while claiming unfair treatments”

d. triangulation

Triangulation is a technique of using a third party to validate their stance and isolate the victim. For example “a worker asks for validation of another worker to isolate the one specific person”

e. love bombing

Love bombing is a technique to overwhelm someone with affection or praise to gain trust and exploit it later on.

f. passive-aggressive behavior

Passive-aggressive behavior is indirect resistance or sabotage such as silent treatment or intentional inefficiency.

3. Adaptation

Adaptation, as part of translation strategy, is a technique to overcome the untranslatability of a language through cultural transformation that prioritize the target culture (Sallis, 2002). Cultural transformation is a dynamic, disruptive process where cultures encounter and reinterpret foreign texts, concepts and frameworks. It actively reshapes cultural boundaries and identities. Therefore, culture evolve through the irreducible tension between fidelity to the original and the necessity of reinvention. Ultimately, adaptation as part of translation is used as a catalyst for cultural becoming.

A. source language

Within the context of adaptation and translation, Source language is the original language that is meant to be translated to the other language.

B. target language

Target language is the language in which the drama scripts are translated.

1.6 Previous Study

A decent number of research studies on the topic of manipulative behavior and bullying as a variable in literary works have been done in the past. A research study that is related to this matter is done by Trissa Shania Wulur with the research entitled *Bullying Behaviour in School* as reflected in the novel “wonder” by RJ Palacio: Psychological Approach (Wulur, 2021). The purpose of Wulur’s research is to view the act of bullying that applies to the 10-year-old main character who has a disability in the school environment. Wulur uses a psychological approach in this research. The characteristics of bullying in the novel are analyzed to see the impact it creates. Wulur implied that the impact of bullying on some characters is the declining health quality and the loss of friends.

Jenatte Huhghes and Jennifer Lynn Laffier with their research entitled *Portrayals of Bullying in Young Adult Literature: Considerations for Schools* (Hughes & Laffier, 2016) have also done research with bullying as the main variable. This particular research comes from the phenomenon of bullying that keeps happening towards young adults in school settings. This phenomenon, then, is repeatedly represented in the Young Adult Novel (YAL). Hughes and Laffier intend to clarify how accurate the act of bullying that appears in YAL is and how it can be an object of discussion in a class between teachers and students. The chosen novels as the main objects are *Bystander* by James Preller (2009), *The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen* by Susin Nielsen (2012), and *The Bully Book* by Eric Kahn Gale

(2013). This research answers the question of (1) what is bullying? (2) who are the victims? (3) who are the bystanders and what role do they play? This research then concludes that YAL intentionally addresses sensitive issues as a way to increase awareness and empathy towards social changes towards adolescents in the school environment. However, even though this research gives valuable insights towards the bullying in literatures and how it impacts the educational practices, The limited options of Novels used in this research can be a weakness. These three novels are limiting the scope of literature that can result in limited portrayals of bullying across broader cultures.

An analysis of bullying in schools as presented by two Ugandan novels (Naula et al., 2018) by Mary Naula, Manuel Muranga, Cornelious Wambi Gulere and Joseph Jakisa Owor is also a research towards the bullying variable in a novel. This research comes from the phenomenon where every student and, generally, humans always learn anything with the involvement of socio-cultural aspects in it. One of the aspects of socio-cultural things is the act of bullying. This research is done to analyze the act of bullying and its impact in the novels Gorette Kyomuhendo's *The First Daughter* (1996) and Mary Karoor Okurut's *The Invisible Weevil* (1998). The conclusion of the research is that the school environment in both novels sees bullying as a harmful and traumatic act that later on can be caused by the global influence on school environment. Despite contributing valuable insights into the fields, this research didn't take empirical data such as testimonies from students to enrich the findings to make it more reliable.

Sharavina Delani with her research entitled *Manipulative Leadership and the effect towards Its Subordinate as Portrayed in Orson Scott Card's Novel* (Delani, 2019) is a research study towards manipulative behavior in a novel. Delani views the novel as the medium for authors to express their feelings towards an individual, a group of people, an organization, or even a government. This research focuses to see the characterization of manipulative behavior that is shown in the novel *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card, a popular culture novel considering how

massive its readers is. This research concludes that, first, the American manipulative reader uses two values that are risk-taking towards the future, change, and the absence of directness, openness, honesty, and freedom. Second, an American manipulative leader influences the psychological condition of their subordinates. However, this research lacks of established leadership theory to support this analysis and enhance the depth of this research.

Mucahammad Alyan Cafash Cafidzul Umam and Latifah Dwi Ariyani have also done research regarding the manipulative behavior entitled the Mental Condition of a Manipulative Personality Reflected in the Main Character in David Fincher's *Gone Girl* (2014) (Umam & Ariyani, 2023) . This research is done to study the process of the main character, Amy, becoming a manipulative character after all the things that happening in her life. The sequence of things that become the trigger is (1)the affair of her husband, (2)how Amy must face her parents because of it, (3) how Amy is ready to seek revenge towards her husband, (4)how is the mental condition of Amy when she is ready to commit suicide. This research then concludes that Amy Dunne has become a manipulative character after going through those sequences of misfortune. Even though the paper mostly uses psychoanalytic theory, it could be helpful to include other psychological viewpoints, like cognitive-behavioral theories or more recent theories of personality disorders. This restricted focus might make it more difficult to analyze Amy's manipulative actions and their effects in depth.

Irina Ryabtseva and Alexey Chukhno with their research entitled The manipulative characteristics of the tactics of the implementations of the subterfuge strategy in the novel "Catch 22" (Ryabtseva & Chukhno, 2021) answers the question about manipulative characteristics that are shared in the subterfuge strategy. This research emphasizes that to become manipulative, there is a subterfuge strategy that is used. These strategies are tactics of ignorance; tactics of expressing open disrespect; tactics of

attacking, and intimidation (transition to personality); tactics of making aggressive remarks under the guise of a joke and irony; tactics of question-to-question response; tactics of the game on self-esteem; compromising and belittling tactics; tactics of accusation and provoking feelings of guilt; persuasion tactics; tactics of question attack. Although, The analysis mostly depends on qualitative observations, with little empirical evidence or data to back up assertions regarding the prevalence or efficacy of certain strategies in everyday communication. This can make the case less convincing.

