

## THE TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES OF THE EXPRESSIVE UTTERANCES IN CAPTAIN AMERICA

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### *Abstract*

*The objectives of the research were (1) to describe the expressive utterances in Captain America movie; and (2) to analyze the translation techniques used in translating expressive utterances in Captain America movie. This research was qualitative and, therefore, descriptive too. The source of data was the English transcript of Captain America movie and its Indonesian subtitle. The data collection technique was document analysis while the data collection analysis was ethnographic. Five expressive utterances found in the script of the movie entitled Captain America: The first Avenger. They were denying, admitting, apologizing, congratulating, and thanking. The first two, namely denying and admitting, were the most dominant. The expressive utterances were translated with twelve translation techniques, namely established equivalent, modulation, deletion, transposition, literal translation, adaptation, discursive creation, addition, explication, compensation, and generalization. Established equivalent was the most dominant translation technique.*

**Keywords:** *Captain America Movie, Expressive Utterances, Translation Techniques*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In daily life, there are so many utterances uttered by people to express something. These utterances are called as speech acts in pragmatic study. Searle (1976) states there are four kinds of speech act: directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Yule (1996) says that expressive are those kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker feels, for instance thanking, pleasure, displeasure, apology, condolence, pain, like, dislike, joy, sorrow and so on. This statement means people can express their feeling when they uttered something. Expressive utterance can be found in a dialogue between two people or more not only in daily life but also in a movie. This research will find the expressive utterances in a movie entitled “Captain America: The first Avengers”. The language used in the movie is English, however it has Indonesian subtitle when it is played in Indonesian theater. Thus the translation techniques of the subtitle will also be analyzed in this research.

The purposes of the research were (1) to describe the expressive utterances in Captain America movie; and (2) to analyze the translation techniques used in translating expressive utterances in Captain America movie. The first problem was analyzed using the theory of

pragmatics, speech acts, and expressive utterance. Whereas the second problem was solved using the theory of subtitling, translation, and translation techniques.

According to Morris (1938), pragmatics is "that branch of semiotics which studies the origins, the uses, and the effects of signs" (1946). This definition means some signs can be analyzed based on the origin, the uses or why the signs are performed, and the effect or response of the signs. Searle (1976) states, the theory of speech act starts with the assumption that the minimal unit of human communication is not a sentence or other expression, but rather the performance of certain kinds of acts, such as making statement, asking questions, giving orders, describing, explaining, apologizing, thanking, congratulating, and others. Expressive utterances, based on Kreidler theory (1998), are speech acts that arise from actions performed by speakers in the past so that speech acts of this type are retrospective and involve the speakers.

The activity of subtitling is the process of translation where one language as source language is transferred into other languages as the target language. Karamitraoglou (2000) defines subtitling as translation of the spoken source text of an AV product into a written target text which is added on to the images of the original product at the bottom of the screen. According to Nida and Taber (1969), translation consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. Translation does not only change the form but translation is a process of transferring the meaning from source language (SL) to target language (TL). The important thing in translation is the way to find the equivalent in source language (TL) to target language (TL). In translating process, some techniques are needed to translate the source text to the target text. The technique of translation proposed by Molina and Albir (2002) are adaptation, amplification, borrowing, calque, compensation, description, discursive creation, established equivalent, generalization, linguistic amplification, linguistic compression, literal translation, modulation, particularization, reduction, substitution, transposition, and variation.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

Qualitative approach was used because this study focuses on words rather than numbers and statistics (Ary, 2010). Babu (2008) also states that qualitative research method is developed in the social sciences to enable researchers to study social and cultural phenomena such as feelings, thoughts, behaviors, believes, and so on. This research was qualitative due to the data that consist of words classified as expressive utterances in a movie. Therefore, this research was also descriptive too because of describing the data.

The data of this research were the dialogues in a movie entitled *Captain America* producing expressive utterances. Thus, the data of this study were in the form of words, phrases, and clauses. The source of data was a movie entitled *Captain America* directed by Joe Johnston, written by Cristopher Markus and Stephen McFeely, and produced by Marvel Studios in 2011.

The data collection technique of this research was document analysis since they were taken by analyzing document having expressive utterances. The document was the subtitles of a movie entitled *Captain America: The first Avengers* consisting expressive utterances.

Data analysis was the activity of sorting, marking, and classifying data in such a way as to produce findings to answer research problems. Based on ethnographic analysis, which was a search for parts of a culture and the relationship between the various parts and the whole (Spradley, 2007, p. 199), the data analysis techniques of this research include domain analysis, taxonomiy analysis, component analysis, and cultural theme analysis.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### A. Expressive Utterance in the Captain America movie

No	Expressive Utterances	The number of data
1	Denying	24
2	Admitting	22
3	Apologizing	2
4	Congratulating	2
5	Thanking	2
	Total	52

#### 1. Denying

4F Doctor: Sorry, son.

Steve Rogers: *Look, just give me a chance.*

4F Doctor: You'd be ineligible on your asthma alone.

Steve Rogers didn't want to admit his own condition and forced the doctor to give him a chance. His statement "Look, just give me a chance." shows his desire to be a soldier and he denied the fact that he was actually ineligible.

#### 2. Admitting

Steve Rogers: What do you think?

Peggy Carter: *Yes. I think it works.* (43/15/Ad/Ee)

In the dialogue, Steve Rogers asked Peggy Carter's opinion about vibranium shield that would be used as the main weapon when he acted as Captain America. To acknowledge the power of the weapon, Peggy Carter shot her gun to the shield and said "Yes. I think it works".

#### 3. Apologizing

4F Doctor: *Sorry, son.*

Steve Rogers: Look, just give me a chance (14/2/Ap/Adp).

In the dialogue, 4F Doctor said sorry because he couldn't help Steve Rogers to pass the registration in order to be a soldier. 4F Doctor apologized to Steve Rogers because his feeling of regret for not able to do anything to help him.

#### 4. Congratulating

Senator Brandt: *I am honoured to present this medal for valour to my personal friend, Captain America!* (39/15/Co/Comp)

The data above showed that Senator Brandt wanted to give a medal for Captain America as a sign of appreciation for his great achievement. He congratulated Captain America by giving praise for his bravery in fighting Hydra alone and releasing all of prisoners then recruiting them as part of the army. His expression was called as congratulating in order to praise someone.

#### 5. Thanking

James Montgomery Falsworth: Rogers! You might need this!

Steve Rogers: Thanks! (50/17/Th/Ee)

In the dialogue above, Steve Rogers said "thanks" to show his gratitude for Falsworth. Falsworth gave Rogers a gun as weapon in facing the enemy.

## B. Translation Technique in Captain America movie

No	Translation Technique	The number of data
1	Established equivalent	21
2	Modulation	6
3	Deletion	6
4	Transposition	6
5	Literal translation	4
6	Adaptation	2
7	Discursive creation	2
8	Addition	1
9	Explicitation	1
10	Compensation	1
11	Generalization	1
	Total	51

### (1) Adaptation

Number: 01\_04/1/Co/Adp

Source language:

Johann Schmidt: *It has taken me a long time to find this place. [to the Tower Keeper]*  
 You should be commended.

Target language:

Memakan waktu lama buatku untuk menemukan tempat ini. Kau harus dipuji.

The translation of data above that used translation technique of adaptation was shown in sentence *it has taken me a long time* into *Memakan waktu lama buatku*. The phrase *it has taken me a long time* means the action requires a long time to be wasted for the speaker to finish the attempt.

### (2) Addition

Number: 01\_12/1/Ad/Add

Source language:

Tower Keeper: It's not *for the eyes* of ordinary men.

Target language:

Itu bukan *untuk dilihat mata* orang biasa

The technique in datum 12 above is addition. The word that was added in the translation of example 1 is *dilihat*. The translator purposely adds the detail in the translation to make the reader get the hidden meaning of the source text.

### (3) Explicitation

Number: 02\_13/1/Ad/Exp

Source language:

Johann Schmidt: I already have. [*He shoots and kills the tower keeper*]

Target language:

Aku sudah *terbakar*

The translation is done by adding explicitation in the text. *I already have* means *aku sudah*, but the translator added *terbakar* to make clear the hidden meaning of the sentence also to make

the reader understand the utterance well. Those two data are the only ones that uses linguistic amplification technique.

#### (4) Compensation

Number: 01\_32/13/Ad/Comp

Source language:

Johann Schmidt: You are deluded, Captain. You pretend to be a simple soldier, but in reality you are just afraid to admit that we have left humanity behind. Unlike you, I *embrace it proudly*. Without fear!

Target language:

Kau berhalusinasi, Kapten. Kau berpura - pura menjadi prajurit kecil, Tapi kenyataannya, kau ketakutan Untuk mengakui kita telah meninggalkan umat manusia. Tidak sepertimu, aku *sangat bangga*. Tanpa rasa takut !

The translation is used because the phrase of the source language cannot be reflected into another phrase that has similar meaning. Embrace proudly means feeling honored or gratified by something in a sense of pride. In Indonesian it means sangat bangga.

#### (5) Discursive creation

Number : 01\_36/15/De/Dc

Source language:

Col. Chester Phillips: What makes you think I give *a damn about your opinions*? I took a chance with you, Agent Carter. And now America's golden boy and a lot of other good men are dead, cause you had a crush.

Target language

Apa yang membuatmu *pasti akan pertanyaan itu*? Aku mengambil kesempatan denganmu, Agen Carter. Dan sekarang putra emas Amerika dan banyak orang baik lainnya mati Karena kau memiliki hubungan.

The sentence that shows discursive creation technique is *what makes you think I give a damn about your opinions* translated into *apa yang membuatmu pasti akan pertanyaan itu?* in target text.

#### (6) Established equivalent

Number: 01\_46/16/De/Ee

Source language:

Johann Schmidt: Evidently not. [*kills him*]

Target language:

Terbukti tidak.

The translation of the datum above uses established equivalent technique. The word *evidently* is translated into *terbukti* as both terms are equivalent. The word *evidently* is used to express a way that is clearly seen or obviously, as well as *terbukti* from the target text language. It can be proved in dictionary that “evidently” can be translated into ternyata, terbukti, rupanya, and dengan terang.

#### (7) Generalization

Number: 01\_17/3/Th/Gen

Source language:

Mandy: Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Howard Stark!

Target language:

Hadirin sekalian, Tn. Howard Stark !

The translator uses generalization technique to translate example 1. The term that is translated by using generalization is the phrase *ladies and gentlemen* which has the same meaning as “Bapak-bapak dan Ibu-ibu” in target language.

**(8) Literal translation**

Number: 02\_05/1/Ad/Lt

Source language:

Tower Keeper: I am nothing like you.

Target language:

Aku bukan sepertimu

The translation of the datum five above also used literal translation technique. The source text was translated word by word, one by one, literally into the target text. *I am nothing like you* was rendered into *Aku bukan sepertimu* where each word of the target text was the literal meaning of the words of the source text.

**(9) Modulation**

Number: 02\_14/2/Ap/Mod

Source language:

Steve Rogers: Look, just give me a chance.

Target language:

Dengar, berikan aku kesempatan

Modulation technique is also used in the translation because the source text and target text have different term to express information. The term that uses modulation technique is *look* into *dengar*. The word *look* can't be reflected in the same place in the target text because it may cause confusion. The focus of the point of view needed to be changed. Thus the best translation is *dengar*.

**(10) Deletion**

Number: 01\_18/3/Ad/Del

Source language:

James Barnes: You're *really* gonna do this again?

Target language:

Kau mau melakukan ini lagi?

The example above shows that the word in the source text really is not translated into target text. This is done by deleting some unnecessary term, or usually be called as deletion. This technique is often used in subtitling because of the limited space. However this technique also has weakness that is the omitted word makes the meaning of the sentence cannot be fully delivered.

**(11) Transposition**

Number: 02\_21/12/De/Trans

Source language:

Johann Schmidt: Increase the output by 60 % and *see to it* our other facilities do the same.

Dr. Arnim Zola: But the prisoners, I'm not sure they have the strength.

Target language

-Percepat output sampai 60 % Dan *suruh* fasilitas lain melakukan hal yang sama

-Tapi para tahanan ini, Aku tak yakin mereka memiliki kekuatan

The source text *see to it* is translated into the target text *suruh*. The grammatical category that shifts is from the source text that has verb phrase, translated into a single verb in the target text. This changes of the grammatical category is called as transposition technique.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Five expressive utterances found in the script of the movie entitled Captain America: The first Avenger. They were denying, admitting, apologizing, congratulating, and thanking. The first two, namely denying and admitting, were far behind the others. However, in the recent similar study, Haryanti & Mukti (2019) found twelve expressive utterances. The different numbers of categories could be caused by the different perceptions and their applications. Different object of research could be influential too. Unfortunately, the research did not mention the dominant findings of expressive utterances.

Expressive utterances in Captain America: The first Avenger were translated with twelve translation techniques, namely established equivalent, modulation, deletion, transposition, literal translation, adaptation, discursive creation, addition, explicitation, compensation, and generalization. Established equivalent was the most dominant translation technique. This was totally different from Haryanti & Mukti's (2019) study which placed linguistic compression as the most dominant. It seemed that linguistic compression became very dominant translation technique for two reasons. Firstly, they could be influenced by the idea that linguistic compression often occurred in subtitling. Secondly, they did not pay any attention that the other translation techniques could be suitable.

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