

THE TECHNIQUES AND ACCURACY IN THE TRANSLATION OF CULTURAL WORDS IN GEORGE ORWELL'S *ANIMAL FARM*

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Abstract

*This study aimed to analyze the techniques employed to translate the cultural words and their accuracies. The data was obtained from a classic novel written by George Orwell entitled *Animal Farm* and its Indonesian version under the same title translated by Bakdi Soemanto. This research applied descriptive-qualitative method. As the population of this research was too large, this research applied purposive sampling. The techniques employed in translating the cultural words were judged by using translational equivalent method. While, the degree of accuracy was determined by the employment of distributional method. The finding of this research presented ten techniques employed to translate the cultural words, namely adaptation (15), amplification (7), borrowing (14), calque (7), description (11), generalization (11), modulation (2), particularization (3), reduction (4), and transposition (6). In terms of accuracy, the renderings were classified into three degrees. They were accurate (47), less accurate (30), and inaccurate (3). Most of the cultural words were translated accurately and only a small number of the words was translated inaccurately.*

Keywords: *Cultural Words, Translation Techniques, Accuracy in Translation*

1. INTRODUCTION

A multicultural society delivers a great contribution in developing language resulting in cultural words. As the words are culturally bound, some of them cannot be translated literally. Thus, various translation techniques need to be used so that the result of translation can be both accurate and natural. The employment of the techniques, however, affects the degree of the translation accuracy. Cultural words in George Orwell's *Animal Farm* which have been translated into Indonesian by Bakdi Soemanto, for instance, are translated by

using different techniques and different degree of accuracy. Hence, analyzing this phenomenon is interesting to be conducted.

Generally, translating a text is done through some processes. Firstly, a translator determines which ideology is well-suited the purpose of translation. Secondly, she/he chooses a translation method as the global option regarding to the ideology selected. Thirdly, strategy to solve problems during the translation process is applied. Finally, translation techniques which are used to translate the micro-units of the text are employed.

Translation equivalence can be observed and categorised through translation techniques. Molina & Albir (2002: 509) define translation techniques as procedures to analyze and classify how translation equivalence works. It is evident that the product of translation involving the micro-units of text, such as words, phrases, clauses, and sentences can be analyzed and classified by using translation techniques. Further, Molina & Albir (2002: 509-511) classify translation techniques into eighteen kinds. They are adaptation, amplification, borrowing, calque, compensation, description, discursive creation, established, equivalent, generalization, linguistic amplification, linguistic compression, literal translation, modulation, particularization, reduction, substitution (linguistic, paralinguistic), transposition, and variation.

Accuracy is one of the assessment aspects that is used to judge whether the meaning or message conveyed in the TT is accurately transferred from the ST. Nababan (2002: 50) proposes the instrument of translation accuracy assessor which divides translation categories into three, namely accurate, less accurate, and inaccurate. The elaboration are as follows:

- (1) Accurate : Word meanings, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences or source language texts are transferred accurately to the target language; there is absolutely no distortion of meaning.
- (2) Less Accurate: Most of the word meanings, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences or source language texts have been accurately transferred into the target language. However, there are still meaning distortions or double meaning translations (equivocalities) or meaning omissions that disturb the integrity of the message.
- (3) Inaccurate : Word meanings, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences or source language texts are transferred inaccurately to the target language or deleted.

Cultural words can be defined as peculiar words or phrases that are bound to a life of a certain speech community and often not understood by people outside the community. Moreover, they usually, but not always do not have the cultural equivalent in another language. Newmark (1988: 95) divides cultural words into five major categories. Their instances can be seen below:

(1) *Ecology*

Flora, fauna, winds, plains, hills: 'honeysuckle', 'downs', 'sirocco', *rundra\ 'pampas', *tabuleiros* (low plateau), 'plateau', *selva* (tropical rain forest), 'savanna', 'paddy field*

(2) *Material culture* (artefacts)

- (a) Food: 'zabaglione', 'sake', *Kaiserschmarren*
- (b) Clothes: 'anorak', *kanga* (Africa), *sarong* (South Seas), *dhoti* (India)
- (c) Houses and towns: *kampong*, *bourg*, *bourgade*, 'chalet', 'low-rise', 'tower'
- (d) Transport: 'bike*', 'rickshaw', 'Moulton', *cabriolet*, 'tilbury', *caliche*
- (3) *Social culture* - work and leisure
ajaki amah, *condottere*, *biwa*, *sithar*, *raga*, 'reggae', 'rock'
- (4) *Organisations, customs, activities, procedures, concepts*
- (a) Political and administrative: president, *Assemblee Nationale?*, *Bundestag*, White House, British Council
- (b) Religious: *dharma*, *karma?* 'temple'
- (c) Artistic: *concertgebouw*, *art nouveau*, *Bauhaus*
- (5) *Gestures and habits*
'Cock a snook', 'spitting'

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The method which is applied in this research is descriptive-qualitative. Azwar (2013: 126) says that descriptive analysis aims to give a description about subject that is being researched based on the given variables from the group of researched subject and it is not intended to examine hypothesis.

The population of this research is all cultural words found in George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and their renderings in Bakdi Soemanto's *Animal Farm*. Since they are regarded too large to be analyzed individually, some samples will be applied to make them more effective. In other words, the type of sample used in this research is purposive sampling.

This research makes use of observation method in collecting the data. Marzuki (1981: 58) mentions that observation method allows people to do the observation and note taking systematically toward the phenomenon being researched. This method is accompanied by a technique, namely documentation.

Equivalent method and distributional method are present to find the answer of the problem formulations. Djajasudarma (1993: 58) proposes that there are two methods in analyzing the data, namely equivalent method, whose determiner is the outside elements of the language; and distributional method, whose determiner is the language itself. Translational equivalent method allows the translator to acquire the closest equivalents for the source text. Distributional method is useful for quantifying and classifying the semantic similarities between or among linguistic items regardless of the outer linguistic aspects. Consequently, the English cultural words and their renderings are connected and compared based on their semantic features in order to find the similarities as well as the differences. Distributional method is also helpful to judge what translation techniques are used to translate the cultural words into Indonesian. To assess the accuracy of the translation, this research will use semantic analysis as a technique along with those two methods.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result and discussion are the most prominent part of this study where the finding of the research is presented. Here, the translation techniques applied to translate the cultural words into Indonesian and their accuracies are analyzed in detail.

3.1 The Translation Techniques Employed in Translating the Cultural Words in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*

The translation techniques suggested by Molina and Albir are the ones which are used to analyze the data. Adaptation, amplification, borrowing, calque, description, generalization, modulation, particularization, reduction, and transposition are considered as appropriate techniques to be employed in translating the cultural words.

3.1.1 Adaptation

Adaptation enables the translator to present understandable message by using terms that the target readers are more familiar with. The following datum is the example:

ST: (54/ADA/63) When he did appear, he was attended not only by his retinue of dogs but by a black cockerel who marched in front of him and acted as a kind of trumpeter, letting out a loud "**cock-adoodle-do**" before Napoleon spoke.

TT: (54/ADA/92) Kalau muncul, ia tak hanya dikawal oleh pasukan anjingnya, tetapi juga seekor ayam jantan hitam yang berbaris di depannya dan bertindak sebagai peniup trompet, sambil mengeluarkan suara keras "**kukuruyuk**" sebelum Napoleon bicara.

In western culture, the formation of a word to represent a cockerel's loud crow is "**cock-adoodle-do**". Meanwhile, Indonesian culture has different onomatopoeia suggesting the crow, that is "**kukuruyuk**". That is why "**cock-adoodle-do**" is adapted as a more familiar word, "**kukuruyuk**", which phonetically suggests the sound it describes.

3.1.2 Amplification

Amplification is adding some necessary information in the receptor language in order to make the meaning clearer. Take a look at the example:

ST: (79/AMP/96) "**Gentlemen,**" concluded Napoleon, "I will give you the same toast as before, but in a different form.

TT: (79/AMP/139) "**Bapak-Bapak yang terhormat,**" Napoleon mengakhiri pidatonya, "saya juga akan bersulang seperti tadi, tetapi dalam bentuk yang berbeda.

The meaning of **gentlemen** is made explicit as there are details introduced in the TT. In explicating the meaning, the way people call and treat them are told, they

are **Bapak-Bapak** and **yang terhormat**. Therefore, the example is included to amplification.

3.1.3 Borrowing

In the use of borrowing, a translator consciously makes up her/his mind to borrow the foreign terms from the ST, enabling the target readers to transcend their linguistic boundaries. For example:

ST: (49/BOR/48) In the morning the animals came out of their stalls to find that flagstaff had been blown down and an **elm** tree at the foot of the orchard had been plucked up like a radish.

TL: (49/BOR/71) Pagi harinya, binatang-binatang itu keluar dari kandang dan menemukan bahwa tiang bendera itu sudah roboh diterpa angin dan sebuah pohon **elm** di kaki kebun buah-buahan sudah tercabut seperti sebuah lobak.

Since Indonesian does not have the exact equivalent for the word **elm**, the word is purely borrowed in the absence of the spelling and the pronunciation changes. As a result, the Indonesian rendering possesses the same form as the ST form.

3.1.4 Calque

Calque means loan translation. It is the translation of words or phrases taken from one language into another literally regarding the syntactical structure of the TT. For instance:

ST: (78/CAL/96) This farm which he had the honour to control, he added, was **a co-operative enterprise**.

TT: (78/CAL/138) Peternakan yang ia mendapat kehormatan untuk mengendalikannya, tambahnya, adalah **satu perusahaan koperasi**.

The phrase is literally translated obeying the syntactical structure of Indonesian. It shows that calque phenomenon appears to translate the English phrase creating a new Indonesian phrase.

3.1.5 Description

Description is a translation technique done by describing a term's form, function, colour, taste, texture, process making, and so forth. For example:

ST: (42/DES/33) He talked learnedly about field-drains, **silage**, and basic slag, and had worked out a complicated scheme for all the animals to drop their dung directly in the fields, at a different spot every day, to save the labour of cartage.

TT: (42/DES/49) Ia berbicara secara ilmiah tentang pengeringan ladang, **makanan ternak yang disimpan dalam lumbung dan ditutup rapat-rapat**, tentang ampas atau terak, bahkan menggarap rancangan rumit bagi semua binatang untuk membuang kotoran mereka

langsung di ladang di tempat-tempat tertentu yang berbeda setiap hari untuk menghemat ongkos angkutan gerobak.

The form of **silage** is described as **makanan ternak**. Then, the place where it is stored is stated, that is **yang disimpan dalam lumbung**. Finally, the way it is stored in the barn is also mentioned, that is **ditutup rapat-rapat**. Thus, description phenomenon appears to translate the datum.

3.1.6 Generalization

Generalization happens when the product of translation has broader meaning than the original text. The example includes:

ST: (36/GEN/26) Bulls which had always been tractable suddenly turned savage, sheep broke down hedges and devoured **the clover**, cows kicked the pails over, hunters refused their fences and shot their riders on to the other side.

TT: (36/GEN/39) Sapi jantan yang biasanya mudah diperintah tiba-tiba berubah menjadi buas, biri-biri merusak pagar dan mengganyang **tanaman hias**, sapi-sapi menyepak dan menggulingkan ember air, pemburu-pemburu menolak adanya pagar-pagar dan menembak orang berada di luar pagar.

Tanaman hias consists of various different kinds of plant including **the clover**. The meaning of **the clover** is narrower if it is compared to the meaning of **tanaman hias**. So, the translation technique is considered to be generalization.

3.1.7 Modulation

Conveying the same ideas by using a different attitude of considering a matter in the TT means modulation. Take a look at the following analysis:

ST: (18/MOD/12) The men had milked **the cows** in the early morning and then had gone out rabbiting, without bothering to feed the animals.

TT: (18/MOD/18) Para karyawannya sudah memerah **susu** pagi-pagi dan berburu terwelu tanpa repot-repot memberi makan binatang-binatang.

The ST asserts the producer of **susu**, that is **the cows**. Meanwhile, the TT perceives the phenomenon from a different point of view, that is by focusing on the product or **susu**. Here, modulation is employed to translate the datum.

3.1.8 Particularization

Particularization occurs when the term in the TT is translated by using a specific term having a narrower sense than the original. Here is the example:

ST: (20/PAR/13) One of the cows broke in the door of the **store**-shed with her horn and all the animals began to help themselves from the bins.

TT: (20/PAR/13) Salah seekor sapi mendobrak pintu lumbung **jerami** dengan tanduknya dan semua binatang mulai melahap jerami di lumbung penyimpanan itu.

Store covers hay (**jerami**), grass, silage, etc. So, **jerami** is the hyponym of **store**, which happens to be the superordinate. That is why the translation technique is classified as particularization.

3.1.9 Reduction

Reduction is the compression of the ST meaning in the TT. For example:

ST: (26/RED/15) They tiptoed from room to room, afraid to speak above a whisper and gazing with a kind of awe at the unbelievable luxury, at the beds with their feather mattresses, **the looking-glasses**, the horsehair sofa, the Brussels carpet, the lithograph of Queen Victoria over the drawing-room mantel-piece.

TT: (26/RED/22) Mereka berjingkat dari kamar ke kamar, takut bicara keras; maka mereka saling berbisik dan menatap benda-benda mewah yang menakjubkan dengan penuh kekaguman, di tempat tidur ada tilam bulu, **cermin**, sofa dari rambut kuda, karpet dari Brussel, litografi Ratu Victoria di atas gantungan mantel di kamar tamu.

The translation text uses a different term which suppresses the original meaning to result in an information density, that is **cermin**. In other words, reduction is employed to translate the datum in which the original meaning is not distorted.

3.1.10 Transposition

Transposition is the changing of grammatical categories when translating the ST to the TT. The following datum may support idea:

ST: (74/TRA/93) The company had been enjoying a game of cards, but had broken off for the moment, evidently in order **to drink a toast**.

TT: (74/TRA/135) Kumpulan itu tengah menikmati permainan kartu, tetapi berhenti sebentar, jelas untuk tujuan **bersulang**.

The infinitive phrase **to drink a toast** consists of four words, they are to + verb (**to drink**) and article + object (**a toast**). While, the Indonesian rendering only consists of one word, that is **bersulang**. The change from phrase to word indicates transposition phenomenon without distorting the meaning.

3.2 The Accuracy of the Cultural Word Translation

The accuracy in this research is assessed by using Nababan's theory. Accordingly, the degree of accuracy is divided into three, namely accurate, less accurate, and inaccurate.

3.2.1 Accurate

A translated text can be assessed as accurate if only it is translated without distorting the meaning completely. Here is the example:

Source Text (ST):

ST: (28/BOR/15) A unanimous resolution was passed on the spot that the farmhouse should be preserved as **a museum**.

Referential Meaning-Source Text (RM-ST):

Museum: building in which objects of art, history or science are shown (OLPOD: 289)

Feature: +building, +object, +art, +history, +science

Target Text (TT):

TT: (28/BOR/22) Ada satu kesepakatan bersama yang dicapai bahwa rumah peternakan itu akan dijadikan **museum**.

Referential Meaning-Target Text (RM-TT):

Museum: gedung yang digunakan sebagai tempat untuk pameran tetap benda-benda yang patut mendapat perhatian umum, seperti peninggalan sejarah, seni, dan ilmu (KBBI: 601)

Feature: +building, +object, +art, +history, +science

Semantic Analysis:

Common Components (CC): +building, +object, +art, +history, +science

Different Components (DC): -

The term **museum** both in the ST and the TT have extremely similar meanings. The meaning similarities lead them to share common components, namely “building”, “object”, “art”, “history”, and “science”. There is no gain or loss in the translation product that makes it possess the quality of being accurate.

3.2.2 Less Accurate

A translated text which is less accurate does not fully convey the original meaning. The following datum clarifies the idea:

Source Text (ST):

ST: (59/GEN/66) A gander who had been privy to the plot had confessed his guilt to Squealer and immediately committed suicide by swallowing **deadly nightshade berries**.

Referential Meaning-Source Text (RM-ST):

Deadly nightshade berries: berries (**atropa belladonna**) which are poisonous, small, rounded, shiny-black, and sweet.

Feature: +berries, +**atropa belladonna**, +poisonous, +small, +rounded, +shiny-black, +sweet

Target Text (TT):

TT: (59/GEN/97) Seekor angsa jantan yang selama ini mengetahui rahasia itu sudah mengakui kesalahannya pada Squealer dan langsung bunuh diri dengan menelan **beri beracun**.

Referential Meaning-Target Text (RM-TT):

Beri beracun: buah beri yang mengandung racun, berukuran kecil, dan berbentuk bulat, tetapi tidak pasti species, warna, dan rasanya.

Feature: +berry, +poisonous, +small, +rounded, +unidentified species, colour, and taste

Semantic Analysis

Common Components (CC): +berry, +poisonous, +small, +rounded

Different Components (DC): (ST): +**atropa belladonna**, +shiny-black, +sweet, -unidentified species, colour, and taste

(TT): +unidentified species, colour, and taste, +/-**atropa belladonna**, +/-shiny-black, +/-sweet

Beri beracun may or may not share semantic features, such as “**atropa belladonna**”, “shiny-black”, and “sweet” with the ST. However, the meaning of **beri beracun** still conveys the ST meaning partially as both of them have similar semantic features, namely “berry”, “poisonous”, “small”, and “rounded”. In terms of accuracy, the TT is assessed as less accurate since some information are lost.

4.2.3 Inaccurate

Translated text is assessed as inaccurate if the meaning of the ST is distorted, omitted, added or transferred by using different terms of which their meanings are irrelevant. The example covers:

Source Text (ST):

ST: (10/CAL/07) Many years ago, when I was a little pig, my mother and the other **sows** used to sing an old song of which they new only the tune and the first three words.

Referential Meaning-Source Text (RM-ST):

Sow: adult female pig (OLPD: 424)

Feature: +adult, +female, +pig

Target Text (TT):

TT: (10/CAL/10) Bertahun-tahun silam, tatkala saya masih bocah, ibu saya dan **penabur** lainnya biasa menyanyikan sebuah lagu lama, tetapi mereka hanya ingat tiga kata pertama lagu itu.

Referential Meaning-Source Text (RM-ST):

Penabur: orang yang menabur (benih dan sebagainya) (KBBI: 881).

Feature: +person, +seed

Semantic Analysis

Common Components (CC): -

Different Components (DC): (ST): +adult, +female, +pig, -person, -seed

(TT): +person, +seed, -adult, -female, -pig

Sows should be translated as **induk babi** or **babi betina**. However, it is translated as **penabur** of which the meaning is completely irrelevant to the ST meaning. Therefore, both the ST and the TT do not share any common components. This translation, therefore, is a sign of poorly translated text.

4. CONCLUSION

This research aims to analyze the techniques employed to translate the cultural words in George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and their accuracies. In conducting this research, descriptive-qualitative method is applied to investigate the given phenomenon. The finding of this research presents ten translation techniques used in translating the cultural words into Indonesian. They are adaptation, amplification, borrowing, calque, description, generalization, modulation, particularization, reduction, and transposition. Adaptation is the most frequently used translation technique. Conversely, modulation is the least employed translation technique. In addition to those translation techniques proposed by Molina & Albir, the researcher would like to suggest the technique of deletion as there is a cultural word which is not translated at all in the TT. In respect of accuracy, 47 cultural words are translated accurately into Indonesian. Then, the translation of 30 cultural words are categorized as less accurate. Lastly, 3 cultural words are translated inaccurately.

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