Translator's Tendency in Translating Indonesian Cultural Words into English from the Novel *Negeri 5 Menara* (*The Land of Five Towers*)

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ABSTRACT:

The present study is aimed at investigating the type of Indonesian cultural words found in the novel *Negeri 5 Menara* and the translated novel, and also to examine the translation techniques used by the translator in translating them into English, the translator's tendency in translating cultural words and the factors leading to the translator's tendency. To analyze the kinds of cultural word found in the novel and how those cultural words are translated, three primary theories were used: cultural words classification (Newmark, 1988), translation techniques (Molina & Albir, 2002), and translation strategies (Venuti, 2004). To investigate factors leading to the translator's tendency the interview with the translator was held. The result of the study shows that there are various kinds of cultural word found in the novel and most of them were domesticated. The factors leading to the translator's tendency were cultural differences and the author's intention to get wider readership.

Keywords: *Cultural Words, Translator's Tendency*

INTRODUCTION

After the Culture Turn era in translation study, translation is no longer merely about the action of the replacement material in one source language to textual material in another target language which only concerns on the grammatical syntactical equivalence just like Catford (1965: p. 20) said. Translation has become much more complicated process since culture aspect of the source language should be considered in translation. Vermeer (1986) as cited in Wu (2006: p. 1) proposed his understanding of translation. He said in translation we do not only render the words or sentences from one language into another. We also provide information about a text with new function, culture and linguistic conditions.

In providing cultural condition in the target language, the translator might encounter cultural problem within languages such as cultural words. Cultural words are words that are associated with a particular language, which exist only in a culture (Newmark, 1988).

Dealing with cultural words the translator may feel confused. It is because not all cultural words from one language have its own equivalent cultural words in another language. However, Nida and Taber (1982) once said that anything that can be said in one language can be said in another. Some techniques of translation also has been made by the researchers to help the translator deal with this kind of problem. The translator is free to choose which technique to be used.

To choose certain technique means also to choose which culture of one language can be and should be transmitted into that of another. The translation techniques are oriented into two translation's strategies, domestication and foreignization. Domestication and foreignization are translation strategies proposed by Venuti (2011). Both of them are two basic strategies that can be used in translating cultural words. In domestication strategy the translator leaves the author in peace and moves the reader towards him. It is source language-oriented strategy. On the contrary, when the translator uses foreignization strategy the translator leaves the reader in peace and moves

the author towards him. It is target-language oriented.

In the selection process of translation technique and strategy, there might be some factors influencing the translator. The factors are varied; it can be objective factors such as type of text, target language reader, etc. or subjective factors such as purpose of translator and translator's attitude towards source text.

METHODOLOGY

This study focuses on seeing what kind of Indonesian cultural words found in the novel *Negeri 5 Menara*, how the cultural words were translated into English, and what translation techniques were used by the translator. The analysis of translation techniques applied in the translation of cultural words was done to see translator's tendency in translating Indonesian cultural words into English. This study also tries to find the reason why the translator prefers one strategy over the other.

This research used two kinds of data: objective and genetic data. The objective data refers to the translation product while genetic data refers to the

translator. The two kinds of data were used because this research was oriented to the product of translation and the process of translation.

The objective data source to be analyzed was Indonesian cultural words found in the Indonesian novel of Ahmad Fuadi *Negeri 5 Menara* and its English translation, *The Land of Five Towers*. From the novel there were 239 Indonesian cultural words identified.

After the objective data were identified then it was analyzed descriptively. Firstly, the objective data were classified according to the categories of cultural words proposed by Newmark (1988:95). Then, the data were also analyzed based on techniques of translation theory proposed by Molina and Albir (2002:509). Lastly, after the techniques of translation were identified, the tendency of the translator was analyzed. Some techniques of translation were classified following Putrawan's classification of translation techniques toward the two translation strategy of Venuti, domestication and foreignization (2004).

The genetic data was information about the translator of the novel, Angie

Kilbane. The information was all about the background of her and information related to the reason behind the decision made by her in translating the Indonesian cultural words. The genetic data was collected using interview technique. The interview with the translator was held after the objective data has finished analyzed. In the interview some questions that could help the writer understand how the translator translated the novel and to get information about the possible reasons behind his tendency in translating cultural words in the novel were asked.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis, in the novel *Negeri 5 Menara* and its translation *The Land of Five Towers*, some categories of cultural words were found and investigated. There were 239 identified cultural words classified into five categories, they are ecological cultural words including words related to fauna and geographical features; material culture including words related to clothes, food, house, transports; social culture including words related to work, leisure, personal names and terms of address, and kinship; social organization including words related to social administration, religion, artistic things and craft, and history; gestures and habits.

Some techniques of translation were applied in the translation of Indonesian cultural words into English. There were 16 techniques of translation adopted in the translations of Indonesian cultural words in the novel *Negeri 5 Menara* and its translation *The Land of Five Towers* including the applications of single and double techniques of translation. They were SL-oriented technique of translation including pure borrowing; TL-oriented techniques of translation including Naturalized Borrowing, Compensation, Description, Established equivalent, Generalization, Reduction, Generalization, Compensation, Calque, Naturalized Borrowing and Compensation; and SL partially-oriented and TL partially-oriented techniques of translation including the applications of amplification, combination of generalization and calque, combination of pure borrowing and compensation, combination naturalized borrowing and calque and

combination of generalization and amplification.

Having analyzed the techniques of the translation, the analysis of the tendency of the translator, the most frequently-applied strategy of translation also have been made. From the analysis of the techniques of translation, it could be concluded that the most frequently-applied strategy of translation was domestication (52.72%). 35.15% of the cultural words were foreignized. In addition, 12.13% of the cultural words were also partially foreignized and partially domesticated.

Below is the detail of the use of translation techniques and strategies by the translator:

Technique of Translation	F	Strategy	F	%
Pure Borrowing	67	Foreignization	84	35,15%
Calque	13			
Pure Borrowing, Calque	4			
Naturalized Borrowing	6	Domestication	125	52,30%
Compensation	23			
Description	39			
Established equivalent	35			
Generalization	9			
Reduction	12			
Generalization Compensation	1			
Amplification	21			
Generalization Calque	1			
Pure Borrowing, compensation	2	Partial Foreignization Domestication	30	12,55%
Naturalized Borrowing, Calque	4			
Calque, Naturalized Borrowing and Compensation	1			
Total	239		239	100,00%

From the interview with the translator, it is said that there were two factors affected the translator to apply more domestication strategy: cultural difference and author's intention to get wider readership.

CONCLUSION

From the novel, there were 239 indonesian cultural words found. Most of them were categorized into social organization, religion. 91 cultural words related to religion were found. It is related to the setting of the story in the novel, which took place in *pesantren* or Islamic religious school.

In translating Indonesian cultural words found in the novel, 16 techniques of translation were applied. It was including the applications of

source language oriented technique of translation (35.15%), target language oriented techniques of translation (52.30%), and source language partially-oriented and target language partially-oriented techniques of translation (12.55%).

After the most frequently applied techniques were found, the tendency of the translator could be seen. The most frequently-applied technique of translation was target language-oriented techniques of translation. It was concluded that the translator tend to apply domestication strategy.

The factors leading to the application of most-frequently applied strategy of translation were cultural differences and the author's intention to get wider readership.

The present study would like to recommend some suggestions for further researchers. Firstly, in terms of collecting data, this research held an indirect interview with the translator. It would be better for the next study to hold direct interview with the translator. Through direct interview, the interviewer can get quick response from the interviewee. The interviewer

also can ask more complex and deep questions to the interviewee.

Next, this study investigates how Indonesian cultural words in the novel were translated. It is suggested to the next researcher to investigate the translation of Indonesian cultural word in other genre text such as poetry etc.

Lastly, this study only focuses on four aspects: cultural word categories, translation techniques, translation strategies and factors leading to certain translation strategy. The next study also could examine other aspects of translation such as quality of translation.

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