The Translation Strategies of Cultural Words in Ahmad Tohari’s Dancer

ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to find out the translation strategies by examining two novels, which are “Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk” by Ahmad Tohari and the English translation version “Dancer” by Rene T. A. Lyons. The writer uses a descriptive qualitative as the research method because the result of the analysis is concerned with providing descriptions of phenomena that occur naturally, without the intervention of an experiment. After classifying the data based on its strategies, this research shows that there are eight strategies which are used by the translator to translate cultural words. From eighty-seven data (sentences that contain the cultural words) which are identified, there are 15 cultural words (17.2%) by using general words, 17 cultural words (19.5%) by using cultural substitution, 18 cultural words (20.6%) by loan word or loan word plus explanation, 27 cultural words (30.5%) by descriptive equivalent, 4 cultural words (4.6%) by functional equivalent, 2 cultural words (2.3%) by literal translation, 2 cultural words (2.3%) by naturalization, and 2 cultural words (2.3%) by omission.

Keywords: Translation Strategy, Cultural Words.

BACKGROUND

English as an International language plays an important role in our daily lives. Consequently, lot of information and knowledge come from the books and magazines, written in this language. Therefore, those who do not quite understand about English or another modern language will encounter some difficulties in order to improve their knowledge and ability, especially in translation.

The diversity of cultures and language owned by people in the world has become a unique and an interesting description. Even though, some of them have differences, similarities and relationship to each other. Indonesian utterance is different from English utterance, because every language has a different characteristic, which is one of the reasons why translation is not as easy as people’s assumption.

There are some words in Indonesian derived from other languages, for example: the word _demos_ and _kratoss_ from Greek is translated into _demokraci_ in English. Then, the word _demokraci_ is translated into _demokrasi_ in Indonesian. Another example: the word _effective_ in English is translated into _efektif_ in Indonesian, whereas in fact, Indonesian has its original word that is _sangkili_.

Borrowing word from other languages is important source of new word. It occurred when one language adds to its own lexicon a word or morpheme from another language, often altering its pronunciation to fit the phonological rules of the borrowing language (Fromkin, 1998:459). Borrowed words and loan words are often found in science and technology, social, economic and/or political topics and institutions, and literary and philosophical works. People often said that one is more familiar that others (sangkili). Based on this phenomenon, it will cause problems to translate the words, especially if those words do not have their equivalents.

Baker (1992), Newmark (1988) and Larson (1984) offer some translation strategies to identify the words or terms which are not known in the receptor language, e.g., Translation by cultural substitution, “Andy liked pleased as the Rock Road finally engulfed the tip of his nose.” “Andy kelihatan senang, Hidungnya sudah hampir tertutup es krim.” “Arisan kini bukan hanya dilakukan oleh para istrri tetapi juga suami mereka.” “Playing card is not only done by house wives but also the husband.” In the first example, Rocky Road is translated into _Es krim_ because there is no cultural equivalent in Indonesian but it still has the same meaning and nuance for the reader. Similarly, with the second example, Arisan is translated into _Playing card_ because English as the Receptor Language does not have the equivalent but the activity between playing card and arisan is almost the same.

Based on some examples above, the strategies used in translating whether in Indonesian as the Receptor Language or English as the Receptor Language. In this research, the writer would like to find out translation strategies, taken by the translator in translating words or terms, which do not have the equivalents in the receptor language, in this way, from Indonesian as the Source Language (SL) into English as the Receptor Language (RL).

RESEARCH METHOD

Descriptive research involves a collection of technique used to specify, delineate, or describe naturally occurring phenomena without experimental manipulation. Qualitative methods originally developed from the methodologist of field anthropologists and socialists concerned with studying human behavior within the context in which that behavior would occur naturally and in which the role of the researcher would not affect the normal behavior of the subject (Seliger, 1989:118). Based on the description above, both qualitative and descriptive research are concerned with providing descriptions of phenomena that occur naturally, without the intervention of an experiment. While it is true that both types of research are concerned with description, they approach research from different perspectives. In this research, the writer uses a descriptive qualitative study on analyzing the translation technique of the novel dancer in cultural words in particular.

RESULT OF STUDY AND DISCUSSION

This chapter describes the result concerning the study of the translation techniques used by the translator in translating the cultural word by examining two novels, Indonesian Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari and its translation Dancer by Rene T. A. Lyons. The writer classified the data into eight techniques, there are: using general word, using cultural substitution, translation by loan word or loan word plus explanation, using descriptive equivalent, using functional equivalent, literal translation, naturalization, and translation by omission.

1. Translation by using general word

a) Ecology

_alamental_ : animal
_gangster_ : cricket

_Gangster_ is a kind of insects. It likes to dig a tunnel in order to build the hills. While the word cricket means a small brown jumping insect that makes a shrill noise. Therefore, we can see that the target text does not give the message of the original.

b) Material Culture

_Food_ : pecool
_Pecel_ is a kind of Indonesian traditional food that is contained of vegetables, such as long beans, spinach and bean sprouts served with peanut sauce. In translating the word, _pecel_ is translated into _food_ that has more general idea than the SL text.

_Housing_ : cangkup
_Cangkup_ means a building made to...
cover and protect the grave. In translating the word, cungkup is translated into grave that has more general idea than the SL text.

e) Equipment
belati : knife
Belati means a sharp, broad knife, more used to stab than to slice (usually brought as soldier equipment). The word knife means an instrument for cutting, having one or more sharp edged blades, often set in a handle. In translating the word, the concept belati is translated into knife that has more general idea from the SL text belati.

d) Transport
motor ubluk : motorcycle
Motor ubluk is an old kind of motorcycle. In translating the word, the concept motor ubluk is translated into motorcycle that has more general idea than the SL text motor ubluk.

e) Clothes
petesalan : a sheet
Patesalan is a cloth worn when bathing. In translating the word, the concept petesalan is translated into sheet that has more general idea than the SL text petesalan.

f) Social Culture
Work
pedangong lontong : the proprietor
Pedangong lontong is a person who sells food in a small shop. The proprietor is an owner of a business. The translator uses the word the proprietor as the equivalent because the word has more general idea than the SL text pedangong lontong.

2. Translation by using cultural substitution
a) Organization, ideas
Concept
kang : my dear
Kang used to address the elder brother, the husband and the elder man. The translator uses my dear as the equivalent because the word still has the same meaning in English culture.
nyai : mama
Nyai used to address the married or the unmarried woman, and the older woman. The translator uses mama as the equivalent of the word nyai because the word still has the same meaning in English culture.

b) Social (castes)
priyai : gentleman
Priyai is a man who has a high position in community, a respected citizen. English has the same term that is gentlemen, a man who is polite and behaves honorably that has the same nuance as the SL.

c) Social Culture
work
penggawa : an official
Penggawa is a leader of army; a village headman. The translator uses the word official as the equivalent because the word has the same nuance in English culture.

d) Material Culture
housing
balai-balai : porch
Balai-balai is wooden or bamboo couch or sleeping platform. English has the same term that is porch, a covered entrance to a building, which has the same nuance as the SL. The translator uses tempayan as the equivalent.

tempayan : jar
Tempayan is a large water container, made of clay, with a narrow top. It used for keeping the rice supplies. English has the same term that is jar, a container, usually made of glass, with a wide top, which has the same nuance as the SL.

e) Gestures/habits
habits
punten : use us
Punten is a polite Sundanese greeting. The translator uses the word use us as the equivalent because the word has the same nuance in English culture.

3. Translation by loan word or loan word plus explanation
a) Ecology
plants
polon dadap : dadap tree
Dadap is a name of one of Indonesian local tree. In translating the word, the translator uses the SL text as a loan word.
pisang raja : the large variety known as pisang raja
Pisang raja is a name of one of Indonesian local fruit. In translating the word, the translator uses the SL text as a loan word plus explanation.

b) Material Culture
Equipment
keris : keris
Keris is a wavy double-bladed dagger that is original from Indonesia. In translating the word, the translator uses the SL text as a loan word.
terasi : terasi, a pungent spice made from shrimp, crabs and other seafood.
Terasi is a name of cooking spices. In translating the word, the translator uses the SL text as a loan word plus explanation.

drink
ciu : ciu, a brandy made from fermented cassava
Ciu is an intoxicating distilled beverage from Chinese. In translating the word, the translator uses the SL text as a loan word plus explanation.

c) Activity
Ceremony
bukak-kelambu : bukak kelambu-
"opening of the mosquito net"
Bukak-kelambu is a type of competition, open to all men. What they compete for is the viginity of the candidate wishing to become a tonggang dancer. In translating the word, the translator uses the SL text as a loan word plus explanation.

de) Gestures/habits
Habits
kula nuwun : kula nuwun
Kula nuwun is a polite Javanese greeting. It is used when visits somebody's house. In translating the word, the translator uses the SL text as a loan word.

e) Organization, Ideas
Religion
Bathara Kala : Bathara Kala
Bathara Kala is a male deity, who divine ogre said to case eclipses by swallowing the sun. In translating the word, the translator uses the SL text as a loan word.

Artistic
Keroncong : keroncong
Keroncong is a popular Indonesian music originating from Portuguese songs. In translating the word, the translator uses the SL text as a loan word.

4. Descriptive Equivalent
a) Ecology
Plants
buah randa : The ball of the kapok plant
Buah randa is a fruit that is produced by a cotton tree. Buah randa is translated into the ball of the kapok plant.

b) Material Culture
Food
gaplek : tapioca made from dried cassava.
Gaplek is a kind of Indonesian traditional food made from dried cassava. The word is translated into tapioca made from dried cassava.
communicating the meaning accurately. 
**Equipment**

Tikar pandan: sleeping mat
The word *tikar* is translated into *sleeping mat* based on the function.

**Clothes**

Iket wulung: a turban around his head in traditional fashion
The translator translated the word *Iket wulung* into *a turban around the head* in traditional fashion based on the function.

6. **Literal Translation**

**a) Organization, Ideas**

**Concept**

Bocah ayu: beautiful child
The word *bocah ayu* is translated word for word according to English structure in target language. Therefore, the word *bocah ayu* is translated into *beautiful child*.

**b) Material Culture**

**Equipment**

Lampu minyak: oil lamp
The word *lampu minyak* is translated word for word according to English structure in target language. Therefore, the word *lampu minyak* is translated into *oil lamp*.

7. **Naturalization**

**a) Material Culture**

Sarung: a cloth
In this strategy, the word is naturalized with adaptation of English pronunciation. Therefore, the word *sarung* is translated into *sarung*.

**Food**

Tempo bongkrek: tempeh bongkrek
In this strategy, the word is naturalized with adaptation of English pronunciation. Therefore, the word *tempo bongkrek* is translated into *tempeh bongkrek*.

8. **Translation by Omission**

**a) Organization, Ideas**

Kang
In this strategy, the word *kang* is not translated because the word is not too important but does not change the meaning of the sentence if the word *kang* omitted or not translated.

Activities

Olah-olah, ngembah-ngembah, and melunuh
In this strategy, the word *olah-olah, ngembah-ngembah* and *melunuh* is not translated, but does not change the meaning of the sentence if the word omitted or not translated.

**Result of the Analysis**

**1. Translation by using general words**

After classifying the data based on its strategies, the writer found that there are some cultural words in the novel using general word as the strategy to translate the word. From 87 words, which are identified, the translator uses this strategy to translate the word below (15 words = 17.24%) to show the equivalent into English.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Source Language</th>
<th>Target Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kang</td>
<td>My dear</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nga</td>
<td>My</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jengkang</td>
<td>Young lady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Yu</td>
<td>Miss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mas</td>
<td>Sir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kiri</td>
<td>Young man</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kimba</td>
<td>Spell</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Rani</td>
<td>Queen</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Priyadi</td>
<td>Gentlemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Penggawa kantor</td>
<td>An official</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kambula</td>
<td>Servant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Balai-balai</td>
<td>Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Temuyan</td>
<td>Jar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Funtan</td>
<td>Scout us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sampa</td>
<td>Searf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kerupak</td>
<td>Shrimp-cracker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pedagang lontong</td>
<td>Shopkeeper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Translation by using Cultural Substitution**

After classifying data based on its strategies, the writer found that there are some cultural words in the novel using Cultural Substitution as the strategy to translate the word. From 87 words, which are identified, the translator uses this strategy to translate the word below (17 words = 19.54%) to show the equivalent into English.

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<td>Shopkeeper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Translation by Loan Word or Loan Word Plus explanation**

After classifying data based on its strategies, the writer found that there are some cultural words in the novel using Loan Word and Loan Word Plus explanation as the strategy to translate the word. From 87 words, which are identified, the translator uses this strategy to translate the word below (18 words = 20.66%) to show the equivalent into English.

**Descriptive Equivalent**

After classifying data based on its strategies, the writer found that there are some cultural words in the novel using...
7. Naturalization

After classifying data based on its strategies, the writer found that there are some cultural words in the novel using Naturalization as the strategy to translate the word. From 87 words, which are identified, the translator uses this strategy to translate the word below (2 = 2.30%) to show the equivalent into English.

<table>
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Source Language</th>
<th>Target Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Saramang</td>
<td>Saramug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tempeh bangrek</td>
<td>Tempeh bangrek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Translation by Omission

After classifying data based on its strategies, the writer found that there are some cultural words in the novel using Translation by Omission as the strategy to translate the word. From 87 words, which are identified, the translator uses this strategy to translate the word below (2 = 2.30%) to show the equivalent into English.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kang</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gubah-dah, ngambah-</td>
<td>ngambah dan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>melambah</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSION

From eighty-seven words, which are identified, the writer finds that:

a. There are eight translation techniques used by the translator in translating the cultural words in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk.

b. Descriptive equivalence is one of the commonest techniques of translation, which is used by the translator in translating the cultural words.

c. The translator does not consist in translating the words. For example:

   - The translator translated the word mas into sir and young man in the same strategy.
   - The translator translated the word sarung into a length of cloth and sarong in the different strategy.
   - In translating the animal categories especially the name of bird, the translator is not only using the general word but also loan word as the strategies. Such as, burung Sikanak : Sikanak bird, Beranjangan : bird

SUGGESTION

- Pointing out the result of the analysis and the conclusion above, the writer suggests that the translator should aware that in doing the task of translation, they might encounter cultural words born by the text are working on.

- For students who are interested in studying more about cultural words, it will be better to ask from the native whether they understand the word. Then, the analysis will not subjective and can be more developed.

- The writer hopes that the result of this analysis is expected to be a good reference for whoever interested with the topic and provides valuable information and knowledge about translation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


