

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Translating texts from Javanese into English bears a lot of problems. One of the problems is lexical in nature. As a matter of fact, so many Javanese lexicons may not be translated into English due to the differences of country boundaries, population culture, demography, and history. Javanese evolves its own unique style of variety and so does English. In relation to translation, language, and culture, Toury asserts that translation is a kind of activity which inevitably involves at least two languages and two cultural traditions (1995: 200). Therefore, in order to produce a good translation, a translator is required to apply some crucial strategies concerning such problems in connection with translation, language, and culture.

In translating cultural items, a translator must have excellent knowledge and high comprehension of both language and culture. For example, the English sentence "Where will *you* go?" may be translated into Javanese as "*Kowe* arep lunga neng endi?", "*Sliramu* ajeng medhal dateng pundhi?", and "*Panjenengan* badhe tindhak dateng pundhi?". The words *kowe*, *sliramu*, and *panjenengan* in the three sentences are used to mean the same thing, that is, *you*. In this case, the use of *kowe*, *sliramu*, and *panjenengan* depends on who speaks to whom. To speak to an older person and someone of high class society, *panjenengan* is commonly applied. Whereas, *kowe* and *sliramu* are usually used by older persons towards

younger persons, by high class society towards low class society, or by speakers in informal conversation. In English, on the other hand, the word *you* is used for all people of different social classes. Further, the Javanese sentence “Rina *lunga* menyang pasar” may be rendered as “Rina *goes* to the market”, “Rina *went* to the market”, “Rina *will go* to the market”, “Rina *is going* to the market”, or “Rina *has gone* to the market” in English. The evidences above imply that English sentences are commonly arranged in the view of time of happening; while Javanese sentences are mostly constructed on the basis of the relationship between speakers involved the conversation.

As a matter of fact, the problems of translation due to cultural dimension are complicated enough to discuss. The following quotation may clarify the statement intended:

SL: Supri menyesal minum 4 liter air karena setelah itu *pelempoken*.

(38/29/03/09)

TL: Supri regretted drinking 4 liters of water because afterwards he felt

bloated. (38/29/03/09)

The Javanese *pelempokan* and the English *bloated* as used in the sentences above mean different things. Both of them are composed of different semantic features. In other words, they are different semantically. The former comprises the semantic features *+full*, *+overdrinking*, *+water*, while the latter is composed of the meaning components *+full*, *+overeating*, *+food*. Hence, the Javanese *pelempoken* means condition of overdrinking due to drinking a lot of water. Whereas, the English *bloated* means condition of overeating due to eating much food. It is clear

that there is a meaning shift in translating the Javanese *pelempoken* into the English *bloated*.

The occurrence of meaning shifts is inevitable in translating as shown in the example above. As a result, it is considered as a phenomenon which needs analyzing in a research. Therefore, the researcher is challenged to investigate the problems scientifically.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

There are a lot of problems in translating lexicons from Javanese into English. One of them is concerned with cultural aspects, which may cause some meaning shifts. In connection with cultural problems in translation, the rendering of Javanese lexicons is chosen as the topic of discussion in this research due to the fact that Javanese is a culture bound language. Therefore, translating Javanese lexicons into English is indeed more difficult than translating Indonesian into English. Moreover, *Warung VOA Program of Jawa Timur Television (JTV)* has spectators of different cultural backgrounds. Hence, the topic is regarded as a relevant discussion in a research.

1.3 The Statement of the Problems

Concerning the preceding description, the researcher proposes two problems to discuss in this study. They are as the following:

1. How are Javanese lexicons translated into English in *Warung VOA Program of Jawa Timur Television (JTV)*?

2. What is the fidelity of the translation of the Javanese lexicons?

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

In line with the statement of the problems, this research attempts to answer the two questions as stated above, namely:

1. To show the ways how the Javanese lexicons are translated into English in *Warung VOA Program of Jawa Timur Television (JTV)*.
2. To describe the fidelity of the translation of the Javanese lexicons.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

In order to get the detailed information about the topic of the discussion, the researcher limits the scope of the study in this research entitled “The Translating of Javanese Lexicons into English in *Warung VOA Program of Jawa Timur Television (JTV)*”. This study focuses on meaning shifts, fidelity, and the ways of translating Javanese lexicons into English in *Opo Inggris, Warung VOA Program of Jawa Timur Television (JTV)*. Meaning shifts intended here include the skewing of meanings of the Source Language and Target Language texts. And, fidelity covers the faithful and unfaithful translations. Meanwhile, the ways of translating in this case are of (1) translating the idea of Source Language lexicon and (2) changing the lexicon with its equivalent in Target Language.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

First of all, the researcher hopes that the result of this study may contribute more beneficial and valuable information for both the researcher and the readers. By reading this work, the readers are expected to have a good understanding on the topic discussed, namely the translating of Javanese lexicons into English. Theoretically, this work is hoped to improve the knowledge of English learners about translation. Hence, they may increase their competence in language study. Practically, the result of this research may encourage other researchers to conduct further researches on the topic seen from different points of view.

1.7 The Meaning of Key Terms

To make the discussion in this study more comprehensively understandable, some key terms together with their meanings are presented below:

1. Lexicon is (a list of) all the words used in a particular language or subject, or a dictionary. (<http://www.dictionary.cambridge.org>)
2. Translation is the transfer of meanings (Pinchuck, 1997: 35). It is a kind of activity which inevitably involves at least two languages and two cultural traditions. (Toury, 1995: 200)
3. Source Language is a language that is to be translated into another language. Target Language is the language into which a text written in another language is to be translated. (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com>)

4. Meaning shifts is the change of meaning which is caused by lacking the appropriate Source Language equivalent in its Target Language text.
(Simatupang, 1999: 78)
5. Fidelity is a quality of being faithful that is attributed to a translation.
(Beekman and Callow, 1974: 33-34)
6. Culture is a collective programming of the mind that distinguishes the members of one group or category of people from another.
(<http://www.tamu.edu/classes/cosc/choudhury/culture.html>)
Culture includes customs, traditions, ways of thinking, and the like. (Nasr, 1984: 112)
7. *Opo Inggris, Warung VOA Program of Jawa Timur Television (JTV)* is a program which presents the words of *Suroboyoan* dialects translated into English by the native speaker from America. The words intended are the questions usually asked by TV audience via e-mail.