

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Problem

Everybody needs language to express his or her ideas, feelings, or desires. It is in line with the opinion of Chomsky, saying that language is a mirror of the mind in a deep and significant sense (in Akmajian, 1988: 7-8). It means that language is the product of the human intelligence which always develops from generation to generation. Many people claim that the possession of language is the most important distinction between human and the other creatures.

Considering that language is very important to be learned, all of the social strata need to study it seriously. In formal institutions, it is taught in details, like reading, listening, speaking, writing, and translating. One of the activities in language which today becomes popular is translating. It is the translation of books, magazines, or literary works.

Translating, according to Nida in *The Theory and Practice of Translation*, consists of in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style (1969: 12). It contains three important things. Firstly, the translation always refers to the source language text. Secondly, it always obeys the rule of the target language and not the source language one. And the third, the equivalent that is produced in target language text is not an absolute equivalent but refers to the most highly accurate equivalent.

The definition of the translation focuses in reproducing the message from one language into another which carries some problems in terms of meaning and style. In the way of getting a good translation, a translator often finds some problems concerning with the context, the meaning, the rules of grammar, the idioms, and the like. One of the phenomena which have to do with translation is meaning shift. Popovic, in his book entitled *The Concept Shift of Expression in Translation*, confirms that the act of translation can be analyzed in a range of possibilities. It brings about a number of shifts in linguistic, aesthetic, and intellectual values of the source text (1970: 19).

Simatupang clarifies in his book that shift occurs because of rule and form distinctions in expressing the meaning. He claims that shifts in translation process happen to linguistic and semantic levels. Shift of linguistic level divides into lexical, syntactical, and grammatical. In addition, shift of semantic level (shift of meaning) can be found in two kinds; they are the meaning shift from general into specific and the meaning shift from specific into general.

Moreover, Simatupang in *Pengantar Teori Terjemahan* states that meaning shift is the change of meaning which is caused by lacking the appropriate source language equivalent in its target language text (1999: 78). The translations problems which have to do with the cultural distances, namely *ecology, feature of material culture, feature of social culture, feature of religious culture, and feature of language*.

In this case, the writer tries to discuss meaning shift which happen in the rendering of Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* into *Pertempuran*

Penghabisan translated by Toto Sudarto Bachtiar. Those novels are chosen as sources of the data by the writer because there are a lot of quotations regarded as meaning shift phenomena.

Next, the intended semantic analysis will be enclosed by the writer as an example. That way is used to analyze the meaning of the same word of the different languages. In this analysis, there are three types of the meaning components (semantic components) namely *common component*, *different component*, and *supplementary or optional component*. Firstly is common component. It is the same semantic component which contains in the different words. The second is different component. It is the distinguishing semantic component which contains in a certain lexicon and not in others. And the third is supplementary or optional component. It is the extra semantic component. However, it is not always used to compare the meaning of the words because it is only functioned as the addition. To make it clearer, the example will be shown below:

Source Language (SL):

He was a big smart *tall* boy to be in the granatieri (12/ Eng/ 42).

Referential Meaning (RM):

Tall: the measurement of the height of human body (OALD, 2000: 1381).

Target Language (TL):

Dia seorang pemuda yang baik dengan tubuh besar dan *panjang*, sangat cocok untuk bertugas dalam pasukan granatieri (12/ Ind/ 79).

Referential Meaning (RM):

Panjang: jarak jauh dari ujung ke ujung (KBBI, 2005: 824).

Semantic Analysis:

Common Component (CC): + indicating the height that of mentioned.

Different Component (DC):

SL: + commonly used to tell about the height of human body.

TL: ± describing the height of human body.

The central meaning of the word *tall* in SL can be obtained in TL that is *the measurement of the height of human body*. The Indonesian speakers commonly use the word *tinggi* instead of *panjang* to represent the height of human body. That is the clear difference between the use of the word *tall* and *panjang*. However, it can not be said that the translation of the word *tall* in this context is incorrect. This phenomenon happens because of the different feature of language. It means that the distinction of the speaker's point of view, both of the source language and the target language speakers, absolutely will influence the replacement of the messages in translation. Therefore, it will be better if the word *tall* is rendered into *tinggi* in Indonesian.

In other words, the meaning shift which happens in this translation is caused by the effect of the different feature of language. In this case, the feature of language relates to lexical aspect.

The occurrence of shift in any translational activity is an unavoidable phenomenon as it is shown in the example. Therefore, it makes the writer interested in analyzing meaning shift phenomena because she wants to find those problem solving strategies. It helps to minimize the inevitable loss of meaning when rendering a text from one language into another. Furthermore, by this analysis, both the writer and the readers hopefully will get more understanding about various kinds of the translation problems that are related to the cultural distances and then can express them in such examples.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

A study of meaning shift on the rendering English literary work into Indonesian one is an interesting activity. In this regard, the novel *A Farewell to Arms* and the novel *Pertempuran Penghabisan* are chosen as the main data of this analysis. The writer realizes that most of the English learners often find the difficulty in understanding meaning shift phenomena happen in translation. Additionally, they may get troubles in explaining some aspects that cause meaning shift, especially which relate to cultural distances. It is important to be aware that the differences of the cultural aspects mostly influence the language. Therefore, the writer would like to analyze meaning shift based on cultural distances than the other aspects.

As it is said in the background of the problem that the most important reason of choosing this study is because the writer wants to find the problem-solving strategies in minimizing the inevitable loss of meaning. It commonly

happens when the writer renders a text from one language into another. Hopefully, this study will be useful in giving more understanding of meaning shift phenomena in the translation process.

1.3 The Statement of the Problem

In analyzing the meaning shift phenomena based on cultural distances in the novel *A Farewell to Arms* and the novel *Pertempuran Penghabisan*, two significant statements will be proposed by the writer. They are as the following:

1. What are the classifications of meaning shift based on cultural distances which occur in the rendering of Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* into *Pertempuran Penghabisan* translated by Toto Sudarto Bachtiar?
2. What are the suggested translations of meaning shift in the rendering of Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* into *Pertempuran Penghabisan* translated by Toto Sudarto Bachtiar?

1.4 The Objective of the Study

In line with the statement of the problem above, this study is aimed to find out the answers of the problems. The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the classifications of meaning shift based on cultural distances which occur in the rendering of Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* into *Pertempuran Penghabisan* translated by Toto Sudarto Bachtiar.

2. To discuss the suggested translations of meaning shift in the rendering of Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* into *Pertempuran Penghabisan* translated by Toto Sudarto Bachtiar.

1.5 The Scope of Limitation

It is necessary to limit the scope of the problem in order to get detailed information about meaning shift in any translational activities. Actually, there are five aspects of the translation problems which have to do with the cultural distances, namely ecology, feature of material culture, feature of social culture, feature of religious culture, and feature of language. Both of the novels have all those aspects of the cultural distance. However, the writer intends to find more significant meaning shifts based on cultural distances happen in the English text and the Indonesian one.

Due to the reason, the writer scopes the discussion on the classifications, and the suggested translations of meaning shift based on cultural distances in both novels. The intended cultural distances are *ecology*, *feature of material culture*, *feature of social culture*, and *feature of language*.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the result of this research will convey useful information for both the readers and the writer herself; so they are able to understand clearly about the problems of meaning shift that occurred in the translation. In other words, it is expected to enrich the knowledge of various types of translation

problems that are related to the cultural distances. Furthermore, it is extended to stimulate other researchers to do a further analysis on the same problem. To be more specific, this analysis is significant because the writer realizes that meaning shift is such a phenomenon that very complicated to be understood.

1.7 The Meaning of Key Terms

As it is stated in the title of the study, some key terms will be clarified in order to get more understanding about the terms which have to do with the topic of discussion. The explanations will be given below:

1. *A Study* is the activity of learning or gaining knowledge, either from books or by examining things in the world (Hornby, 2000: 1344).
2. *Meaning shift* is the change of meaning which is caused by lacking the appropriate source language equivalent in its target language text (Simatupang, 1999: 78).
3. *Translating* consists of in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style (Nida, 1969: 12)
4. *A Farewell to Arms* is an English novel which written by Ernest Hemingway. The novel is firstly published in 1929 by Jonathan Cape in Great Britain.

5. *Pertempuran Penghabisan* is the Indonesian rendering of *A Farewell to Arms*. The novel is translated by Toto Sudarto Bachtiar with the assistance of UNESCO. It is firstly published in 1975 by Dunia Pustaka Jaya which located on Jakarta.