

**A TRANSLATION METHOD ANALYSIS OF UNTRANSLATABLE
CULTURAL WORDS IN THE INDONESIAN TRANSLATION OF
NUJOOD ALI AND DELPHINE MINOUI'S *I AM NUJOOD, AGE 10 AND
DIVORCED***

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor
Degree in English Department



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Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

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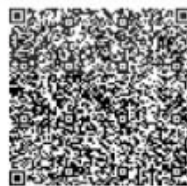


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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduate paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, January 10th 2022

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MOTTO

“What is meant for you, will reach you even if it is beneath two mountains. And what is not meant for you will not reach you even if it is between your two lips.”

Imam Al-Ghazali



DEDICATION

The researcher dedicates this graduating paper to:

1. My beloved and incredible parents, especially my mother.
2. My grandmother.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

SL	: Source Language
TL	: Target Language
EC	: Ecology
MC	: Material Culture
SC	: Social Culture
SO	: Social Organization
GH	: Gesture and Habit
BOR	: Borrowing
CAL	: Calque
LIT	: Literal
TRA	: Transposition
MOD	: Modulation
EQU	: Equivalence
ADA	: Adaptation



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A Translation Method Analysis of Untranslatable Cultural Words in the Indonesian Translation of Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui's *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*

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ABSTRACT

Translation is an attempt to transfer a certain text from one language to another with the aim of conveying the messages of the text to the readers. In the process of translating the text, several methods are applied to solve the translation problems that arise and to acquire the most appropriate translation result. One of the main problems is finding the equivalent word related to the culture, and it requires a certain translation method. Accordingly, this research focuses on analyzing the translation method used by the translator to convert the untranslatable cultural words in the autobiography entitled *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* by Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui which is translated into *Saya Nujood, Usia 10 dan Janda* by Lulu Fitri Rahman. The researcher applies the theory of cultural words from Newmark and the theory of translation method by Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet. This is a descriptive-qualitative research. The researcher finds 82 units of cultural words that are divided into 5 categories. Furthermore, there are six out of seven translation methods used to translate those cultural words. The most dominating methods found by the researcher are the borrowing, calque, and literal methods. Those methods are categorized as direct translation, in which the translator borrows the words and phrases from the source language or translates them directly into the target language that is grammatically and idiomatically appropriate.

Keywords: translation method, cultural words, untranslatability

A Translation Method Analysis of Untranslatable Cultural Words in the Indonesian Translation of Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui's *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*

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ABSTRAK

Penerjemahan adalah suatu upaya untuk memindahkan sebuah teks tertentu dari satu bahasa ke bahasa lain dengan tujuan untuk menyampaikan pesan dari teks tersebut kepada pembaca. Dalam proses menerjemahkan teks tersebut, beberapa metode diterapkan untuk menyelesaikan permasalahan yang muncul dan untuk memperoleh hasil penerjemahan yang paling tepat. Salah satu permasalahannya adalah menemukan kata yang sepadan yang berhubungan dengan budaya, dan itu membutuhkan sebuah metode penerjemahan tertentu. Oleh karenanya, penelitian ini fokus pada analisis metode penerjemahan yang digunakan oleh penerjemah untuk mengubah kata-kata budaya yang tidak dapat diterjemahkan dalam autobiografi berjudul *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* oleh Nujood Ali dan Delphine Minoui yang diterjemahkan ke *Saya Nujood, Usia 10 dan Janda* oleh Lulu Fitri Rahman. Peneliti mengaplikasikan teori tentang kata-kata budaya dari Newmark dan teori metode penerjemahan dari Jean-Paul Vinay dan Jean Darbelnet. Ini merupakan sebuah penelitian deskriptif-kualitatif. Peneliti menemukan 82 kata budaya yang dibagi menjadi 5 kategori. Selanjutnya, terdapat enam dari tujuh metode penerjemahan yang diterapkan dalam menerjemahkan kata-kata budaya tersebut. Metode yang paling dominan ditemukan oleh peneliti adalah metode *borrowing*, *calque*, dan *literal*. Metode-metode tersebut dikategorikan sebagai penerjemahan langsung yang mana penerjemah dapat meminjam langsung kata dan frasa dari bahasa sumber atau menerjemahkannya langsung ke bahasa target yang sesuai secara gramatikal dan idiomatic.

Kata kunci: metode penerjemahan, kata-kata budaya, ketidakterjemahan

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

In this modern time, translation becomes one of the most crucial things in the communication process. As stated by Nida, communication itself is one of the phenomena that is most common and numerous in the living presence (1972, p. 309). By communication, a person can find out information from other people, both in oral and written form. To be able to get information from the message conveyed, one must understand the language used by the messenger. Because of the huge number of languages that exist, understanding all of them appears to be impossible. If the people in a country want to get information from other countries, they are required to be able to understand the language of the country that provides the information. Because of that reason, translation becomes crucial in an era where people can get information from everywhere.

Newmark proposed that translation is converting the ideas of a certain text into other languages according to the writer's intention of the text (1988, p. 5). In this process, the translator has an important role in finding the correct words to ensure that the meaning of the words in the source language texts is not lost. The translator must be able to understand the two languages in the process of transferring the text. There are the source language and the target language. In translating a text, the translator does not only translate the words, but he or she also must understand the meaning of the word in its use in society. It is also reinforced by the statement from Larson that translation is not only studying the grammatical

structure, but also understanding the condition and the cultural background of the source language (Larson, 1998, p. 3). Sometimes, the translators are capable of understanding the definition of the word, but the translators have difficulty in finding the appropriate word in the readers' language.

Finding the equivalent of words is one of the problems that is often encountered by translators. In some cases, there is a lack of equal term in the process of transferring source language word into the target language. According to Catford, when there are no substitute items in the target language lexically and semantically, it is called untranslatability (Bassnett, 2002, p. 39). One of the untranslatability types is cultural untranslatability. Newmark states that cultural focus often creates translation problems because there is a cultural gap between the target and source languages (1988, p. 94).

In finding the solution for the untranslatability of the cultural words, the translator must understand that the process of rendering those words must be done as well as possible so that there is no misunderstanding when the words are written in the target language. The translator needs to understand the theories and procedures in finding the equivalent terms of the cultural words. This is in accordance with the assertion from Herman that a translator cannot produce a good translation unless he or she understands the general concept of translation theory (2016, p. 8).

The translation process of the cultural untranslatability terms are often found in various forms of writing, and one of the examples is autobiography. According to the Oxford dictionary (2008, p. 44), an autobiography is a story of a person's life

that is written by the person. In the autobiography, because the author explains about her or his life, many cultural words indicate the cultural background of the figures. One of the autobiographical works with which are challenging to translate *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*.

I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced is an autobiographical book that was translated to Indonesia with the title *Saya Nujood, Usia 10 dan Janda*. The book was published in 2009 and written by Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui under licensed Michel Lafon Publishing. In Indonesia, the book was published by Pustaka Alvabet in August 2010. It was translated by Lulu Fitri Rahman, an HPI (*Himpunan Penerjemah Indonesia*) Certified Translator. She has a lot of experience in translating numerous books for prominent Indonesian publishers. Some of the books she has translated include *Broken Monster, The Craft and Science of Coffee, The Alchemist's Secret*, etc.

I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced was an autobiography of an amazing child from Yemen, and her name was Nujood Ali. She became very famous, not only in local news but also in international, after she brought her cases to court and she won the case with her lawyers. She was the youngest woman that was divorced from her husband.

From this autobiography, people might learn the courage of the character Nujood in taking steps to save herself from the forced marriage arranged by her father. In Islam, forced marriages are forbidden. Without the permission of a woman, the marriage is not valid. In a hadith preserved by Abu Hurairah and

confirmed by Muslim (as cited in Pertek, 2018, p. 17) the Prophet stated specifically that a virgin should not be married until her agreement is acquired.

Nujood's father, without her consent, allowed a man to marry his daughter. The man is three times the age of Nujood who was 9 years old at that time. Nujood's mother and sisters cannot go against her father because the patriarchal culture is highly respected in the place where she lived. Nujood is forced to accept her marriage to this man. Unfortunately, she is always treated badly by her husband and the family of her husband. Nujood, who is still very young, is so traumatized until she finally decides to run away from her home. She goes to the city and looks for the court. Her cases become the spotlight of the media and public because she is the youngest woman to file for divorce in her country.

People become interested in finding out more about Nujood's case. Because of this case, she becomes a public figure who was admired by many people. Nujood was invited to be a speaker at various forums both in his country and abroad. People also try to find out a lot about anything related to Nujood, including her life journey and her cultural background. Finally, Nujood writes her life journey, especially her cases, in an autobiography. In this autobiography, the readers can find out more detail about the life story of Nujood Ali along with her cultural background.

There are some reasons this book is chosen to be the object of this research. This book is an autobiography, and there are not many researchers who choose autobiography as an object of research. Moreover, the main character of this book is the youngest woman who experienced human rights issue that caught the attention from around the world at that time. Second, the publisher of this book,

Pustaka Alvabet, is one of the Indonesian publishers that often publishes translated books from world best sellers books, such as *Homo Deus*, *Jerusalem: The Biography*, *Genghis Khan*, and *Secret History of the World*. It convinces the researcher that the translation from that publisher is reliable. Third, the researcher finds many cultural untranslatable words in this book. Because of that reason, the researcher wants to find out how the cultural untranslatable words are translated in Indonesian so that the reader cannot experience misinterpretation in understanding the cultural words in that book.

The word below is one of the examples of the cultural untranslatable words that the researcher finds in the *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*:

Source Language: "Whether it's a question of arms sales, marriage, or the commerce and culture of *khat*."

Target Language: "*Masalah apa pun, penjualan senjata, perkawinan, atau perdagangan dan budaya khat, para syekhlah yang memutuskan, dan mereka bisa sangat tidak senang jika keinginan mereka diabaikan.*"

Khat is one of the cultural untranslatability words found in this autobiography. The researcher identifies the category of cultural words by applying the theory of cultural word from Newmark. The researcher then used Vinay and Darbelnet's theory of translation method to determine the method employed by the translator to transfer the word "*khat*" to the target language.

1.2 Research Questions

These are the research questions from the researcher about translation method analysis of cultural untranslatable terms in Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui's *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*.

1. What are the categories of the cultural untranslatable words in *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*?
2. What are the method used by the translator in translating the cultural untranslatable words in *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* into *Saya Nujood, Usia 10 dan Janda*?

1.3 Objectives of Study

According to the questions of the research above, the following are two objectives of the study,

1. To identify the categories of the cultural untranslatable words in *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*.
2. To analyze the method used by the translator in translating the cultural untranslatable words in *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* into *Saya Nujood, Usia 10 dan Janda*.

1.4 Scope of Study

Based upon the explanation above, the scope of this research is on the untranslatable words. To be more specific, it will focus more on untranslatable cultural words.

1.5 Significance of Study

This study aims to add to the knowledge of the reader about the untranslatability in translation, especially on cultural words. It also aims to figure out how the translator uses the method in translating the cultural untranslatable words in the autobiography *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* written by Nujood and Minoui. By describing the methods used in translating the cultural terms, the reader can understand the meaning of each cultural word in the *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*.

1.6 Literature Review

As already stated, this research is to figure out the categorization of cultural untranslatable words in *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* and to explain the methods in translating the cultural untranslatable words by the translator. The researcher has found similar research about the cultural words and untranslatability of cultural words.

The first paper used by the researcher as the literature review is a research entitled “*The Translation of Foods and Beverages Terms in Mitch Albom’s Novel The First Phone Call From Heaven into Telepon Pertama dari Surga by Julanda Tantani*” that was written by Risa Heruwati from English Department of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta in 2016. The focus of this research is to discover the translation process in translating the food and beverages terms in the book *The First Phone Call From Heaven* written by Mitch Albom and the translated version *Telepon Pertama dari Surga* in the Indonesian language. The method used in this research is qualitative research. The data in this research are

analyzed with the theory of translation procedure by Newmark. In this prior research, the researcher finds that there are 52 data found in the book, and there are 8 different procedures used in this novel. The procedures found in the research are literal procedure, transference, naturalization, shift, expansion, couplets, triplets, and quadruplets.

The second journal entitled “*Cultural Untranslatability Words in the Novel and the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini*” which was researched by Ahmad Wahyudi from Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta in 2016. The research focus in this journal is the analysis of the translation method in translating cultural untranslatability words. The data consist of cultural untranslatability words classified into several categories. The data are analyzed based upon the theory from Benny Hoed about translation method. The method that the researcher used in the journal is the qualitative method. Furthermore, the findings of the research are the 19 selected cultural untranslatability words with different translation methods.

Based on the prior research, the researcher finds that this study is different from other researches. This research employs some different theories, that is, the theory of the translation method. The researcher also uses different object. The objects in the prior researches are novels, while, this research uses an autobiography.

1.7 Theoretical Approach

Several theories of translations are applied to analyze *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* by Nujood and Minoui. The research describes the categorization of

the cultural words found in this work. The researcher also analyzes and describes the methods employed by the translator of the book to translate the cultural untranslatable terms into Indonesian language.

There are different definitions of translation from several experts. Newmark states that translation is depicting the message of certain language text from into another language in the manner that the author intended the text (1988, p. 5). According to Nida and Taber, translating subsists of reproducing in the receptor language message, in terms of meaning and style (1969, p. 12).

After explaining the definition of translation, the research defines the untranslatability to the reader. The understanding of untranslatability needs to be applied to the reader so that in the next chapter the reader has no difficulty in finding the reason why the researcher only chooses certain words to be studied in this research. The research uses the theory of untranslatability and the types of untranslatability that are explained by Catford. Catford (as cited in Bassnett, 2002) states that there are two types of untranslatability, which are linguistic untranslatability and cultural untranslatability (p. 39).

Before analyzing the method used to translate the cultural words, the researcher needs to explain the definition of cultural words and categorize the cultural words into several groups. The researcher uses the theory of cultural word and its categorization by Newmark. In the categorization of cultural words, Newmark (1988, p. 94) states that cultural categories are divided into five, they are ecology, material culture, social culture, social organizations, and gestures and habits.

After categorizing the cultural words into several categories, the researcher applies the procedures of translation by Vinay and Darbelnet. According to Newmark, the procedure of translation is applied to analyze the sentence and even the smaller entities of language (1988, p. 81). The use of the theory of translation procedures aims to discover how the translator translates the cultural untranslatable words found in the autobiography of Nujood Ali. Vinay and Darbelnet explain that there are several different translation procedures that were divided into two types (1995, p. 128). The first type is literal or direct translation consisted of three procedures, they are borrowing, calque, and literal translation. The second type is non-literal or oblique translation that consist of four procedures, they are transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation.

1.8 Method of Research

1.8.1 Type of Research

This research is a qualitative research with descriptive method. The qualitative research, according to Creswell (2010, p. 4), is employed when the analysis of the data is related to the meanings. The researcher decides to use the qualitative research because the analysis of the cultural untranslatable words focuses on the interpretation of the situations in the autobiography in order to reveal the most appropriate meaning of the words.

1.8.2 Source of Data

The researcher analyzes two types of data in this study. They are primary data and secondary data. The primary data of this research is the e-book version of *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* autobiographical book written by Nujood and

Minoui and the translated version of it, entitled *Saya Nujood, Usia 10 dan Janda*. The English version of the book was published by Michel Lafon Publishing in 2009, while its translated version was published in 2010 by Pustaka Alvabet Publishing and translated by Lulu Fitri Rahman. The secondary data is the cultural words found in *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* and *Saya Nujood, Usia 10 dan Janda*.

1.8.3 Data Collection Technique

Arikunto states that there are several techniques in collecting data, including questionnaire, interview, observation, test, and documentation (2006, p. 197). The data collection technique applied by the researcher is documentation. The researcher read the whole text of the English version and Indonesia version of *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*. Furthermore, the researcher identifies the variables of the cultural terms found in the text. The researcher collects the data and makes the database of the cultural words.

1.8.4 Data Analysis Technique

The technique for the data analysis applied in this paper is the distributional method. The researcher uses the distributional method because the analysis is based on the language. The reason is in line with the statement from Sudaryanto that the language is the key factor of the data itself (1993, p.15). The technique consists of several processes, starting from the process of analyzing the cultural words as the primary data, classifying them using the theory of translation method by Vinay and Darbelnet, explaining the result from the analysis, and drawing the conclusion of this research. In drawing the conclusion, the researcher applies the theory from Anas Sudijono in calculating the percentage of data generated in this research.

According to Sudijono (2011, p.43), the percentage is calculated by dividing the frequency of the data being searched for the percentage by the number of cases. After that, the number is multiplied by a fixed number or a hundred percent.

1.9 Paper Organization

The researcher arranges this research paper into four chapters. First, the researcher provides the introduction of this paper in the chapter one, and it is divided into nine sub-chapters. The researcher explains about the background of study, research question, objectives of study, and significance of study. The researcher also discusses the literature review from the previous research, theoretical approach of the research, and method of study. In the sub chapter of method of study, the researcher explains the type of research, source of data, data collection technique, and data analysis technique. In the last part of the first chapter, the researcher mentions the paper organization of this study.

Afterwards, in the second chapter, the researcher defines the theoretical framework of this research. The researcher explains the theory of translation to build the understanding of the reader about translation in general. Then the researcher also explains about the definition of untranslatability in translation and the classification of cultural words. In the third chapter, the researcher mentions the finding of the cultural words in the book *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* and the discussion of the translation method analysis of untranslatable cultural words. The fourth or the last chapter is the conclusion of the research. The researcher asserts the conclusion of the research and delivers the suggestions for the further research in the similar field and topic.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

Based on the explanation in the previous chapter, several conclusions can be drawn by the researcher about the categorization of cultural words and the methods of translation applied to translate the cultural words. First, the researcher recognizes that there are 82 cultural words in *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*. Those cultural words are categorized into 5 categories based on the theory of cultural words stated by Newmark. The most dominant categories of cultural words are category of material culture and category of social organization.

Second, after identifying the categorization of cultural words, the researcher analyzes the translation method used by the translator to convert the cultural word into the target language. The researcher uses the theory of translation method from Vinay and Darbelnet and finds that there are two types of method used in this research: literal and oblique translation. Literal translation consists of three types of method: borrowing, calque, and literal method. Additionally, 30% of cultural words found in this research used borrowing method, 22% used calque method, and 33% used the literal method. Meanwhile, the oblique translation consists of four translation methods: transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation. There are 5% of cultural words translated by using the transposition method, 4% used the equivalence method, and 6% used the adaptation method.

It can be concluded that the most dominant translation method used in this research is the literal method which is divided into three methods. They are

borrowing, calque, and literal method with a percentage of 85%. From this percentage, it can be considered that the translator more often translates the cultural words by borrowing the term directly or transferring it directly into grammatically and literally appropriate words. Translating the cultural words by borrowing terms from the source language aims to prevent the reduction of meaning in the target language. Furthermore, the purposes of applying those translation methods are to introduce the culture of the source text to the reader in a different language, to give more obvious depiction of the word concept, and to provide a different experience for the readers to feel the atmosphere of the background culture of the story.

4.2 Suggestion

This graduating paper focuses on the analyzing cultural words and translation method in the autobiography entitled *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* into *Saya Nujood, Usia 10 dan Janda*. The Indonesian version of the autobiography was translated by Lulu Fitri Rahman. The researcher applies the theory of cultural words by Newmark and the theory of translated method by Vinay and Darbelnet. The researcher suggests the other researchers to identify the translation method to translate the other aspects which are more specific such as religious word, slang, etc., from the source language to the target language. For further research, the researcher also suggests the use of other theories related to translation procedures and methods other than Vinay and Darbelnet's. The application of different theories in the further research can enrich the understanding of the reader in the same topic.

The researcher uses the autobiography as the object of this research because there is possibility to find numerous cultural words in it. Therefore, the

other researchers can conduct the research about translation procedure or method in other objects such as novel, comic, poetry, or short story. Further research on translation methods can be conducted on the objects related to audio-visual, such as music videos and films.



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