Cultural Words and Methods of Translation used in Translating Andrea Hirata Novel, Laskar Pelangi to Rainbow Troops by Angie Kilbane

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Abstract

Culture is one of problems faced by translators, hence it is a challenging job as lot of literary works translated from source language into target language. This study is aimed at obtaining a deeper knowledge at the cultural categories words and methods of translation used in translating Andrea Hirata Novel Laskar Pelangi into English version, Rainbow Troops by Angie Kilbane. Both Indonesian and English languages have very different background cultures. Newmark theory was used to analyze cultural words while qualitative descriptive methodology was used in this study. This analysis was done to find cultural words categories in the narrow sense and method used in translating of Andrea Hirata's Novel, Laskar Pelangi to Rainbow Troops by Angie Kilbane. The study found 5 categories of cultural words, they are: Geography or Ecology culture, Social culture, Organization, customs, activities, procedures, and gesture or habit. Material culture is the most cultural categories found in the novel. While methods of translation found are word by word, literal, faithful, semantic, adaptation, idioms, free and communicative translation.

Keywords: cultural words, method, translation, problems

INTRODUCTION

Translating novel means transferring language and transferring culture from source language culture to target language culture since translation is a process which involves two languages cultures. A translator should consider the cultural implication to translated text, therefore identification to the problems may help translator to decide the solution for the most appropriate and method to be chosen.

Newmark (1988:94) defines culture as "the way of life and its manifestation that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression" . Supported

by Vermeer who says that" language is part of a culture". However Nida (1964:130) states the equal important of both linguistics and culture differences between the SL and the TL and concludes that "differences between cultures may cause more severe complications for the translator than do differences in language structure". Therefore cultural and lexical implication may be taken as two important aspects in translation. Language and culture can also be seen as a closely related and both language and culture aspects must be considered in translating text.

Novel is one of literary works which entertained and gives lots of information to the readers. Numbers of readers and translated novels are growing from time to time. Nowadays, many Indonesia novel were translated into English for international readers. Translating a novel means reconstructing the meaning from the original language into the target one in the same way the author of the source language. It can be said that translation is an interaction of language and culture as well. Culture and language are inseparable, so that the more the two cultures are unlike, the more possible problems will be. For example, when a translator tries to find the equivalence translation for an expressions in the source language which has the higest level of faithfulness possible to the meaning of the source expression.

Flamand (1983: 119) says " Unlike scientific language or pragmatic language, the expressivity and the subjectivity of the literary language related to the freedom of the artistic expression which the writer plays." It is meant that the relation between literature and society are important and it includes cultures, values, traditions and religions.

In order to be faithful to the meaning of the original message, the translator should know the linguistic and extra-linguistics signs, and culture of the target receivers. The translator should be faithful to what the original author wants to say such as : preverbal origin, all the processes of thinking, expressing ideas, and meaning genesis) and this help the receivers to understand the target text the same as the original text"s receivers understand it.

The first objective of this study seeks the cultural words which are used in Andrea Hirata's Novel, Laskar Pelangi. The writer used Newmark theory regarding cultural words. Based on Newmark (1988), "there are 5 categories of cultural words, they are: (1).Ecology, (2) Material, (3) Social Culture, (4) Organizations, (5) Gesture or Habit. "

(1).Ecology includes **Flora, fauna, winds, plains, plains, hills**, (low plateau), 'plateau', *selva* (tropical rain forest), 'savanna', 'paddy field, etc.

(2) Material culture (artefacts), includes i.a: **Food**: 'zabaglione', 'sake', *Kaiserschmarren,* **Clothes**: 'anorak', *kanga* (Africa), *sarong* (South Seas), *dhoti* (India) , **Houses and towns**: *kampong, bourg, bourgade7* 'chalet', 'low-rise', 'tower' , (d) **Transport**: 'bike*', 'rickshaw', 'Moulton', *cabriolett* 'tilbury', *caliche*

(3) Social culture includes - **work and leisure**

ajaki amah, condotttere, biwa, sithar, raga, 'reggae', 'rock'

(4) *Organisations,* **customs, activities, procedures, concepts** includes customs, activities, procedures, concepts includes: (a) **Political and administrative work and leisure** : *ajaki amah, condotttere, biwa, sithar, raga,* 'reggae', 'rock' , (b) **Religious**: *dharma, karma?* 'temple' and (c) **Artistic**

(5) *Gestures and habits* 'includes: Cock a snook','spitting'

The readers play an important role in reaching the target of the translator as the reflection on the subject, action and dialogue are presented in the same shape and the style and voice of the author are there. Considering the important roles of culture in translation as it was mentioned earlier, then the writer intended to learn more about cultural implication to translation as there are many English novel translated into Indonesian and vice versa Indonesian novel translated into English or other foreign languages. Culler (1976;21) believes "languages are not nomenclatures and the concept of one language may differ radically from those of another, since each language articulates or organizes the world differently, and languages do not simply names categories; they are articulate their own". Culture differences makes the process of translation is a real challenge as it could involve many aspects such as: form, meaning, style, proverb, idioms, etc.

The other objective of this study is also to find methods of translation found in translating Andrea Hirata Novel Lascar Pelangi which was translated into English Rainbow Troops by Angie Kilbane. Indonesian and English have different background cultures, more over, Andrea Hirata, the writer, he is from Belitong which has very typical language. The language style language he used in writing his novel shows his character which may be seen in lexical-semantic, grammatical, syntactical, rhetorical, pragmatic problems.

In analysing the translated Andrea Hitrata's novel of Laskar Pelangi into Rainbow Troops by Angie Kilbane, the writer used Newmark theory (1988b: 81) methods of translation are as follows:

- Word –for-word translation: in which the SL word order is preserved and the words translated singly by their most common meanings, out of context.

- Literal translation: in which the SL grammatical equivalents, but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context

- Faithful translation: it attempts to produce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constrains of the TL grammatical structures.

- Semantic translation: which differs from 'faitful translation'only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value of the SL text.

- Adaptation: which is the freest from translation, and is used mainly for plays (commedies) and poetry; the themes, the characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture is converted to the TL culture and the text is written

- Free translation: it produces the TL text without the style, form, or content of the original.

- Idiomatic translation: it reproduces the 'message' of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original.

- Communiucative translation: it attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and and commprehensive to the readership.

Based on both objectives, this study seeks: (1) cultural words used by the writer which become a characteristics of Andrea Hirata artwork, (2). Cultural categories words found in Andrea Hirata, Laskar Pelangi Novel and (3) to find methods of translation used by Angie Kilbane in translating the novel into English version.

The above mentioned research questions, hopefully may have significant benefit for English Department students who are interested in translation. Understanding cultural words helps translators to do the job. The cultural aspects give the impact not only on words equivalence but starting from lexical/word and syntax to ways of life in a certain culture. It considers important to

know the implication of culture to the text in TL and also readership for both SL and TL. Nowadays translation is needed not only by students but also anyone who use the imported products, travelers, etc. Translators' background of English grammar, structure and other linguistic studies increase their competency and successful job.

This study was conducted with qualitative descriptive method. The writer did library study to get more information on cultural problems and also visit the web to get the latest information about the study of translation. The study can also be developed to the analysis of different cultural aspects with different theories or methodologies.

Knowing and undestand cultures of the two languages, source and target languages helps them reconstructing the sentence in target language as equivalence as possible. As it was mentined before that translation is not only an interaction between two languages but also between two cultures. After conducting this study the writer would like to share with the readers who study translation as to give inputs and suggest feasible solution to solve the problems in translating a literary works. In addition, the writer would also like to show the need to do some studies which may help translator to get some assistance and limit the ambiguity on translation works.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Cultural words and Method of Translation in Translating Andrea Hirata Novel, Laskar Pelangi into English Version Rainbow Troop by Angie Kilbane.

Andrea Hirata and Laskar Pelangi

Andrea Hirata Seman Said Harun was born in East Belitung, Bangka Belitung Province. He was born in a village a poor village and its location was quite isolated on the island of Belitong. Living in a such a poor village has affected Andrea personality. However, he has very strong motivation and used his potential power to change his life.

Andrea grew up like other village children, he remains a cheerful child who occasionally turns into a thinker while studying at school. In addition, he also often has dreams and dreams in his future. As he described in Laskar Pelangi's novel, little Andrea attended a school where the school building was very depressing and almost collapsed. The school namely SD Muhamadiyah

which was admitted by Andrea enough to be concerned. However, due to lack of funds, he was forced to go to school in a form that was more like a cattle pen.

Despite having to study in an uncomfortable building, Andrea still has considerable motivation to learn. Also at the school, he met his friends who were nicknamed Laskar Pelangi.

Meeting with Mrs. Muslimah at Muhamadiyah Elementary School, Andrea met a teacher who up to now is very much respected, namely NA (Nyi Ayu) Muslimah. I wrote the Laskar Pelangi book for Mrs. Muslimah, "Andrea said firmly to Reality. The perseverance of Mrs. Muslimah to teach students who only numbered no more than 11 people turned out to be very significant for Andrea's life. Changes in Andrea's life, he admitted was none other than motivation and the results of the training of Mrs. Muslimah. Actually on Belitong Island there is another school run by PN Timah. Andrea was not entitled to attend the school because of her father's status who still held low-ranking employees. "The novel he wrote was a memoir about his childhood, which shaped him. He who gave her novel's royalty to the library of a poor school. The figure of Muslimah, Andrea considered her as a person who really inspired her life. "

Cultural Words

Afterward, Larson (1984) states, "Translation is transferring the meaning of the source language into the receptor language. This is done by going form the form of the first language to the form of a second language by way of semantic structure. It means translation is the transfer of meaning from the ST into TT. Further explanation, the transfer is made on its form and semantic structure.

Base on Newmark theory, cultural words are categorized into five categories, they are ecology, material, social, organization and gesture and habits.

CULTURAL WORDS DATA FINDING

NO	CATEGORY	CULTURAL WORDS	DESCRIPTION
1.	Ecology	Nipah, Bambu kuning, bunga meriam, vanili	Flora
2	Material Culture	Keramba, baju taqwa, jubbah, gubuk, Belitong, kampong	Costume / houses

3.	Social Culture	Pengawas, guru, guitar	Work
4.	Organizations	Assalamualaikum, Muhhamadiyah, Amar makruf nahi mungkar	Religious, organization
5.	Gesture/Habit	Pamrih, mekar-sumringah	Gesture/habit

He also states that" the relevance of componential analysis in translation "as flexible but orderly method of bridging the numerous lexical gaps, both linguistic and cultural, between one language and another" (Newmark, 1988: 13). This stements is very challanging for translators as he or she must be good at linguistics and cultural problems which involves language aspects and culture as well.

The Rainbow Troops by Angie Kilbane.

Translating a literary work such as novel is one of cultural specific work which seems to be the most challenging tasks to be performed by translator since there are many potentials problem of translation process due to getting equivalent written and spoken TL text and making it reaches the wider readers.

Newmark (1988) devides translation methods into 8 categories. The writer found them in The Rainbow Troops a translated version of Laskar Pelangi Novel, Andrea Hirata. They are as the following:

1.   Word by word translation:

Indonesian: *Pagi itu, waktu aku masih kecil, aku duduk dibangku panjang di depan kelas*

English   : That morning, when I was a boy, I sat on long bench outside of a school.

The SL words order are all translated into TL by their most common meanings

2.   Literal translation,

Indonesian: *Sekolah kami tidak dijaga karena tidak ada benda berharga yang layak dicuri*

English: Our school wasn't guarded because there wasn't anything worth stealing.

The SL grammatical structure are converted into the nearest TL equivalents, but lexical words are translated singly.

3.   Faithful translation,

Indonesian: *Satu-satunya benda yang menandakan bangunan itu sekolah adalah sebatang bamboo kuning ……*

English: A yellow bamboo flagpole was the only thing that indicated this was a school building.

The translator attempted to produce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraint of the TL grammatical structures. The translator modified the structure of the SL when translated into English as English sentence structure begins with Subject (S) + V(Verb as Predicate) + O (Object) …

4.   Semantic translation,

Indonesian: *Itulah pil APC yang legendaris dikalangan rakyat pinggiran Belitong. Obat ajaib yang menyembuhkan segala rupa penyakit.*

English: The APC pill was legendary throughout the outskirts of Belitong as a magic medicine that could cure any illness.

The translator tried to produce the contextual original meaning and considered more on the aesthetic value of the SL text

5.   Adaptation translation,

Indonesian: *Kasian ayahku*

English: My poor father

Translator used the SL culture which is converted to the TL culture in this expression

6.   Free translation,

Indonesian: *Kata kata itu melekat pada dalam kalbu kami sampai kami dewasa nanti. Kata-kata yang kami kenal itu seperti kami mengenal bau alami ibu-ibu kami*

English: Those words were ingrained in our souls and remained there throughout the journey to adulthood; we knew them like the back of our own hands

In this type of translation, the translator may produce the TL text without the same style, form, or content of the original.

7.   Idiomatic translation

Indonesian: *Kasihan ayahku*

English: My poor father

The translator tried to find way to convey the message of the SL but it needs to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialism or idioms as there is no the same words exist in the original.

8.   Communicative translation.

Indonesian: *Pak Harfan menatapnya kosong*

English: Pak Harfan stared at her with an empthy look in his eyes

The translator tried to render the exact contextual meaning of the SL but he add some additional words (empty look in his eyes) to make it acceptable to the readers

CONCLUSION

There are many studies conducted regarding translation problems since there are many potential problems faced by translators as it was described earlier at the introduction. Knowing and understand categories of cultural words, it helps translator to find its equivalence in the TL. From the result study, the writer found all categories of cultural words, ecology, material, social culture, organization, customs, procedures, concepts and also gesture and habits. The most cultural word or the dominant cultural words is material culture followed by ecology, socio and organization and gesture and habit.

It shows the strong character of the writer Andrea Hirata who come from East Belitong and he is very proud of sharing the beauty of his village.

Translator determines strategies to do their jobs however the best translation method seem to be one important factors for successful task. In this study, the writer also found out all methods used by the writer. Various or combine methods from word –for-word, literal, faithful, semantic, adaptation, free, idiomatic and communicative of translation is meant to reach the foreign language readership could benefit from reading it. The need of using the methods depend very

much on the type text to be translated. Based on functional theory of translation, translator do not need to put accuracy as the main concern since it is a popular fiction which is trying to entertaint readers. It considers the readers'taste and comfort.

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