TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES USED IN TRANSLATING VULGAR LANGUAGE IN MOVIE “TED”

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ADVISOR'S APPROVAL

This thesis has been approved by the advisor on 17 July 2016 to be examined by the board of examiners.

Advisor,

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This thesis is entitled Translation Techniques Used in Translating Vulgar Language in Movie “TED”. This study directs to find the translation techniques used in translating vulgar language in “Ted” subtitle. The researcher used descriptive – qualitative method during the research since the aim of this study is to find out the translation techniques used in translating vulgar language in movie “Ted”. Based on the analysis that has been done, the researcher found there are 5 types of vulgar language that are found in the data: cursing, profanity, blasphemy, taboo or obscenity, and vulgarism. In the translation there are 2 types of translation techniques, they are Direct and Oblique translation technique. Direct Translation technique is divided into Borrowing and Literal Translation technique and Oblique is divided into Transposition, Modulation, and Adaptation technique. The mostly used technique is Oblique translation technique (83%) with transposition (1 utterance), modulation (99 utterances), Equivalence (with 32) and Adaptation (1 utterance). Direct translation technique consists of borrowing technique (4 utterances) and literal translation (24 utterances). The mostly used translation techniques in translating vulgar language in “Ted” movie are Equivalence and Modulation. It possibly implies that taboo or obscenity are used by people who have close relation like best friends.
INTRODUCTION

Translation is solution in understanding books, songs, movies, even conference as the supporting sources for the development of technology and science. That is why, translation is very important for people in the world. Many movies, songs, books, and conference are published in foreign language which cannot be understood by people who do not use that language as the means of communication in their daily life. In this modern era, the industry of movie makers has become an extremely popular to gather the audience. The movies industry not only should produce movies with good quality, but also face a translation problem since not all people in the world understand English. Therefore, it is the role of translation to translate all of those movies or others materials into the language which can be understood by the reader or participants, in this case is Indonesian people with Bahasa Indonesia as the national language. Some people in Indonesia who never learn English cannot understand the movie with English language and they need translator to translate the source language.

Subtitling is the textual dialogue of the movies or films which is usually displayed at the bottom of the screen. Gottlieb (1992:164) discusses in different terminology, what he calls the formal (quantitative) and textual (qualitative) constraint of subtitling. Textual constraints are those imposed on the subtitles by the visual context of the film, whereas formal constraints are the space factor (a maximum of two lines are allowed, with approximately 35 characters per line) and the time factor. The time factor in particular, plays a pivotal role in the decisions translators have to make although traditionally five to six seconds have been considered to be sufficient for reading a two-line sentence. People who can’t understand the source language of the movies can read the subtitle which is already translated into their language, especially in translating movies from English to Indonesian. English and Indonesian have a different culture, not all of words or sentences in English can be accepted in Indonesia. This is another problem for movie translator because they should know the culture from each language. The statement “The relationship between language and culture is deeply rooted. [...] Different ideas stem from differing language use within one’s culture and the whole intertwining of these relationships start at one’s birth” is written by Aubrey Nail (LeveridgeforTEFL.net). For example, English has a vulgar language which is not always found in Indonesian. One problem that found in making subtitling is vulgar language that is found in movie dialog. (http://edition.tefl.net/articles/teacher-technique/language-culture/)

Vulgar language or bad language or swearing is a language that usually considered too strongly impolite, rude or offensive. It can show intense emotions or showing disrespect of something. Vulgar language is used to debase or devalue the thing or individual referred to or described. Vulgar language also has the connotative interpretations that are possible for words such as asshole, cocksucker, bastard, and so on reveal much about the sociocultural conditions that surround their use. In essence, taboo language could prove to be pedagogically useful. Vulgar language is usually only seen in western culture, it is really different with Indonesian culture that has rules to make movies without the use of bad words or vulgar language. Indonesian rules UU
No.8 1992 Pasal (1:4), says that film censorship is missing some parts of movies or sounds. The government will make selection about movies that will show in Indonesia and they will censor parts of movies which have vulgar language or showing different culture like sex.

Some movies have really different culture depending on producer who makes the movie. For example, “Ted” movie has many vulgar languages and brings western culture inside the movie, for example from the movie “John all you got to do is not fuck up”. Vulgar language here is not to say something bad, but sometimes it is used for those who have close relations like best friend, or friend near you. It is totally different with Indonesian movie which cannot use the vulgar language. This problem makes a translator feels harder to translate the vulgar language.

For movie translator, they should know about the subtitle length in the movie display and the rules in some country that cannot use vulgar language in movies subtitle but can still translate the main idea of the message. As Vinay and Dalbernet (cited in Munday, 2001:21) states that “equivalence refers to cases where languages describe the same situation by the different stylistic or structural means. Whereas, when the form in source language has a new form or different form from the target language, it is called shifts” and one movie which has many vulgar languages inside is “Ted”. It takes risks for translator who wants to translate “Ted” because vulgar languages sometimes have so many meanings. First, vulgar language is usually used by someone who talks with their relatives to show that they have close relations or best friend. Second, it is also used for showing great emotional expression like mad, happy, sad and many more. So, translator must translate the vulgar language correctly. If they translate it wrongly the meaning of vulgar language will not be gotten by the audience.

Ted is a movie about the eight-year old lonely boy who lives in Boston named John Bennett and has no friends. On the Christmas day, he wishes that his Ted bear comes to life and a miracle happens and Ted becomes his only friend. Twenty-seven years later, John Bennett is a pothead that works at a car rental and spends his idle time smoking pot and watching movies with Ted. He also has a girlfriend for four years, Lori Collins, who has a great job. Lori’s boss Rex tries unsuccessfully to get into her pants. One day, John meets the weird Donny that worships Ted and wants to buy him for his son Robert but John refuses the offer. When Lori puts John against the wall to stay with her, John has to make a tough decision. Some examples of vulgar language that are found in “Ted” are “Asshole, Sorry I’m sending a tweet”, "Not gonna let you down goose”, “Jesus Guy, you look like shit man what happened?".
RESEARCH METHOD

Data and Subject

The data were taken from movie “Ted” subtitle. “Ted” was published in 2012 and was directed by Seth Mac Farlane. The original subtitle was English from http://subscene.com and translated into Indonesia by Pein Akatsuki http://sebuah-dongeng.blogspot.com.

Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis in this research was vulgar language in the “Ted” movie subtitle. The source language was English (SL) and the target language was Indonesian (TL). The researcher displayed the utterance of the movie.

Technique Data Collection and Analysis

The data of this research was collected by using the following steps, first watching the “Ted” movie with original English subtitle then watching movie with Indonesian version subtitle. Last, identifying the translation techniques used in translating vulgar language in “Ted” movie. Classifying the vulgar language by using theories from Jay's (1992) tabulating the vulgar language found in movie find the techniques mostly used in the movie by using theories from Vinay and Dalbernet, analyzing the translation techniques are used in translating the vulgar language by describing the context of Vulgar Language, describing the types of Vulgar Language, describing the function of Vulgar Language, describing the translation techniques, describing the acceptability of Vulgar Language translation and the final is making conclusion.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A. Findings

The types of vulgar language are divided into 5; cursing, profanity, blasphemy, taboo or obscenity, vulgarism. Taboo or obscenity is the highest type of vulgar language found in Ted with 74% or 119 utterance. Vulgarism has 14.2% or 23 utterances of vulgar language found in Ted movie. Profanity has 9.3% or 15 utterances of vulgar language. Cursing is the lowest with 2.5% or 4 utterance of vulgar language. Blasphemy has 0% because it cannot be found in the movie and the mostly used translation technique is Oblique translation technique with transposition (1 utterances), modulation (99 utterances), Equivalence (with 32) and Adaptation (1 utterance) with its percentage reaches (83%). Direct translation technique (17%) follows with borrowing technique (4 utterances) and literal translation (24 utterances). The mostly used translation techniques are Equivalence and Modulation.
B. Discussion

1. Cursing

*Adaptation*

(00:45:52,415 -- 00:45:55,903)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix No.</th>
<th>SL</th>
<th>What a cunt...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92.</td>
<td>TL</td>
<td>Dasar pelacur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This situation happens when Lori and Tamy have a fight in café because Tamy thinks Lori calls her a whore but actually Lori just wants to ask her a question, Tamy gets so angry and leaves the café by saying “you know what bitch, I gave birth once, I can kick your fucking ass” and after Tamy has gone and Lori says “What a cunt” The utterance “what a cunt” is a vulgar language because “cunt” is something bad and it is a Cursing, the speaker says it to show that he or she is angry and hates the target speaker. The translator uses Adaptation technique from “cunt” into “pelacur” because “cunt” in Indonesian has similar meaning and culture with “pelacur”. The translator uses Adaptation technique because in Indonesian “cunt” has similar meaning with “pelacur”, and “pelacur” in Indonesia is a vulgar language. The translator does not change the vulgar language into non-vulgar language. The writer thinks that this translation is still acceptable because the movie is for teen and adult.

2. Profanity

*Modulation*

(00:10:52,548 -- 00:10:56,468)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix No.</th>
<th>SL</th>
<th>Jesus this is weak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>TL</td>
<td>Ini lemah.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This situation happens when John and Ted use some weed in their house. Ted feels that the weed is not enough to make him high. So, he says “jesus this is weak” to show the expression because the weed is really weak. This utterance “jesus this is weak” contains vulgar language “jesus this is weak”. The speaker says it using “jesus” word to amplify his utterance that this thing is really weak. So, “jesus” here is similar to the word “really”. Vulgar language “jesus” here is Profanity because the expression uses religious terminology like God or anything. The translator uses Modulation translation technique here because the utterance
“jesus this is weak” into Indonesian “ini lemah” deletes some words to make it easier to understand for the audience in different culture, in this case in Indonesia. Indonesian people rarely use word with religious terminology like God to amplify their utterances. The translator uses Modulation technique and deletes the word “jesus” when translated in Indonesian because it is only an expression. Deleting the word “jesus” to change the word from vulgar language to non-vulgar language and does not change the message of the word. The writer thinks that this translation changes the meaning because he does not translate the word “jesus” which can be translated into “very”.

3. Taboo or obscenity

Equivalence

(00:11:00.360 --> 00:11:01.833)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix No.</th>
<th>SL</th>
<th>TL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>I think it sucks, im gonna have a talk</td>
<td>ini payah, aku akan bicara dengannya.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The situation happens when John and Ted suck some weed and Ted think the weed is weak and he wants talk to his weed guy then Ted says “I think it sucks, im gonna have a talk with him”. He uses the word “sucks” here only as an expression and to show that he has close relation with John.

This utterance contains vulgar language “sucks”. “Sucks” here is expression of showing disappointment or displeasure about something. “Sucks” is a taboo vulgar language because this word is an expression which is restricted in some way for their use in public and usually is found on the streets or in television, but it will be censored. The translator uses Equivalence technique because “suck” has same context or situation when it is translated into “payah” in Indonesia. He transfers directly the words form and transfer the word sucks into “payah”. The writer thinks that this translation is acceptable.
4. Vulgarism

*Modulation*

(00:14:11,917 → 00:14:14,956)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix No.</th>
<th>SL</th>
<th>I don't know, I <strong>dig chicks</strong> man</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>TL</td>
<td>Entahlah, Tapi aku <strong>suka wanita</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The situation happens when John and his friend talk about what happens to his friend last night and he says he randomly text person to beat him up and after it the person who beat him says thanks and John says “It just seems kind of gay doesn’t it? Then he replies “I don’t know, I dig chicks man”. This utterance contains vulgar language “dig chicks”. “Dig chick” is vulgarism because it is used to debase or devalue the thing or describe sexual body that it should not be said it in public or usually gets censored in television or media. The translator here translates the utterance “I don’t know, I dig chicks man” into Indonesian by using Modulation technique to “entahlah, tapi aku suka wanita”. The translator uses this technique because he wants make the utterance to be more easily understood for the audience by changing the words “I dig chicks man” into “aku suka wanita”. The translator uses Modulation technique by changing the words from vulgar to non-vulgar language, the point of view of the words and justifies it into acceptable translation. It changes the meaning of “dig chicks” which can mean “sex”, but the translator here changes it into “like”.

**CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the data, the researcher draws a conclusion about translation technique that used in translation vulgar language in “Ted” movie. The results show that there are 5 types of vulgar language are found in the data: cursing, profanity, blasphemy, taboo or obscenity, vulgarism. In translation techniques there are 2 categories: direct and oblique. Direct translation techniques are divided into 3 types: borrowing, calque, literal translation and in oblique translation is divided into 4 types: transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation.

Taboo or obscenity has the highest type of vulgar language found in Ted with 74% or 119 utterances. Vulgarism has 14.2% or 23 utterances of vulgar language found in Ted movie. Profanity has 9.3% or 15 utterances of vulgar language. Cursing has the lowest with 2.5% or 4 utterance of vulgar language. Blasphemy has 0%.
In this analysis, the most dominant vulgar language is taboo because this movie contains moral message about friendships. It tells the relation between John Bennett and his Teddy bear, Ted. In daily conversation, John and Ted use vulgar language, *taboo* because they want to show that they have close relationship like best friend. The mostly used translation technique in translating vulgar language in Ted movie is Oblique translation technique (83%) with transposition (1 utterance), modulation (99 utterances), Equivalence (with 32) and Adaptation (1 utterance). Direct translation technique follows with (17%) and it is divided into borrowing technique (4 utterances) and literal translation (24 utterances). The mostly techniques used in translating vulgar language in “Ted” movie are Equivalence and Modulation. It implies that the translator wants to delete some vulgar languages but in the other side, he also wants to keep the culture of vulgar language.
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Borrowing is a translation technique that involves using the same word or expression in original text in the target text. The word or expression borrowed is usually written in italics. This is about reproducing an expression in the original text as is. In this sense, it is a translation technique that does not actually translate. Example: The gaucho was wearing a black sombrero and a worn old pair of bombachas. 2. Calque. When a translator uses a calque, he or she is creating or using a neologism in the target language by adopting the structure of the source language. Example: The English would translate... This article presents the definition and classification of translation techniques that we used in our study of the treatment of cultural elements in Arabic translations of A Hundred Years of Solitude. We also present a critical review of earlier definitions and classifications of translation techniques.