

# An Appraisal Theory Approach to Translation of Body Parts of Women on the Novel “Lelaki Harimau” by Eka Kurniawan

Cicu Finalia\*, M. R. Nababan, Riyadi Santosa, Djatmika Djatmika

Doctoral Program of Linguistics  
Universitas Sebelas Maret  
Surakarta, Indonesia

\*cicu.finalia@gmail.com, amantaradja@yahoo.com, riyadisantosa1960@gmail.com, djatmika@staff.uns.ac.id

**Abstract**—Translating body parts, such as image of women, into target language arises some challenges which, certainly, have different cultural contexts. The challenges lie in the selection of translation techniques from the source language into the target language. This study examines the translation techniques used in translating body parts related to image of women in Eka Kurniawan’s “Lelaki Harimau” novel into German, and presents the types of attitude associated with body parts of women. The body parts as an aspect of physical image compiled intensifier, attitudinal lexis or metaphors related to image of women in the novel into domains to amplify an aspect of physical image and how they are translated into German by using certain translation techniques. From the results of the initial and earlier discussion it was found that the translator of the novel “Lelaki Harimau” into German are using certain translation techniques: established equivalent, modulation, explicitation, transposition, discursive creation, addition, compensation, description, reduction and deletion. The use of these certain translation techniques is one indicator that translation technique determines the image shift.

**Keywords**—*appraisal theory; body parts of women; image of women; translation technique; image shift*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Body parts are one of the female elements explored by Eka Kurniawan in his novel entitled “Lelaki Harimau”. Actually, this novel tells the story of the myth of the white tiger in Sundanese culture. However, in this novel, female elements that appear in the form of women’s issues such as domestic violence and the portrayal of their character and physicality, also play important roles.

The world of Indonesian literature in the early 2000s was horrified by the publication of works that featured body issues, sexuality and social issues that the writers were women. These women writers raised many themes relating to body, sexuality and also the spirit of liberation of women patriarchal prisons, thus negating others themes relating to social issues faced by society. It was this popularity gained by these Indonesian women writers which caused a polemic among literary critics in the mass media. From these debates, the term Sastra Wangi arises [1]. The novel “Lelaki Harimau” which was published

during the era of Sastra Wangi was booming, also explores body, sexuality and women issues.

The portraying of female body from a male perspective, such as Eka Kurniawan, in his novel is very interesting to study because he has provided certain perspective that might be different from the perspective of female writers in this era regarding portraying of female body. The portraying of female body is actually also related to the image of women displayed in literary works.

In the field of literature, image defines as a mental impression or visual portrait expressed by a word, phrase or sentence, and it is a distinctive basic element in the work of prose and poetry [2]. Meanwhile, according to Sofia, image of women can be defined as all forms of women’s mental, spiritual and daily behavior that show women’s “faces” and characteristics [3]. This image usually describes the characteristics and environmental conditions that actually appear or exist as moral codes. Moi adds that based on exposure to women, feminine, femininity and feminism, women can be portrayed based on their biological categories and socio-cultural categories [4].

In matters of translating the image of women from one language into another language, there are some challenges that arise when translating body parts as aspects of physical image, such as the image of women, into target languages which, of course, have different cultural contexts. The challenges lie in the selection of translation techniques from the source language into the target language. This study discusses how the body parts as aspects of physical image of women in Eka Kurniawan’s “Lelaki Harimau” novel are portrayed and evaluated. It also focuses on how these body parts translated into German and how using certain translation techniques affects image shift.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. *Body Parts as an Aspect of Physical Image of Women*

It is not easy to describe a “portrait” of women and their personality as a whole because women always present themselves in various ways. Especially since the 1960s

feminist have distinguished gender as a biological category and gender as a social or cultural category. This difference in definition of sex/gender shows the basic framework in feminist theory and has been widely accepted by general public [4]. This notion can be the basis for "portraying" or imaging women as a whole.

To understand what women are and what the image of women is, we should explore the definitions of feminine, femininity and feminism. According Prabasmoro, femininity is a culturally defined set of characteristics, feminism is a political position while femaleness is a biological thing [5]. Sex and thus "femaleness" are a biological reality or any biological fact; menstruation, the ability to give birth, breastfeeding, can be considered "destiny" - which is more or less irreversible. Meanwhile, femininity and gender are socio-cultural constructions attributed to women. Because social construction is created by humans, femininity and gender are not so stable that they can change. What is considered "feminine" depends on who defines it, where the people are. Ideology that recognizes this construction inequality and then directs itself to changes in inequality is what is called feminism.

Based on exposure to women, feminine, femininity and feminism above, women can be portrayed based on their biological categories and socio-cultural categories. Departing from this view, this study focuses on the biological categories, especially on how the body parts of women are described in the novel *Lelaki Harimau* and its translation in German *Tigermann*. Gigle determines that the external appearance of a character or can also be referred to as a physical image, including sex, age, appearance, body shape, height, hair style, hair color, and clothing [6]. In this category, aspects that describe the physical character of a character need to be re-detailed by adding aspects that have not been mentioned by [6], such as face, skin, and other body parts (eyes, nose, lips, cheeks, ears, neck, chest, breasts, hands, legs, etc.).

### *B. Appraisal Theory in Translating Body Parts as Physical Image of Women*

According to Martin appraisal is concerned with evaluation – the kinds of attitude that are negotiated in a text, the strength of the feelings involved and the ways in which values are source and readers aligned. There are three main types of attitude – beginning with affect (people's feeling), then judgement (people's character) and finally appreciation the value of things [7]. It is considered the way in which attitudes can be amplified and hedged, developing force and focus as complementary dimensions of the system of graduation. The source of attitude defines as the ways in which quoting and reporting, modality and concession constitute an engagement system which can be used to introduce a range of voices into a text.

The appraisal theory is applied by a lot of scholars to fruitful discourses, such as in daily conversation, in literature, in language teaching and in academic discussion.

In the translation studies field, Chen tracks down the translator's subjectivity in popular science translation and suggests that the translator's subjectivity can be found in shifts

in evaluative expressions between source text and target text, which he calls evaluative shift [8]. The Appraisal theory can also be applied in assessing translation quality and determining the pattern used by the text speakers in realizing text's purposes while anticipating and controlling the effect after these purposes are achieved [9,10]. Meanwhile, Qian investigates "unfaithful" translation especially in items of the linguistic expressions and compares English translations with the source texts according to the appraisal theory [11]. Then, the exploration of the distribution of appraisal resources in translation of literary works has been carried out concentrating on a comparative analysis and finding out the similarity and differences of the translated poems [12].

Based on several translation studies researches mentioned above, appraisal theory can also be applied on portraying characters in literary works, such as their body parts.

### *C. Translation Techniques for Translating Body Parts as Physical Image of Women*

Translating body parts, such as image of women, into target language arises some challenges which, certainly, have different cultural contexts. The challenges lie in the selection of translation techniques from the source language into the target language. Translation techniques are not only useful in translating the body parts of women but also can be useful for analyzing its translation, e.g., how the used translation techniques affect the image shift.

However, until now there are still differences of opinion among translation experts regarding translation techniques. This difference in opinion is not only in terminology but also conceptually. There is no agreement on what name should be given to mention this category. There are various labels used to mention this category (procedures, techniques, strategies).

In this study, translation techniques refer to the way micro-units of the text are translated and they affect micro-units of the text. According to Molina, translation techniques are not good or bad themselves, they are functionally and dynamically in terms of [13]: the genre of the text, the type of translation, the mode of translation, the purpose of the translation and the characteristics of the translation audience, and the method chosen. They propose eighteen techniques, namely: adaptation, amplification, borrowing, calque, compensation, description, discursive creation, established equivalents, generalization, linguistic amplification, linguistic compensation, literal translation, modulation, particularization, reduction, substitution and transposition.

Furthermore, Molina determine, translation techniques are not, obviously, the only categories available to analyse a translated text [13]. Coherence, cohesion, thematic progression and contextual dimensions also intervene in the analysis.

## III. METHODOLOGY

This study is a descriptive qualitative research in the field of translation studies that is product-oriented. In addition to the translation theory regarding translation techniques used to translate the body parts into German [13], in this study also

used the Systemic Functional Linguistics approach, especially the Appraisal Theory [7], to investigate how the body parts are portrayed and evaluated.

The data were collected through purposive sampling and extracted in the form of: (a) linguistic data in the form of body parts of women expressed by figurative speech and lexis that appear in the novel "Lelaki Harimau" and its German translation "Tigermann"; (b) translation data in the form of translation techniques used to translate body parts of women.

Triangulation was conducted to validate the data. In this study, different types of data sources and method were used to extract the data, namely the novel "Lelaki Harimau" and its German translation "Tigermann" as the documents (sources) that result body parts as physical image of women that expressed through figurative speech and lexis. This result of this document study was compared to the result of focus group discussion on informants (translation studies expert, systemic functional linguistics expert and German native speaker). Meanwhile, for data derived from data sources contained in the document, the data were conducted through content analysis. For participant data sources (translation studies expert, systemic functional linguistics expert and German native speaker), the data were conducted through focus group discussion. Furthermore, the results of the application of these two methods were compared to obtain valid data.

**IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

**A. Findings**

In Table I, it can be seen the body parts that shape the physical image of women in the novel "Lelaki Harimau". It is constructed by breast (16 data), hair (4 data), cheek (3 data), nose (3 data), skin (3 data), eyes (2 data), eyelashes (2 data), calves (1 data), hips (1 data), jaw (1 data), legs (1 data), lip (1 data) and thighs (1 data).

TABLE I. BODY PARTS SHAPED PHYSICAL IMAGE OF WOMEN

| Body Part | Sum |
|-----------|-----|
| Breast    | 16  |
| Hair      | 4   |
| Cheek     | 3   |
| Nose      | 3   |
| Skin      | 3   |
| Eyes      | 2   |
| Eyelashes | 2   |
| Calves    | 1   |
| Hips      | 1   |
| Jaw       | 1   |
| Legs      | 1   |
| Lips      | 1   |
| Thighs    | 1   |

Then Table II shows the choice of words that express the body parts relating to physical image of women in the novel *Lelaki Harimau*. Mostly, the body parts are expressed through lexis used in 17 data and metaphors in 13 data, followed by personification in 5 data and simile used only in 4 data.

TABLE II. CHOICE OF WORDS EXPRESSED BODY PARTS OF WOMEN

| Linguistic Expression | Sum |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Lexis                 | 17  |
| Metaphor              | 13  |
| Personification       | 5   |
| Simile                | 4   |

Contributing to the research topic on the body parts constructing physical image of women on the novel "Lelaki Harimau" by Eka Kurniawan will be investigated how these physical aspects are evaluated and amplified. Table III shows all body parts are evaluated with type of attitude appreciation with subtype reaction quality and its polarity. It can be terminated that the body parts of women in the novel are mostly positive appraised.

TABLE III. TYPE OF ATTITUDE AND ITS POLARITY OF BODY PARTS OF WOMEN

| Body Part | Type of Attitude  | Polarity | Sum |
|-----------|-------------------|----------|-----|
| Breast    | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 8   |
|           |                   | Negative | 8   |
| Hair      | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 4   |
|           |                   | Negative | 0   |
| Cheek     | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 2   |
|           |                   | Negative | 1   |
| Nose      | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 2   |
|           |                   | Negative | 1   |
| Skin      | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 2   |
|           |                   | Negative | 1   |
| Eyes      | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 2   |
|           |                   | Negative | 0   |
| Eyelashes | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 2   |
|           |                   | Negative | 0   |
| Calves    | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 1   |
|           |                   | Negative | 0   |
| Hips      | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 1   |
|           |                   | Negative | 0   |
| Jaw       | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 0   |
|           |                   | Negative | 1   |
| Legs      | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 1   |
|           |                   | Negative | 0   |
| Lips      | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 1   |
|           |                   | Negative | 0   |
| Thighs    | Reaction, Quality | Positive | 0   |
|           |                   | Negative | 1   |

Then Table IV presents the value of the attitude is amplified mostly with force as resource and it turns the volume up (upscale). The words, that amplify upscale, are attitudinal lexis (20 data), metaphors (14 data) and intensifier (3 data); low-upscale with intensifier as resource of force of attitudes (2 data). Only one data has focus as resource of amplification that soften the attitude.

TABLE IV. RESOURCE OF AMPLIFICATION OF BODY PARTS OF WOMEN

| Amplification         |                   |               |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Type of Amplification | Focus             | Force         |
| Attitudinal Lexis     | Upscaling (20)    |               |
| Metaphor              | Upscaling (14)    |               |
| Intensifier           | Upscaling (3)     |               |
|                       | Low-Upscaling (2) |               |
| Lexis                 |                   | Softening (1) |

Relating to translation of the body parts of women into German, Table V shows the translation techniques used to translate the body parts. There are ten techniques used to translate the body parts of women, such as established equivalent, modulation, explicitation, transposition, discursive creation, addition, compensation, description, reduction and deletion. Established equivalent is most often used with a frequency of 14, followed by modulation with the number of frequencies 9. The other eight translation techniques (e.g.

explicitation, transposition, discursive creation, addition, compensation, description, reduction and deletion) have a fairly low usage frequency below.

TABLE V. FAIRY LOW USAGE FREQUENCY

| Translation Technique  | Frequency |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Established Equivalent | 14        |
| Modulation             | 9         |
| Explicitation          | 5         |
| Transposition          | 4         |
| Discursive Creation    | 3         |
| Addition               | 3         |
| Compensation           | 2         |
| Description            | 2         |
| Reduction              | 2         |
| Deletion               | 1         |

## B. Discussion

### 1) *The body parts as aspects of physical image of women:*

Portraying a character usually begins with the depiction of physical characteristics. The physical portrait of the character in the story is built to give the reader an idea of how the character is imaged. Through physical portrayal, it can often be known how the character and nature of the character [14]. These characteristics, according to Gisle include [6]: gender, age, appearance, body shape, height, hair style, hair, and clothing.

In the novel "Lelaki Harimau", the physical characteristics of the female characters are constructed not only by the appearance but also by body parts as seen in Table I they are expressed by certain choice of words as presented in Table II.

With the help of the Appraisal Theory, the body parts that shape the physical image of women in the novel can show what kind of image is displayed through the characters. Appraisal as a system of interpersonal meaning used for negotiating the relationship between writer/speaker and reader/listeners, by telling the readers or the listeners how the writer or the speaker feels about things and people (in a word, what his/her attitude is) [7]. It means, in this novel, the body parts associated to image of women can be evaluated positively or negatively. This kind of positive or negative element called polarity that is important feature of attitude. The value of these body parts can also be amplified to show how strong the feeling of the writer about the body parts portrayed is. For example:

Example 1:

..., *memperlihatkan perempuan cantik dengan rambut ikal dan pipi **montok**, cemerlang dengan mata bulat yang berbinar.*

Example 2:

..., *pipinya **menyusut cenderung cekung**, ...*

The writer's narrative about the body parts of Nuraeni (her cheeks), as Example 1 and 2 shown, appreciates the quality of her cheeks. The writer appreciates the thing positively in Example 1 that refers to young Nureani and he has strong feeling about it that he uses attitudinal lexis *montok* to upscale the value. The expression used to describe the cheeks is lexis.

For the adult Nuraeni in Example 2, the writer appreciates her cheeks negatively in the form of lexis. He uses the choice of resource of amplification with attitudinal lexis *menyusut, cenderung* and *cekung*. These appraising items are part of reaction quality because it has to do with emotional impact on the readers. It can be summarized that the appreciation that is examined in Example 1: reaction quality positive, upscaling through attitudinal lexis. Example 2: reaction quality negative, upscaling through attitudinal lexis.

2) *Translation techniques used to translate the body parts as physical image of women:* In translating all body parts that portray the physical image of women from Bahasa Indonesia into German, the translator used ten techniques, such as established equivalent, modulation, explicitation, transposition, discursive creation, addition, compensation, description, reduction and deletion. The established equivalent technique with its highest frequency, followed by modulation as Table V shown. For Example, established equivalent is used when a term or expression in source language (SL) has an equivalent in the target language (TL) which is recognized by dictionaries or language in use:

Example 3:

ST: ..., malahan sering pula menempeleng **betis indahnya** dengan kaki ganasnya...

TT: ..., dass er mit seinem wild geworden Fuß sie in **ihre schönen Waden** trat, ...

The expression that realizes the body part in SL in Example 3 is *betis indahnya* that is translated into German *ihre schönen Waden*. The expression *betis indahnya* consists of two words *betis* and *indahnya* in SL has its equivalent in TL: *Waden*, *schön* and possessive pronoun *ihre* to explicit the possessive pronoun *-nya* that become also one equivalent *ihre schönen Waden*.

3) *The impact of translation techniques on image shift:* In translation of body parts that portray image of women, it is found that some shifts occur. But we have to limit these shifts. We concentrate only to the shift of physical image that is constructed by body parts that occur in this study. For example:

Example 4:

ST: ..., dan ia tak lagi membiarkan dadanya yang **mulai sedikit monyong** dibiarkan terbuka ...

TT: ..., und sie ließ ihre Brust, die **sich zu wölben begann**, nicht mehr unbedeckt ...

In example 4, in the source text, the breast of young Nuraeni is expressed in the form of metaphor: *mulai sedikit monyong* (known as appraising item) that is evaluated as reaction that show the emotional impact it has on the reader (quality: did I like it?). It also has a positive dimension. The intensifier *sedikit* upscale the force of attitudes but in low manner. Meanwhile, in the target text, it is expressed in lexis: *sich zu wölben began* 'started to curve'. Here, the breast is

also evaluated as reaction-quality positive with attitudinal lexis as the type of force of attitudes that upscales the attitude. The appraising item in the form of metaphor in ST is translated into lexis in TT. This kind of change in semantic perspective shows that the translator used modulation as translation technique. The translator used also another technique, namely reduction, as she omitted the word *sedikit* which functions as intensifier. This technique affects the scale of force from low upscaling into upscaling. The change of scale of force indicates image shifting but not in strong manner.

#### V. CONCLUSION

This study finds that: firstly, there are eleven body parts associated to physical image of women in the novel “Lelaki Harimau”, i.e., breast, hair, cheek, nose, skin, eyes, eyelashes, calf, hips, jaw, legs, lip and thighs. These aspects of physical image of women are evaluated with the type of attitudes of reaction with its subtype reaction that shows quality of each portrayed body parts and considered to be more positive than negative. Secondly, there are ten techniques used to translate the body parts of women, such as established equivalent, modulation, explicitation, transposition, discursive creation, addition, compensation, description, reduction and deletion. Lastly, using of certain translation techniques – such as deletion, discursive creation and reduction – in translation of body parts related to image of women in the novel “Lelaki Harimau” into German indicates image shift: from sexy to less sexy.

There are some limitations and suggestions for further study. Firstly, this study only analyzes one type of aspects of physical image of women in one novel and its translation, the corpus is inadequate. The further study can take more types of aspects of physical image of women in more novels and its translation into consideration. Secondly, due to the limitation space, the paper mainly studies the body parts of women related to image of women, its translation techniques and the image shift.

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