Accidentally Rude:

A study on translation techniques of a translated english-sundanese novel

Ina Sukaesih*, M R Nababan, Riyadi Santosa, Djatmika Djatmika
Doctoral Program of Linguistics
Universitas Sebelas Maret
Solo, Indonesia
*sukaesihina124@gmail.com

Abstract—**The paper discusses translation techniques of a translated English-Sundanese novel. It focuses on the translation techniques of honorific markers from an English novel entitled 'King Solomon's Mines and its Sundanese version: Pependeman Nabi Sulaeman. The research aims to reveal the effect of translation techniques on the quality of the translated honorific markers. English honorific markers which were translated into Sundanese are identified with reference to House & Kasper (1981) and analysed to determine the translation techniques (Molina & Albir,2002) used by the translator. Discussion on the findings is focused on assessing the translation quality based on the translation quality framework from Nababan et.al (2012). The research indicates a downgrading of meaning in the Sundanese translation of the English honorific markers which results in meaning with the tendency to carry a ruder nuance in the translated version. The downgraded meaning is most of the time a consequence of using the variation translation technique. The chosen technique might have been based on the translator's understanding on the subjective positions of the speakers in the conversations. The word choice also indicates the translators' knowledge and understanding of appropriate words available in Sundanese as the target language.**

Keywords—translation technique; honorific marker; English; Sundanese

I. INTRODUCTION

Honorific markers are meant to show politeness which results from respect and deference. There are several researches on honorific markers which discuss variety of its aspects such as politeness strategies and politeness markers themselves. The same goes to researches on honorific markers translation. Some can be found focusing on political politeness strategies in some language functions used both in the source language (SL) compared with the ones in the target language (TT) [1-5].

Researches on honorific markers translation have made use of some pair languages, such as English-other European languages; English-Indonesian; English-Arabics; Indonesian-Javanese; and Javanese-English. However, none has held research on a translation from English text into Sundanese one. What make it interesting is that English is considered as a language originated from low context culture, while Sundanese originates from high context culture. As far as we understand that a language originating from low context culture shows directness. This means that expressions used by a speaker to deliver a message directly show the real message. On the contrary, a language from high context culture generally deliver message which is different from the message uttered; they may have hidden meaning.

Another thing which may make the research from English into Sundanese needs to be carried out is the fact that Sundanese has levels of speech system. In which people can exercise levels of speech to enhance polite nuances and vice versa. This level of speech may give a translator opportunities and freedom to choose any expressions which she or he thinks best replace the expressions from the source text. It was assumed that the translation would vary in terms of the variety of word choices to reflect honorification.

The documents needed for the research are taken from 'King Solomon's Mines' [6] a classic novel written by R. Haggards in the early of 1900s and its translation version 'Pependeman Nabi Sulaeman' by Moch. Ambri in 1966 [7].

The last may need to consider is this research focus. The research will focus on the translation of honorific markers proposed by House and Kasper in the taxonomy of politeness structure which covers eleven types, and also from Watts who proposed three, i.e. terms of address, formulaic utterances and ritualized utterances [8]. The translation of the honorific markers will be analysed using the translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir [9] which will lead to the translation quality applying Nababan et al proposition on translation quality assessment [10].

Having details of propositions on honorific markers, translation techniques, and translation quality assessment from those scholars mentioned, and the provident of the research materials, a research is conducted with the objectives of finding honorific markers used in the source text (ST); translation techniques exercised by the translator; effect of the translation techniques have on the translation quality, specifically on the ones which downgrade the politeness level.

II. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

A. Honorific Markers

Honorific markers are linguistic expressions that are frequently used to signal politeness (or impoliteness). House and Kasper in their Taxonomies of Politeness Structures

proposed eleven types of honorific markers, namely: politeness markers (PM), play-downs (PD), downtoners (DT), committers (CM), hedges (HG), agent avoiders (AA), forewarnings (FW), consultative devices (CD), understaters (US), hesitaters (HT), and scopestaters (SS). While Watts proposed three types: terms of address TA), formulaic utterances (FU), and ritualized utterances (RU).

B. Translation Techniques

Translation technique refers to how micro units of text are translated. Translation techniques which some experts propose as translation strategies or translation procedures discuss how a translator does in facing a text to be translated. Molina & Albir propose 18 which are considered more comprehensive as they are a combination of translation techniques from some other propositions, such as Newmark's, Catford's, and Mona Baker's. The proposed techniques applied in the research are in line with its coverage of the document to be translated.

C. Translation Quality Assessment

Translation product may be regarded as a good quality translation when it has met some requirements. As the core of translation is message transfer, so the first element which should be achieved is the accuracy of the message, i.e. the message transferred to the target text should be equivalent to the message from the source text. The second consideration falls to the acceptability aspect which refers to the naturalness of the used expressions and the conformity to the rules and regulations applied in the target text. The third aspect needs consideration in deciding the quality of translation is readability. This refers to the readers understanding of the translation. The quality will be high when readers can understand the message easily without any reading repetition.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research is descriptive qualitative focusing on translation product. It applies sociolinguistic approach. Consequently the expressions used by the interlocutors are affected by the context bound. This is a reflection of power (P), distance (D) and rank of Imposition (I) [11]. This is designed as a fix study case in which the research problems were decided in advance. The types of data in the research are primary data which also divided into two aspects. The first primary data of the research are linguistic units in the form of honorific markers proposed by House and Kasper and Watts, taken from the novel 'King Solomon's Mines' and its translation version 'Pependeman Nabi Sulaeman'. The second primary data are the ones related to translation data, i.e. translation techniques proposed by Molina & Albir, and translation quality proposed by Nababan et al. The stages of the research are as follows: first, honorific markers were collected from the ST and TT, secondly they were analysed based on the translation techniques used, and thirdly the effect of the translation techniques upon the quality of the translation was observed and analysed.

Secondary data related to researches on honorific markers, translation and Sundanese are taken from published journal articles. Triangulation methods is applied to ensure the validity of the data source and data collection.

Finally, the translation quality under the aspects of accuracy, acceptability and readability are calculated, analysed and described.

IV. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. Honorific Markers

From the source text, it is found around 653 honorific markers, however, referring back to the purpose of the research then specifically there are 67 (more than 10%) honorific markers which led to downgrading level of speech that resulted in downgraded meaning in their translation version. The data could be broken down into several types which can be seen in Table 1.

TABLE I.   TYPES OF HONORIFIC MARKERS IN ST

Types of HM	DT	TA	CM	HG	AA	FW
Frequency	27	13	11	10	5	1

Downtoners is dominating type found in the research document. Downtoners is meant to modulate the impact of the speaker's utterances so they should have been used to soften the utterances so that the addressee may feel comfortable. The use of downtoners in this case is a contradiction to the purpose of honorific markers themselves. Below is an example of downgrading nuance which is resulted from the translation version.

- ST: Sir Henry stroked his yellow beard thoughtfully. "Perhaps it is on the top of the hill," he suggested.

- TT: Sir Henry tina geus kapatuh meureun, nyoo kumis, dipurilpuril, pok milu nyarita, ngupahan Penpogel sugan, pedah kuring ngutruk ka manehna: "Itu, taksiran cai teh di puncak."

The word 'perhaps' is a downtoner which shows politeness. However, its translation version in Sundanese shifts to 'taksiran' which is an impolite type of utterance. A polite word which may also be used is 'panginten or kinten-kinten' [12]. And this should have been used as the addresser (Sir Henry) and the addressee (Alan Quartermain) relatively have different power, relative distance, although there is no imposition aspect. It may be said that there is an abnormality of the translation version, while honorific maker is meant to modulate impact on the speaker, in fact, it does not show so in the translation. It may be concluded that there are some other factors that lead to the word choice taken by the translator. Firstly, Hurtado Albir talks about translator competences which include Methodological and strategic, Contrastive, Extra linguistic, Occupational, Instrumental, and Translation problem-solving competences. On the other hand, translation ideology and other factors need to be considered as other possible causes of the translation shift [13].

B. Translation Techniques

Translation techniques which are exercised by the translator can be seen from the table below. Some abbreviations are used for : TT stands for translation technique; Fr for frequency of translation techniques used; V for Variation; M for Modulation; L for Literal; DC for Discursive Creation; Ex for Explicitation; P for Paraphrase; Im for Implicitation; EE for Established Equivalent; NE for Naturalized Equivalent; R for Reduction.

TABLE II.   NUMBER OF TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES

TT	V	M	L	DC	Ex	P	Im	EE	NE	R
Fr.	36	12	8	7	2	2	1	1	1	1

The most used translation technique exercised by the translator is Variation. Variation translation technique according to Molina & Albir is a technique to change linguistic or paralinguistic elements that affect aspects of linguistic variation. This variation technique is probably used by the translator as in Sundanese there is a speech level system which gives him freedom to choose any word available to cater for what he prefers.

The following is an example of the use of Variation translation technique.

- ST: "There," I said, "there is the wall of Solomon's Mines, but God knows if we shall ever climb it."

- TT: "Tuh Gunung Sulaeman teh," ceuk kuring. "Guha Nabi Sulaeman teh di dinya, nanging duka lebah mana, anging Pangeran anu uninga. Samar teuing urang bisa ka nu sakitu jauhna."

From the example, the translator elaborated his choice in transferring the honorific marker 'shall' with 'bisa'. 'Bisa' is classified as rude or 'loma or kasar' in Sundanese. Hence, the translator has some other choices which can cater for the word, i.e. 'tiasa' that is equivalent with 'shall' in meaning and in degree of politeness. It is obvious how the translator freedom is exercised, he did not choose 'tiasa' but 'bisa'. From the context, it may be seen that the speaker is Allan Quartermain talking to the others in the team. As a guide in the team he has higher power (+P), and as the relationship is still not close (-D), then the word choice still makes sense.

The second most used translation technique is Modulation. According to Molina & Albir, Modulation refers to translation technique which shows changes in point of view, focus or cognitive category in relation to the ST.

The following is an example of the use of Modulation translation technique.

- ST: "Gentlemen." said Sir Henry, presently, in his low, deep voice, "we are going on. About as strange a journey as men can make in this world. It is very doubtful if we can succeed in it.

- TT: Waktu rek jung Sir Henry nyarita: "Ayeuna anu rek disorang alas pangalas pati, biheung nepi, biheung moal urang ka nu rek dijugjug.

'It's very doubtful' is an Agent Avoider honorific marker. The clause is translated into the word 'biheung' meaning 'might'. The translation technique used to translate the clause is modulation. There is a change in point of view; from the ST, the expression show doubt, while in the TT it shows possibility. Considering the degree of politeness, again here the translator chose a word under 'loma or kasar' classification which leads to rude nuance.

The following is an example of the use of Literal technique which refers to translating word for word.

- ST: "Mr. Quatermain," said the former, "I am well off, and I am bent upon this business you may put the remuneration for your services at whatever figure you like, in reason, and it shall be paid over to you before we start.

- TT: "Tuan Kuatermin, kuring teh ari disebut beunghar mah duka, eta anjeun boga kabeubeurat sakitu entong jadi manah, kuring nu nanggung sakabehna. Ayeuna anjeun rek menta sabaraha, minangka buruhan hese cape ngabelaan kuring? Mangga bae sabaraha, entong asa-asa, rek dibayar samemeh urang jung lumaku.

The word 'shall' from ST is a downtoner and translated into Sundanese using 'rek' meaning 'will or shall' refers to future. This 'rek' is classified in rudeness or 'loma or kasar'. The word choice led to rude nuances.

This also happens to all words translated using the mentioned translation techniques exercised in this research. The word choices in the translations are all in 'loma or kasar' classification. From this evidence, it may be assumed that the translation techniques exercised by the translator have led the translation product in to rude nuances.

C. Translation Quality

The next stage carried out is the assessment of the translation quality of the honorific markers found in the research documents. Applying the formulae proposed by Nababan, et al, with three aspects: accuracy, acceptability, and readability. The following is the result of the assessment.

The total score for the translation quality of honorific markers is 2.52. This figure means that the translation has a certain quality, hence there is a slight meaning distortion, a slight bias on the naturalness and the conformity to the TT rules and regulations, and slight difficulty in understanding of the translation.

However, detail score show that score 2.44 is for accuracy; score 1.88 is for acceptability; and score 3 is for readability. From the figure of accuracy aspect, it can be concluded that most of the words, phrases, and clauses are translated accurately, but there are some which still disturb the accuracy because of double meaning and deletion.

In the aspect of acceptability, the result of the honorific markers translation is 1.88 which means that most of result of translation is closed to natural, but there are technical terms and grammatical mistakes still found.

There is no problem found in the aspect of readability. It is proved by score 3. This means that the translation is easily understood, the readers do not need to repeat reading to understand the test.

V. Conclusion

In the translation of English honorific markers into Sundanese, a possibility of downgraded meaning appears. This possibility occurs because of some factors: it may refer to the translator competences, translation ideology he decides, and the availability of word choices he possesses. In this case, translation ideology he has decided in translating has also led him to exercise translation techniques he used, and the fact that Sundanese has speech level system makes him free to apply his translation ideology.

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