

The Assessment and Research on Translation Studies

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Abstract—This article aims at describing the development of translation theories, presenting the assessment in translation studies and describing the current paradigm of the research on translation. This article is written based on the qualitative approach. The data are taken from documents and informants. The techniques for data collecting are content analysis and in depth-interviewing. The collected data are analyzed by using the interactive analysis. The findings show that first, the development of translation theory are classified into four phases; they are the development phase theory based on literature theory of translation, the development theory phase based on linguistics theory of translation, the development theory phase based on culture theory of translation, and the development theory phase based on professional theory of translation. Second, the assessment applied in translation studies focuses on accuracy, acceptability and readability. Third, the paradigm of the current issues regarding the research on translation is divided into two, they are the research of translation based on process and the research of translation based on product. Research that leads to processes and functions seems to have not been explored much maximally. Translation research based on process reflects behavioral theory with activities along with the translation proves and helps identifying strategies used by translators even if they are in the complex activities. Meanwhile, product-based research is emanated from translation research that tends to lead to the work of translation. Mostly, the data analysis is done by the method of analyzing the translation works. The research on translation works is a research-oriented collaboration between translation theory and linguistic theory based on product research. The next challenges of translation research could be done for translation activities dealing with machine translators and the translation teaching or translation training.

Keywords---translation theory development; assessment on translation; translation teaching; translation research paradigm

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of science and technology has progressed very rapidly. This development almost occurs in all areas of life. The rapid development of science and technology indirectly affects other fields, especially in the field of education. On the one hand, the development of science and technology is certainly very encouraging, but on the other hand it must be realized that the development could become serious problem if it is only related to quantity. These developments must always be balanced with increasingly improved quality, not to lag behind. Therefore, to reduce the impact of underdevelopment, a lot of efforts are needed by various parties continuously and continuously.

One of the efforts made is through translation activities. The effort to translate science and technology is still needed because Indonesia as a developing country that wants to improve its progress in the field of science and technology by translating scientific and technological books written in foreign languages or vice versa.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

To get a good translation work, Sakri (1985: 1) said that the translator must: (1) master the language of the source, (2) master the target language, (3) master the theory of translation, (4) understand the knowledge background of the material to be translated. Maybe Sakri's opinion was correct, but it would be better if the translation of the book was done by a team. In the team there are expert of translators; experts in the field of science to be translated and the target language experts. The author believes that if the translation was done by the team, the result obtained will also be better. Thus, if the activity of translation was forced to be translated individually, then what conveyed by Sakri was indeed understandable, therefore besides the translator being able to master the two languages involved, he must know the theory of translation and the intricacies of the knowledge to be translated. Meanwhile, Doherty (2014: 82) stated that the basic principles that must be possessed by an translator so that he produces good translation are: (1) the translator must fully understand the content and intent of the author contained in the language source; (2) the translator must have perfect language knowledge, both the source language and the translation language; (3) the translator must avoid the tendency to translate word-for-word; (4) translator must be able to use expressions that are commonly used daily; and (5) the translator must be able to present the material and the sense of the source language in his translation work..

To compare the results of the translation works, it is better to visit several libraries and bookstores. There are many translated books available, even though they are still in very limited. However, the important thing is not in terms of the quantity of the number of existing translation books. Precisely the main problem is have the translation work turned out? Regarding the limited number is not so much a problem for readers, what is important for them is that the book is truly high quality or not.

It is really understood that every translator must produce the good translation. Larson (1991: 531) stated that every translator expects the translation tends to be a good quality. How do translators know that they succeed or not? To find out the quality and results of a translation work, the translators must give the translation work to be tested. Larson added that the translator must not only be willing to examine carefully, but also give his translation to be tested (1991: 352).

Nababan (1997: 75) explained that assessing the quality of translation means criticizing the work of translation. Criticizing the translation work is a very difficult task because it requires extraordinary ability to do it. He further emphasized that through comprehensive quality research a translation work can be appropriately and objectively assessed (1997: 77). This means that with a thorough study of a particular translation work, the quality of the translation work will be seen. In order to be able to assess and test the translation work properly and to get accurate results, the study of the translation work must be done.

Assessing translation works is already a basic requirement at this time. This is because printing a translation book without going through a good evaluation process will produce a bad translation work. Even the translation work can endanger human survival when it concerns important issues, such as health. If it turns out that what happens is misuse of information that is misleading and only prioritizes profits in terms of business, then it will be increasingly dangerous. Therefore, before the translation book enters the printed period, an evaluation process should be carried out first.

Does translation only the act of transferring the meaning of a text from one language to another? To analyze and direct such activities, a number of specialists in translation have described many theories: linguistic, sociolinguistic, communicative, free, literal, hermeneutic, semiotic, relevant, Skopos, Marxist, and transformational. Although for the majority of the best professional translators, there are few or no use of various translation theories. They regard them as a waste of time, especially since the most professional translators regularly and consistently violate so many rules set by theorists (Nida, 2001: 1).

There are many problems in translation studies, including the translation process and products; objectivity/subjectivity; literal versus free; loyalty, expressiveness, and elegance; formal and dynamic equality; style and content; author-centered and reader-centered; translation laws, etc. Among other things, the accuracy of content is one of the most important problems. The accuracy of the content must not be judged especially in terms of "being right" for the author, but does not cause misunderstanding of the message by people whose translation is intended (Miyanda, F. 2007: 144). What clients need and general demand is accuracy. If the translated text is also easy to read, it is indeed a plus factor, and if it can be in accordance with culture, the translation is clearly successful (Nida, 2001: 3).

Scholars may have different perspectives on different orientations in terms of translation theory, for example, Edwin Gentzler has traced five approaches: North American translation workshops, translation science, initial translation studies, poly-systems, and deconstruction (Gentzler, 2017: 187); Mary Snell-Hornby has talked about translation as an independent discipline, pragmatic change, cultural change, interdisciplinary, empiricism, globalization, and the turn of sociology (Snell-Hornby, 2006); Nida has traced theories based on philological insights, theories based on linguistic insight, and socio-semiotic theories (Nida, 2001: 108-113); and Anthony Pym has traced a number of paradigms including equality, purpose, description, uncertainty, localization, and cultural translation (Pym, 2010).

III. METHOD

This study applied a qualitative research approach. It is in line with a literature review from both primary and secondary data. The data in this study are all statements given by informants and all information taken from documents. In other words, the sources of data were informants and documents. In depth-interviewing and used content analysis are applied for collecting the related data. While, the interactive analysis was used to analyze the collected data.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. *The Development of Translation Theory*

This paper could discuss that there are four phases of development of translation theory based on whether professional translation has been emphasized. They are translation literature theory; linguistic translation theory; cultural translation theory; and professional translation theory period. During the phase of literary translation theory, scholars pay attention to translation aesthetics, and treat translation as art. Philology, study and evaluation of written texts, including their authenticity, form, meaning, and cultural influence, have for more than 2000 years been the main basis for the theory and practice of translation discussions. In general such texts are

literary production because they appear to be the only text guaranteed to be translated into other languages (Nida, 2001: 109). Earlier in this phase, scholars saw translation as a science and paid attention to syntactic structures such as grammar and lexis; then, scholars pay attention to semantic meanings such as referential meaning and connotative meaning; and finally scholars pay attention to the use of language pragmatically and see translation as a communicative process in a social context.

The linguistic orientation in translation has been enlarged mainly by sociolinguistic work, where the emphasis is not on language as a structure but on the role of language as used by speakers and writers. Sociolinguistics has called attention to the functions of levels and registers in language, linguistics, the role of strength and solidarity in the use of language and in the systematic character of what some linguists in the past have treated merely as variations of chance (Nida, 2001: 111).

During the phase of cultural theory of translation, scholars pay attention to culture, for example, Lawrence Venuti has been talked about translation strategies of foreignization and domestication. *Invisibility* is the term he has been used to describe the translator's situation and activity in contemporary Anglo-American culture. It refers to two mutually determines the phenomenon: one is an illusionistic effect of discourse, of the translator's own manipulation of English; the other practices of reading and evaluating the United States, among cultures, both English and foreign languages.

The appearance, in other words, that is not in fact a translation, but the *original*. The illusion effect of conceals the numerous conditions, which is the translation text, which is the translation text, continuous syntax, continuous syntax, fixing a precise meaning ... translation, the translation, the more invisible the translator, and the presumably, the more visible writer or meaning of the foreign text (Venuti, 1995: 1-2).

During the period of professional translation theory, scholars pay special attention to translation as independent academic disciplines; translation as interdisciplinary; and translation as a profession.

B. Assessment in Translation

Translation must be tested for several reasons. They are the translator wants to ensure accuracy, the translator wants to know the clarity and the translator wants to straighten out the reasonableness. The accuracy, clarity and reasonableness are the main reasons why the translation work must be tested. Accuracy, clarity and fairness must be done to make the translation work good, meaningful and accountable for its contents (Sutopo, 2016: 67).

The first reason is to ensure the accuracy of the meaning. The accuracy of meaning is very important in the context of translation. According to Hui-juan (2007: 107) "An accurate translation indicates that the message obtaining target reader from the text has been acquired from the original text. This opinion explains that an accuracy of meaning can occur if the message obtained by the reader is the same as the message in the original text. The next reason, the translator wants to know the clarity of the meaning or information that has been transferred. This is because a translator has transferred the message correctly, but sometimes the translation work is difficult for many people to understand. The translation work is correct but the contents making confuse the readers.

While the third reason is the translator wants to straighten out the reasonableness of the text that has been translated. This reason is also important because sometimes the messages in the translation work have been appropriately transferred by the translator and are easily understood by the general public but the translation may not be idiomatic. The translation must be tested to see whether the grammatical form of the target language in the translation work is a general form or not.

Another opinion expressed by Nababan (1997: 78) who stated that research on the quality of translations is based on three main things, namely 1) the accuracy of messages, 2) the accuracy of disclosure in source languages and 3) the nature of translation languages. Testers are people who test or do assessment on the translation work. Nababan (1997: 77) added everyone has the right to judge the translation work provided he has the ability as revealed by Schutle. The requirements are mastering the source language and target language well, knowing the differences in linguistic perceptions of the source language and target language, familiar with the aesthetic context and the culture of the target language and language, and having adequate knowledge of the translation material to be criticized (Schutle in Nababan, 1997: 76). Sakri (1985: 14) added that an editor could also be the examiner in the work of translation. To assess the translation work, Brislin (2008: 33-34) mentioned three ways; they are (1) reverse translation, (2) understanding testing, and (3) testing through one's performance.

Larson (1991: 536) stated that there are six ways to test a translation work. They are (1) comparison with source text, (2) reverse translation into source language, (3) understanding examination, (4) reasonableness testing, (5) readability testing, and (6) consistency testing. Each of these methods must be carried out in a systematic and carefully recorded manner. Evaluation without planning will not produce quality translations, therefore, testing must be done carefully. In addition, each type of test / test must also be carried out separately, with certain targets, and given a note by the translator when making repairs. This note is important, not only for correcting the translations being tested, but also for assessing repeated errors.

Meanwhile Sadtono (1985: 146-151) explained that there were four ways to test the translation work. These methods are (1) using the Cloze technique, (2) reaction to choices, (3) explaining the meaning of the story, and (4) reading the text aloud. Sadtono divided

those methods into 2 categories. They are the best test method and practical testing method. He asserted that according to him the best method of testing was the *Cloze* technique.

From the above classifications of evaluation techniques or methods, it can be concluded that there are many ways to assess the translation work. All of the methods are very suitable to be applied in accordance with the text and the context of the translation work to be translated. However, the method that is often used to test translation works by someone is to use the reverse translation technique.

William and Chesterman (2007: 8) stated that there are three approaches to evaluating translation works, namely language-oriented approaches (source language oriented), b) target language oriented approaches (target language oriented), and c) approaches that oriented to the impact of the translation or translation effect (the person who translates, the teacher, or the reader). Evaluation of translation oriented to the source language means the use of methods to evaluate the translation results that are based on the source text. So that the equivalence of meaning in the source text and the translation results is the main focus.

Whereas, translation evaluation that is oriented towards the target language means the use of a method to evaluate the translation results that are based on the target text. In this approach, equivalence of meaning is not a target, but the main focus is the readability of the language from the translation. The readability and naturalness of language is important in this target oriented approach.

Meanwhile, the approach oriented towards the impact of the translation refers to the purpose of the translation itself. So that the quality of the translation is based on the interests of the person who translates (the publisher) or the consideration of the reader. For example, interviewing to the publisher's expectations or the reader with regard to the quality of the translation. According to Machali, in translation research, there are three aspects that need to be understood, namely the aspects assessed, the criteria for designation and how to assess. The aspects used in the assessment are a) accuracy, b) reasonableness of expressions, c) terminology, and 4) spelling. Meanwhile, the criteria used to assess the translation work are the determination of each aspect of the assessment both positively and negatively.

Larson (1991: 531) states that the time for testing translation works can be diverse. The testing time can be done from the beginning of the translation project, for example after the first episode or the first chapter is finished. Evaluation carried out per article is certainly after one discussion has been translated. Per-episode means that every episode of the translation work is evaluated and then works on the next episode. One part has ended then an assessment needs to be held before working on the next section.

However, sometimes evaluations can also be done at the end of the translation process. For example, after one book has been translated, the assessment process for the translated book can only be done. Evaluations at the end can also be done by translators before the translation works published for the public.

In general the benefits of evaluating this translation work are to provide significant inputs so that it can be used as material to revise the results of the translation work. In addition, the results of the evaluation of the translation work can also be used to strengthen the quality of the translation works published so that the general public believes in the translation. Larson (1991: 550) said that the test results have been evaluated and recommended changes or rejected or modified in some way. However, unless this information is entered into the translation, that is, the testing is wasted. Based on this statement, it is understood that the use of test results is certainly in order to improve the quality of the translation. Because it will be useless if the test results are not utilized to improve the translation text. This loss does not only affect the translator but also affects the existence of the examiner himself and the publisher. The examiner will not receive a similar request if the results of the tests he has done are not followed up or completely ignored. So the publishing company feels a loss because it has provided a budget, time and facilities for testing purposes, but the results are not used for repairs or for the sake of the revision process.

Sadtono (1985: 146) explained that the results of the evaluation would be useful for translators, especially in reconstructing the target language. The languages include the smooth communication that uses many words or phrases in one sentence, punctuation in writing and so on. In addition, the results of the evaluation also provide input for the translator to improve the text that has been translated and to avoid diversion of information and messages. This is due to the bending or misappropriation of the contents of messages or information is a fatal error in the process of translating.

However, Nababan (1997: 76) explained that the criticism of the translation work will give benefit to the publisher, translator and reader. For the translator, the results of the criticism are very valuable input as a reference for introspection and correcting the translation work. For publishers, these criticisms can be used as material for consideration of whether a translation is feasible to be published and disseminated to the public or not. The readers will also get the benefits of the criticism. The money they have set aside to buy the translation work will not be in vain if the translation work they buy is high quality and easy to read.

Translation quality must meet three aspects, namely aspects of accuracy, aspects of acceptability and aspects of readability (Lauscher, S. 2000: 95). Accuracy is a term used in evaluating translations to refer to whether the source language text and the target language text are equal or not (Sutopo, 2015: 84). The concept of equivalence leads to the similarity of content or message between the two. A text can be referred to as a translation, if the text has the same meaning or message as the other text (Tajvidi, 2005: 65). Therefore, the attempts to reduce or add content or source language text messages in the target language text must be avoided. Such

efforts mean betraying the original author of the source language text and at the same time deceiving the target reader. In a broader context, reduction or addition can have fatal consequences for humans using a translation work, especially in high-risk translation texts, such as translation texts in the fields of law, medicine, religion and engineering.

In the translation theory, there are several translation techniques that can be used to solve equivalent problems (Sutopo, 2015: 45). Two of them are deletion and addition. Both translation techniques are not intended to reduce information or add information, but they are intended to produce an acceptable translation that is easily understood. In the practical translation, the addition technique is intended to explicitly a concept of source language especially if the concept does not have one-to-one correspondence in the target language.

The second aspect of quality translation is related to the problem of acceptability. The term acceptance refers to whether a translation has been expressed in accordance with the rules, norms and culture that apply in the target language or not, both at the micro level and at the macro level. The concept of acceptability is very important because even if a translation is accurate in terms of its content or message, the translation will be rejected by the target reader if the method of disclosure is contrary to the rules, norms and culture of the target language (Nababan, 2012: 46).

One of the parameters of the concept of acceptability is whether a translation has been expressed in accordance with the principles of target grammar. A translation in Indonesian which is expressed according to the rules of English grammar, for example, would make the translation unnatural and in many cases it would be difficult to understand its meaning ((Nababan, 2012: 48). Likewise, a translation of a research abstract as a form of scientific text will be rejected by the target reader if the translation is expressed in slang. Likewise, vice versa, a translation of a literary work will be unacceptable to the target reader if the translation of the literary work is expressed in terms of standard grammar.

A technical term may have an accurate equivalent in the target language. However, the translator should not necessarily use the equivalent because it can result in the translation that is produced is not acceptable to the target reader. In the field of medical science, for example, there is the term *vagina*. Although, the term has equivalent in Javanese, the translator usually does not use the equivalent in Javanese because it is considered impolite.

The term of readability was only associated with reading activities. Then, the term of readability is also used in the field of translation because each translating activity cannot be separated from reading activities (Nababan, 2012: 43). In the context of translation, the term readability is basically the readability of the target language text. This is in accordance with the nature of each translation process which indeed always involves both languages at once. However, until now the indicators used to measure the level of readiness of a text still need to be questioned about its reliability. In fact, Gilmore and Root (1997: 102) argued that the size of a text based on linguistic and scientific factors is nothing more than a tool for a writer to adjust the level of readability of the text to the ability of the readers of the text. Apart from the lack of readability measuring instruments, the translator needs to understand the concept or concept of readability of the source language and the target language. A good understanding of the concept of readability will greatly help the translator in carrying out his duties.

Assessment of the quality of translation is very relevant applied to four fields, namely the field of published translation, the field of professional translation, the field of translation produced in the context of teaching practice translation courses and the field of translation studied in the context of translation research (Nababan, 2012: 45). In essence, published translations are identical to professional translations because both are produced by professional translators. The difference is that published translations are widely read and professional translations are read by limited circles. Translation in the context of teaching refers to translations produced by students in lectures on the practice of translation. Meanwhile, translations in the context of translation research can be published translations, professional translations and translations produced by students which are reviewed by researchers to reveal translation phenomena.

C. Translation Research

Translation research can be oriented to functions, processes, or products. Each of the three research orientations has strengths and weaknesses. However, the current paradigm of translation research tends to view translation as a process. Therefore, genetic, objective, and affective aspects must be studied simultaneously in revealing the phenomenon of translation holistically. In addition, matters relating to data collection methods in research processes and strategies used in assessing the quality of translations need to be carefully considered in an effort to produce valid translation research.

The area of translation research seeks to describe the existing translation work. This study includes the analysis of a translation work, a comparison between source text (ST) and the target text (TT) or a comparison between several ST and TT. The product oriented field of study can also be directed to analysis on a broader scale, for example certain periods, languages or certain types of discourses. One of the objectives of product-oriented can be a general history of translation. Product oriented translation research is an old paradigm study (Nababan, 2007: 16) Product-oriented research focuses on translation work.

Function-oriented research focuses its study on the translation function in socio-cultural situations related to the target language text. In other words, the object of study leads to the context that underlies the birth of a translation work. Therefore, research such as this is very concerned with the history of translation (Sorvali, 1996: 24). Another term for this study is socio-translation studies. This study is not oriented towards translation results, but is oriented towards describing the function of the translation in the socio-cultural situation of the recipient. According to Holmes, this field received less attention than the study of product oriented. According to Munday (2012: 17), this study is also known as cultural studies-oriented translation.

Process-oriented research seeks to uncover cognitive processes translators. Because cognitive processes cannot be directly observed, researchers in this field utilize Think-Aloud Protocol (TAP) technique and interview to explore data about the decision process as the main object of the study (Nababan, 2007: 16). The current paradigm of translation research views the translation process as the main object of translation research studies (Hatim and Mason, 2001: 28). This study concentrates on cognitive processes or translation actions. What really happens in the mind translator when he translates text in other languages.

According to Holmes, many experts speculate on this matter, but there is not much systematic analysis to uncover this in laboratory conditions because the recognition of the process of translation is a complex process. However, Holmes assessed (2000: 124) that psychologists have developed various methods for analyzing the complex mental processes. Holmes calls this field of study the term Psycho-translation studies.

According to Nababan (2007: 16), because cognitive processes cannot be directly observed, researchers can rely on TAP techniques, interviews, or questionnaires. For example, to obtain data about the translator's cognitive processes with TAP techniques, researchers asked the research subjects to reveal what they were thinking when they translated source language texts into the target language. The information is then recorded and analyzed to identify decision-making strategies and problem-solving strategies, which are believed by the researchers as an embodiment of the translator's cognitive process.

Nababan (2003) stated research in the field of translation conducted in Indonesia is generally product oriented. This kind of research focuses on the level of accuracy of message transfer and the level of readability of the translation text. The translation units studied vary, from the word level to the text. Product-oriented research has advantages (providing important information about whether a translation is quality or not, and helping publishers to decide whether a translation needs to be revised in subsequent publications). Nevertheless, Nababan (2003) considered that product-oriented research has weaknesses. Although the researchers who focus the studies on translation products can also review the translation process carried out by translators, their findings are generally only based on their interpretation of the product. Such interpretations tend to be speculative and therefore do not provide a thorough and thorough understanding of translation as a decision-making process in the interpreter's efforts to produce accurate translations and can be easily understood.

On the other hand, the strength of process research lies in its ability to reveal the translator's cognitive process, which is seen as an indicator of the decision making process that the translator makes in producing a translation work. The weakness lies in the methodological side. Translation situations are deliberately created and fully controlled by researchers. Such a situation clearly does not reflect the natural situation of the actual translation activities (Nababan, 2007).

V. CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it can be drawn the conclusions that firstly, the development of translation theories can be divided into four phases. They are the literature theory of translation; the linguistics of theory of translation; the culture theory of translation; and the professional theory of translation. During the literature theory of translation, translators paid special attention to the art and aesthetics of translation, during the linguistics theory of translation, translators pay attention to the transfer of grammar, then to language meaning, and finally to pragmatic linguistics. During the culture theory of translation, translators are special emphasis on the transfer of cultural messages and debates on authors centered domestic and foreignization translation strategies. While during the professional theory of translation, special translators pay attention to the acquisition and application of professional knowledge and abilities. The translators have better professional knowledge and abilities for the translation fields, so as to be competent in translation.

Secondly, the assessment in translation studies focuses on accuracy, acceptability and readability. Translation must be tested for making sure the accuracy, knowing the clarity and straightening out the reasonableness. There are six ways to test a translation work; comparison with source text, reverse translation into source language, understanding examination, reasonableness testing, readability testing, and consistency testing.

Thirdly, translation research tends to direct its research orientation to the product of the translation work. Research that leads to processes and functions has not been widely explored. Translation works are interdisciplinary studies. The researchers are still fixated on collaborating the theory of translation with linguistic theory and translation theory so that it is necessary to expand the range of interdisciplinary theory so that it is not fixed on interdisciplinary theoretical collaboration. The current trends of translation activities, now, are the use of electronics aid or digital program on machine translators. It can be proven that there so many programs dealing

with translation tools for helping translation in doing the task. Therefore, the next challenges of translation research can be in the form of analysis on how machine translators works and results of the translation done by the digital programs supported the machine translators. The other phenomenon is the development of translation which focuses on the translation teaching or translation training. These fields of research could be faced for the next generation, especially in the 21th century decade.

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