

# Forms and Translation Procedures of Korean Onomatopoeia and Mimesis in the Webtoon

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## ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of the absorption of new words from foreign languages is nothing new. For example, the onomatopoeic and mimetic words continue to develop in various languages and have different forms from one language to another language. This study attempts to investigate Korean and Indonesian onomatopoeic-mimetic word forms and to investigate the procedure for translating onomatopoeic and mimetic words from Korean into Indonesian. This study was conducted by using the descriptive qualitative method. The researchers described the word forms and the procedures of translating the onomatopoeic and mimetic words. The data were collected from the Webtoon "The Secret of Angel" or 여신강림 [*Yeosinganglim*] by Yaongyi. The researchers took screenshots of the onomatopoeic-mimetic words from the Webtoon. The data were then analyzed, involving the iterative framework from data reduction, data display to conclusion. The findings showed that the Korean onomatopoeic-mimetic word forms were singular, repeated, and combined, while the Indonesian onomatopoeic-mimetic forms were monosyllable, multi-syllable, and repeated form. The translation procedures were borrowing procedures, literal procedures, modulation procedures, transposition procedures, equivalent procedures, and adaptation procedures.

**Keywords:** *Forms, mimesis, onomatopoeia, translation procedure, Webtoon.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of the absorption of new words from foreign languages is nothing new. These new words are different across countries or regions. Words that come from sounds or movements in each area will have various forms. For example, the onomatopoeia and mimesis in each country vary according to the language subgroup. Like onomatopoeia and mimesis, the Korean language is morphologically different from the Indonesian language. While the Indonesian language subgroup is Austronesian, the Korean language, according to the Thesaurus Thematic Indonesian, has Ural-Altai subgroups.

Onomatopoeia is a formation of a name of word by an imitation of the sound associated with the thing or action designed (Yoon, 1993). Chaewan (2006) pointed out that "onomatopoeia is a category of words made to fit the phonological and syllable structure as nearly as possible to refer to or describe natural or artificial sounds" (p. 126). It represents the meaning of a sound and action that occurs in a situation. Onomatopoeia in the Korean language is called 의성어 [*euisseongeo*].

Meanwhile, mimesis is a category of words used to express imitation of actions, circumstances, or situations of living or inanimate objects and movements (Lee, 2007). Mimesis in the Korean language is called 의태어 [*uitaeoo*].

The use of onomatopoeia and mimesis can add an expression effect and bring language to life. They can also clarify the situation and atmosphere of the sentence. Morphologically, there are three types of onomatopoeia and mimesis in the Korean language: (1) singular forms, (2) repeated forms, and (3) combined forms (Chaewan, 2003). Meanwhile, according to Sudaryanto (1989, as cited in Filiani, 2015), there are six types of onomatopoeia: (1) words, (2) two or more syllables, (3) repeated words, (4) phrases with parting particles, (5) two words, and (6) several words. The classification of onomatopoeia and mimesis forms according to Sudaryanto and Chaewan is different due to the various structures of Indonesian and Korean words.

The onomatopoeic and mimetic words in the Korean language have been researched by Jeong (2003). The researcher examined the translation of onomatopoeic-

mimetic words from Japanese into Korean. Jeong also studied the morphological forms of the onomatopoeic-mimetic words. The results showed that 34.37% of Japanese onomatopoeic-mimetic forms widely used in the comics were two-syllable forms. The four-syllable forms were 28.84%. The three-syllable forms were 16.75%. The one-syllable forms were 0.35%. Meanwhile, the Korean language's most widely used onomatopoeic and mimetic form was the two-syllable form 36.60%, followed by the four-syllable form 21.04%, and the one-syllable form 16.09%. The unused form in the comics was the seven-syllable form.

Furthermore, the onomatopoeic-mimetic words were ever researched in the Indonesian language by Filiani (2015). The researcher analyzed the Javanese onomatopoeia, which was not much different from the Indonesian onomatopoeia morphological form. The author found four morphological forms of onomatopoeic words from 77 data: essential words, formed words, repeated words, and two or more words. Additionally, the functions and meanings of onomatopoeia were classified into several categories: (1) onomatopoeia as forming the name of an object that produces an imitation of the sound in question and the distinctive sound of the object, (2) onomatopoeia as forming the name of an action, (3) onomatopoeia as a condition indicator, (4) onomatopoeia as a shaper of the character's emotions, and (5) onomatopoeia as a particular effect for the reader.

Onomatopoeia and mimesis have a variety of different meanings. It can be said that Korean is one of the languages that is rich in onomatopoeia and mimesis. It is supported by Park (2010, p. 41), pointing out that "the number of Korean onomatopoeia and mimesis is around 5000 words". Korean onomatopoeia and mimesis are used in everyday life, both spoken and written, and are commonly found in readings such as comics, novels, and Webtoon. In particular, Webtoon stands for Website Cartoon, a collection of storytelling images published online (webcomic) in South Korea. The data from Naver Webtoon showed an increase of two million monthly active users compared to last year (Ermaningtiastuti, 2020). However, Webtoon has been translated into various languages in this modern era, one of which is Indonesian, published by Line Webtoon.

Onomatopoeia and mimesis in the Webtoon or comic is supporting the communication and aesthetics aspects, not only the speech bubble conversation that is translated. The onomatopoeia and mimesis inside and outside speech bubbles must also be translated to describe a particular atmosphere.

The translation itself is conceptualized as an activity that requires precision. A translator must master the source and target languages well and be sensitive to various social, cultural, political, and emotional factors. According to Bassnett and McGuire (1980, as cited in Orudari, 2008), translation is a process of changing the

source-language text into the target-language text. The explicit meaning of the two texts must remain similar, and the structure of the source language must be maintained as strong as possible but not to damage the target-language structure itself. Thus, translation procedures are essential to be carried out so that the translator can produce meaning as close as possible to the original text. Vinay and Darbelnet (as cited in Prasetyo, 2017) proposed the classification of the translation procedures into seven categories: borrowing, calque, literal translation, transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation.

One of the studies related to the investigation of translation procedures was Rahayu (2015) study. The researcher found that the reduction procedure was used 14 times. The borrowing procedure was the least used one with only one occurrence. The most widely used translation strategy was using related words, with 45 occurrences. Meanwhile, the paraphrasing strategy with unrelated words only occurred once.

The onomatopoeic-mimetic words in comics and Webtoon are not translated equally into the target language's onomatopoeic-mimetic words. This raises the further question to be addressed through the present research. Likewise, because of the differences in the language system between the source language and the target language, research needs to be conducted to reveal the morphological forms of the onomatopoeic-mimetic words in both Korean and Indonesian translated versions. The following questions guide the present study.

1. What is the form of onomatopoeic-mimetic words in Korean and Indonesian?
2. What are the procedures for translating the onomatopoeic-mimetic words from Korean into Indonesian?

## 2. METHOD

This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach because this study focused on describing the forms and translation procedures of Korean onomatopoeia-mimesis in Yaongyi's Webtoon *The Secret of Angel*. The Webtoon *The Secret of Angel* is highly rated, according to Naver Webtoon. This Webtoon has a credit rating of 9.79 and according to Line Webtoon has a credit rating of 9.85 as of May 2020. This Webtoon was also chosen to be a drama entitled True Beauty and aired on tvN on December 9, 2020. This Webtoon has a story about school life whose language is always expressive. Therefore, the onomatopoeia and mimesis words were easy to found in each episode.

Descriptive qualitative research describes natural and human-engineered phenomena, which pays more attention to the characteristics, quality, and interrelationships between activities (Sukmadinata,

2011). This statement is relevant to the researchers' intention to describe the characteristics of the two different languages, Korean and Indonesian, regarding morphological forms and translation procedures of onomatopoeic-mimetic words.

The primary data of the present study were the onomatopoeic and mimetic words in the Webtoon *The Secret of Angel* or its Korean title *여신강림* [*Yeosinganglim*] by Yaongyi. The title was published on April 2, 2018 on Naver Webtoon. Line Webtoon posted the Indonesian version on May 19, 2018. To date, the Webtoon *The Secret of Angel* has 131 episodes and is still ongoing. The researchers used 10 episodes starting from episode 6 to 15. In total, 110 words were further analyzed, as depicted in Table 1.

The researchers referred to Miles and Huberman (1994, as cited in Rijali, 2018) in the data analysis process. The model consisted of three activities that coincided, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusions or verification.

1) Data Reduction

The forms of onomatopoeia and mimetic words in the Webtoon were coded and classified. The process was done by taking screenshots of the target data source and simultaneously noting the words. Then, those words were inserted into the analysis table.

2) Data Presentation

The next stage was presenting the data. The researchers rechecked the reduced onomatopoeic and mimetic words in the analysis table. Next, the onomatopoeic and mimetic words and the translation procedures from Korean into Indonesian were analyzed.

3) Conclusions or Verification

The last stage was drawing conclusions or verification of the data analysis results. The researchers concluded the forms of onomatopoeia and mimetic words in Korean and Indonesian language and what translation procedures were used in translating the onomatopoeic-mimetic words in the Webtoon *The Secret of Angel*.

The research results showed 110 data regarding the forms and procedures for translating Korean onomatopoeia-mimesis in the Webtoon *The Secret of Angel* from episodes 6 to 15. Meanwhile, there were 59 data regarding the Indonesian onomatopoeia-mimesis.

Furthermore, the researchers found six procedures following Vinay and Darbelnet's theory: borrowing procedures, literal translation procedures, modulation procedures, transposition procedures, equivalence procedures, and adaptation procedures.

3.1. Korean Onomatopoeic-Mimetic Forms

The onomatopoeic-mimetic Korean forms found were singular, repeated, and combined forms.

3.1.1. Singular Form

3.1.1.1. One Syllable

An example of the data founded was the onomatopoeia word *ㅍㅍ* [*ppik*] (Ep.6). *ㅍㅍ* [*ppik*] was a singular form of a single syllable that shows a sudden, high-pitched sound. The word *ㅍㅍ* [*ppik*] was a singular form of one syllable, namely the root word, which only consists of one syllable, the syllable *ㅍㅍ* [*ppik*].

3.1.1.2. Two Syllable

An example was mimesis word *ㅈㄷㄷ* [*jjirit*] which was a singular form of two syllables that indicates an excruciating feeling like being stabbed on the part of the bones that were connected or part of the body. The word *ㅈㄷㄷ* [*jjirit*] was a singular form of two syllables consisting of *ㅈ* [*ji*] and *ㄷㄷ* [*rit*].

3.1.1.3. Three Syllable

Examples of onomatopoeia words found were *ㅂㅅㄹ* [*baseurak*], a singular form of three syllables that shows the sound that comes out when stepping on or lifting dry or hard tree leaves. The word *ㅂㅅㄹ* [*baseurak*] was a singular form of three syllables, namely the root word with more than one syllable, namely from *ㅂ* [*ba*], *ㅅ* [*seu*], and *ㄹ* [*rak*].

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Form analysis

No.	Korean Language	Form	No.	Indonesia Language	Form	Analysis
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1.	꿀꺽	Singular	1.	Glek	Mono-syllable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The word 꿀꺽[<i>kkulkkeok</i>] is a singular form of two syllables of [<i>kkul</i>] and [<i>kkeok</i>].</li> <li>The word 'glek' is a mono-syllable form, which is a one-syllable root word from the syllable [<i>glek</i>].</li> </ul>
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3.1.2. Repeated Forms

3.1.2.1. Whole Repetition

For example, the mimesis word *달달* [*daldal*] was a complete repetition of one syllable, which shows shaking of the body. The word *달달달* [*daldaldal*] was a form of full repetition of one syllable, namely the root word with one syllable, namely the repetition of the syllable *달* [*dal*].

3.1.2.2. Repetition with Change

An example of the onomatopoeia word was *딩동댕동* [*dingdongdaengdong*], a form of repetition with a change in a vowel, which indicates the sound of a bell or xylophone. The word *딩동댕동* [*dingdongdaengdong*] was a form of repetition with changes, namely the change of the vowel previously vowel *o* from the syllable *동* [*dong*] to the vowel *ae* in the syllable *댕* [*daeng*].

3.1.2.3. Partial Repetition

An example was a mimesis word *후다닥* [*hudadak*] which was a form of partial repetition that shows the form of suddenly running or moving the body quickly. The word *후다닥* [*hudadak*] was a form of partial duplication, namely, the syllable *다* [*da*] was repeated, and the consonant *g* was added to become the syllable *닥* [*dak*].

3.1.3. Combined Form

An example of the mimesis word was *허겁지겁* [*heogeopjigeop*], a compound form that shows a hasty form because it was urgent or in a hurry. The word *허겁지겁* [*heogeopjigeop*] was a combination of the singular *허겁* [*heogeop*] and the singular *지겁* [*jigeop*].

3.2. Indonesian Onomatopoeic-Mimetic Form

The onomatopoeic-mimetic Indonesian forms found were mono-syllable, multi-syllable, and repeated form.

3.2.1. Mono-syllable

An example was onomatopoeia *Glek*, a monosyllable form that indicates the sound of swallowing water or something in the throat. The word "glek" was a monosyllable form, a one-syllable root word from the syllable *glek*.

3.2.2. Multi-syllable

An example was mimesis *Oleng*, a multi-syllable form that shows the form of swinging something left and right. The word "oleng" was a multi-syllable form, namely a basic word with more than one syllable, namely the *o* syllable and the *leng* syllable.

3.2.3. Repeated

An example was onomatopoeia *Dingdong*. *Dingdong* was a form of complete repetition of two syllables that indicate the sound of the bell ringing. The word "dingdong dingdong" was a complete repetition of two syllables, namely the syllable *ding* and the syllable *dong*.

3.3. Translation Procedures

3.3.1. Borrowing Procedure



Figure 1 Yeosin ganglim.



Figure 2 The secret of angel.

The word *툭* [*tuk*] in Korean was an onomatopoeic sound that suddenly breaks or breaks. The word *툭* [*tuk*] was translated into Indonesian as "tuk". The onomatopoeic concept of discontinuous objects does not exist in TL. Therefore, the translator chooses to borrow the idea to be used as an equivalent in TL. The word *툭*, when spoken, will make the "tuk" sound. Then this word was borrowed by the translator into the same word, namely 'tuk'. The word "tuk" was an onomatopoeic word in Indonesian that has the meaning of imitating the sound of a door. Because the intention was not the same as the word that the SL wanted to convey, the translator prefers to borrow the SL word.

Borrowing translation has a drawback. It can confuse the reader, as in this data, the word **툭** [tuk] was translated with the borrowing procedure into the word "tuk", which was the word 'tuk' was also an onomatopoeia in Indonesian, which has a different meaning or meaning from what was described by the word **툭** [tuk]. So that it can confuse the reader in understanding the context.

3.3.2. Literal Translation Procedure



Figure 3 Yeosin ganglim.



Figure 4 The secret of angel.

Onomatopoeia **앗** [at] was the sound that was emitted when surprised, in this data the translator uses a literal translation procedure, namely translating SL into TL literally, namely the onomatopoeia translation **앗** [at] was the word 'hah'. The word **앗** [at] in Korean has the same meaning as the word 'hah' in Indonesian, namely the sound emitted when surprised, so in this data, the translator has conveyed the meaning of the word SL into TL using TL a literal translation procedure.

3.3.3. Transposition Procedure



Figure 5 Yeosin ganglim.



Figure 6 The secret of angel.

The word **쌩** [ssaeng] means the sound of the wind blowing or blowing hard when someone passes by. In this data, the translator uses a transposition procedure by translating the word **쌩** [ssaeng], an adverb, into the word 'lewat', which was a verb in Indonesian. The meaning that the writer wants to convey is that Suho walks past Jungkyeong. The writer describes it with the sound of the wind when someone passes by so that when the translator translates the word **쌩** [ssaeng], the translator chooses the word "lewat", which has the same meaning as what the author wants to convey. Therefore, translators' procedure used by translators was to change the word class without changing its meaning.

3.3.4. Modulation Procedure



Figure 7 Yeosin ganglim.



Figure 8 The secret of angel.

Mimesis **슬쩍** [seuljeok] means quickly without being noticed by others, literally when translated into Indonesian it becomes the word "sepintas atau sekilas". However, in this data, the word **슬쩍** [seuljeok] was translated into the word 'pelan', this change in form causes a shift in point of view. The word "pelan" means moving and so on slowly; this results in the context of the story that initially, someone's hand inserting hair into a bowl quickly turns into someone's hand slowly entering hair out of caution.

3.3.5. Equivalence Procedure



Figure 9 Yeosin ganglim.



Figure 10 The secret of angel.

The word **꿀꺽** [kkulkkeok], according to the dictionary, was the sound of water or food passing through the throat or small hole and translated into the word *glek*, which in Indonesian was the onomatopoeic sound of swallowing (Sutrisna, 2017). In this data, the author wants to convey the character Jukyeong who swallowed saliva because she was nervous. The translator translated the word **꿀꺽** [kkulkkeok] with the word "glek", which was in Indonesian. This word was commonly used in society. So the translator uses the equivalence procedure in translating the word **꿀꺽** [kkulkkeok].

3.3.6. Adaptation Procedure



Figure 11 Yeosin ganglim.



Figure 12 The secret of angel.

Mimesis **팡팡** [pangpang] was a condition of someone who does nothing and just lazes around while playing. To express a situation that describes the word **팡팡** [pangpang], the translator chooses the

adaptation procedure by translating it into the word "syut syut". In this data, the author wants to convey the context when Jungkyeong's character moves his feet on the bed because she was happy with the weekend. The situation of moving his feet because she was happy was not in TL. Hence, the translator adapts it to the word "syut syut". This word was used when someone moves something and produces the sound "syut syut" then, the procedure used by the translator was the adaptation procedure.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The present study has described the forms of Korean onomatopoeic-mimetic words in the Webtoon *The Secret of Angel*. There were three forms of the words: singular, repeated and combined. Meanwhile, there were three forms of onomatopoeic-mimetic words in Indonesian language: mono-syllable forms, multi-syllable forms, and repeated forms. It can be concluded that while the most common form of Korean onomatopoeic-mimetic words is the singular form, the combined form is the least one. In the Indonesian language, while the mono-syllable form is the most frequently used form, the multi-syllable form is the least one. Further, the procedures used to translate Korean onomatopoeic and mimetic words into Indonesian are equivalence, adaptation, transposition, borrowing, modulation and literal translation.

Considering the limitations of the present study, prospective researchers are recommended to analyze the onomatopoeia and mimesis words more rigorously. For teachers and language observers, the results can be used as references to increase and expand the students' knowledge of Korean and Indonesian onomatopoeic-mimetic words.

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