The Translation of Swear Words in Extreme Job Movie Subtitles

Velayeti Nurfitriana Ansas*, As Shifa Nabila Putri Adiwinarti

*Korean Language Education Study Program, Faculty of Language and Literature Education,
Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Bandung, Indonesia*
Corresponding author. Email: velaansas@upi.edu

ABSTRACT

Over time, the role of swearing in society has changed as well. In ancient times, the usage of swear words was infrequent and often avoided. However, swearing has become commonplace in today's world, transcending gender, and age boundaries. This study aims to provide an explanation of swear words in Korean and describe the translation techniques employed in the subtitles of the Korean movie "Extreme Job." The research methodology employed a descriptive analysis with a qualitative approach, utilizing observation and note-taking techniques. The study on the swearing classification theory proposed by Chang (2010) and the translation theory by Vinay and Dalbernet (1995) as references for analysis. The findings revealed a total of fifty-five swear words in the examined data, which were further categorized into thirty-three '*gibon yokseol*' and twenty-two '*ganghwa yokseol*'. The translation techniques employed for these two types of swearing differed. *Gibon yokseol* was translated using literal translation, adaptation, and equivalence techniques, whereas *ganghwa yokseol* was translated using deletion, equivalence, adaptation, literal translation, and addition techniques. However, it is worth noting that twelve *gibon yokseol* and six *ganghwa yokseol* were left untranslated among these curses.

Keywords: Indonesian subtitle, movie subtitles, swear words, translation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Swearing or dirty words are used to berate, vilify, blaspheme, etc. The function of swearing in society has also changed along with the changing times. In ancient times, swear words were rarely used or tended to be avoided. Over time, the role of swearing in society has changed as well. In ancient times, the usage of swear words was infrequent and often avoided. However, swearing has become commonplace in today's world, transcending gender and age boundaries. Allan and Burride (2006) define swearing as something to humiliate and criticize the object of insult, as well as using another type of dysphemism. The same thing was expressed by Wijana and Rohmadi (2012) who defined swearing as words that are often used by someone to express hatred, anger, displeasure, or dissatisfaction with the situation faced by the speaker. Meanwhile, Hughes (2006) said that when someone utters swear words, it can be interpreted as releasing oneself from dissatisfaction with a situation. According to Chang (2010) in Korean, swear words or *yokseol* are usually referred to as *sangmal*, *sangsori*, *yukdumunja,* or *yukdam* which mean low and disrespectful words. Chang (2010) also revealed that swear words in Korean come in four forms, namely words, phrases, delimiters, and sentences. According to Chang (2010), words in Korean are divided into two types, namely *gibon yokseol* and *ganghwa yokseol*.

Along with changing times, the function of swearing has also changed. In ancient times, swear words were rarely used or tended to be avoided. But nowadays swearing has become commonplace and its use is not limited to gender or age. With the change in people's opinion about swearing, swear words can be seen easily in dramas or movies. Nowadays the frequency of using OTT (Over-The-Top) has increased rapidly so that people can easily access Korean films with Indonesian subtitles. Translation of Korean films into Indonesian is increasingly being done. Here, the translation process is needed to equate the language between the films with the language of the target audience.

According to Simatupang (2000) translating is transferring the meaning contained in the source language into the target language and regenerating it in the target language in forms as reasonable as possible according to the rules that apply in the target language. According to Moentaha and Salihen (2008), the translation process is changing a text from one language to another without changing the content of the original text. Therefore, when a language wants to change the text of another language, the message contained in the source language must be conveyed in the target language. A similar view was expressed by Hoed (2006) who defines translation as the activity of conveying a message from the source language to the target language. Meanwhile, Muam and Nugraha (2020) explain translation as a meaning-transfer activity that requires knowledge of sentence structure and cultural context to be able to make an introduction. Vinay and Dalbernet (1995) divide translation techniques into seven categories. These seven categories are divided into two major groups of translation techniques, namely direct translation and indirect translation.

Research on the translation of swear words has been carried out by several researchers such as Arrasyid, Sajarwa, and Astuti's research (2022) examined translation strategies for French swear words in French films. After research, it was found that the most prominent strategy in translating curse words from French to Indonesian in the films studied was the taboo for taboo strategy. This is possible because the source language and target language have a different number of swear words and refer to the same meaning. Research on the translation of swear words in films has been conducted by Abdeelal and Al Sarhani (2021), Hawel (2019), and Sari (2019). In these studies, they have revealed how the translation of swear words refers to their original cultural context and also explore the use of euphemistic strategies in the process. Then Nurazizah and Usmi (2021) researched translation strategies for swear words in webtoons. Apart from researching translation strategies, Nurazizah and Usmi also classified Korean swear words using Chang's theory (2010). 28 swear words were found in the corpus data studied. These swear words are translated using literal techniques, transposition, equivalent, adaptation, transposition, deletion, and addition. Three curse words are not translated. In contrast to previous studies that examined French swearing and Korean swearing in webtoons, this research will examine swear words in Korean and describe the translation techniques used in the subtitles of the Korean film entitled Extreme Job (Korean title: *Geukhan Jigeop*) the film, which aired in 2019, tells the story of a narcotics detective who works undercover in a chicken coop to try to catch a group of organized criminals. This study was designed to answer two research questions. First, how to classify the swear words that appear in Extreme Job according to the theory put forward by Chang (2010). Second, how are the Korean swear words in the film Extreme Job translated into Indonesian?

2. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative descriptive analysis method. The qualitative descriptive research method is a method used by researchers to find knowledge or theory of research at a certain time Mukhtar (2013). In this case, the writer uses two data sources. Primary data is in the form of the film Extreme Job and subtitles in Indonesian language films, while secondary data is in the form of a literature review, namely indirect sources related to swear words and translation as references. The data source was taken from the Korean film "Extreme Job" with Indonesian subtitles and the analysis procedures were conducted as follows 1) by transcribing the Korean source text to the Indonesian, 2) by identifying the data that became the object of research, namely swear words, 3) classifying swear words based Chang (2010), 5) analyzing translation techniques based on Vinay & Dalbernet (1995), and 6) discussing research results and concluding.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In their research, Arrasyid et al. (2022) studied translation strategies for French swear words in French films using Davoodi's theory while Nurazizah and Usmi (2021) classified Korean language curse words contained in Yakhan Yeongung's Webtoon using Chang's theory (2010) and explained translation strategies for swear words. Korea uses the theory of Vinay and Dalbernet (1995). In this research, the researcher will use the same theory used by Nurazizah and Usmi (2021) who classified swear words using Chang's theory (2010) and explained the strategy for translating swear words using Vinay and Dalbernet's theory (1995), only if previous research examined Korean swear words found in webtoons, in this research the researcher will examine the swear words found in the Korean film entitled "Extreme Job".

Table 1. Types of swear words based on Chang's theory

Types of Swear	Amount of Data
Gibon Yokseol Type	33
Ganghwa Yokseol Type	22
Total	**55**

According to Chang (2010) swearing in Korean can be divided into two types, namely *gibon yokseol* which is the basic form of swearing in Korean which generally refers to someone. The second is *ganghwa yokseol* which has a higher aggressiveness than *gibon yokseol*, this curse is also formed by combining two or more types of swearing. As seen in Table 1 fifty-five (55) swear words can be found from the Extreme Job film data. Thirty-three (33) of them were *yokseol gibon* and twenty-two (22) were *yokseol ganghwa*.

3.1. Gibon Yokseol Type Translation

Vinay and Dalbernet (1995) divide translation techniques into two major groups of translation techniques, namely direct translation and indirect translation. Translation techniques that are included in direct translation techniques include 1) borrowing, 2) calque, and 3) literal translation. Meanwhile, the translation techniques included in indirect translation techniques are 1) transposition, 2) modulation, 3) equivalence, and 4) adaptation. Apart from these seven techniques, Vinay and Dalbernet also put forward four other translation techniques, namely: 1) exploitation, 2) implications, 3) deletion, and 4) addition.

According to the translation technique proposed by Vinay and Dalbernet (1995), the techniques used to translate *gibon yokseol* in the data studied were literal translation techniques (10 swear words), equivalence (8 swear words), adaptation (1 swear word) and there are twelve (12) untranslated swear words. This is presented in the following Table 2.

Table 2. *Gibon yokseol* translation techniques

Gibon Yokseol Type	Translation Techniques	
	Literal Translation	10
	Equivalence	8
	Adaptation	1
	Not Translated	12

The technique that is often used to translate *gibon yokseol* is the literal translation technique. According to Vinay and Dalbernet (1995), literal translation is a technique of literally translating from the source language into the target language by following proper grammar and sentence structure. This technique is used to translate the swear words that appear in the data, namely the swear words '*jjabsae*' and '*kkangphae*'.

Based on the Big Korean Dictionary from the website of the National Institute of Korean Language the Republic of Korea, the swear word *jjabsae* has the meaning "*beomjwejaderee euneoro, 'gyeongchalgwan' eul ireuneun mal*" which means slang for criminals, the term for 'police officer.' Following the original meaning of the translation into the target language, it is translated using the word '*polisi*'. The swear word '*kkangphae*' in the Big Korean Dictionary from the website of the National Institute of Korean Language Republic of Korea, has the meaning '*pokryeogeul sseumyeonseo haengpaereul burigo motdwen jiseul ilsamneun murireul sokdoege ireuneun mal*' which means the term vulgar for a group of violent acts and bad behavior. This statement indicates that *kkangphae* is a nickname for '*preman*'. Meanwhile, according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, '*preman*' has the meaning of referring to bad people (muggers, robbers, extortionists). So, it can be seen that the curse word *kkangphae* is translated literally.

Second, equivalence is a technique that translates a message with a target language structure and style that is completely different from the source language. According to Vinay and Dalbernet (1995) even though the meaning is different, the message the source language wants to convey is still conveyed. An example of a swear word that uses this translation technique is '*gyejibae*'. Based on the Big Korean Dictionary '*gyejibae*' has the meaning '*yeojaaireul najjaba ireuneun mal*' which is a harsh word used to call a woman. In translating this curse, the translator uses the equivalent of '*perempuan*' as a translation. This equivalent corresponds to the meaning of '*gyejibae*' but is not quite right because this equivalent is not an Indonesian swear word.

Third, according to Vinay and Dalbernet (1995), adaptation techniques are techniques used when there is a situation in the source language that is not known in the target language. In cases like this, the translator creates a new situation that is commensurate with the situation of the source language. The translated curse that is translated with this technique is '*saekki*'. The swear words *saekki* that appear in the data are translated as '*bodoh*', '*penipu*', and '*brengsek*'. According to the Korean Big Dictionary, *saekki* is defined as '*naheun ji eolma an doeneun eorin jimseung*' which means a word used for a young beast that has just after birth. Even though in Indonesian there are curses that use animal words to curse, such as '*anjing*', '*bangsat*', and '*babi*', the situations where they are used are not appropriate. Therefore, the translador uses the equivalents of '*bodoh*', '*penipu*', and '*brengsek*' which are more in line with the message to be conveyed in the Extreme Job movie.

In addition to the translation techniques described above, there are also swear words that are not translated because there is no exact equivalent, both literally and contextually. An insult that is not translated at all and cannot find an equivalent is '*inma*'. Apart from that, there are also swear equivalent words that in some contexts cannot be translated, such as *ssang*, *nom*, *saekki*, *byeongshin*, *jiralhada*, *ssibal*, and *jonna*. In cases like this, the meaning of the swear word disappears and is not replaced by any equivalent as a translation.

3.2. Ganghwa Yokseol Type Translation

Table 3. *Ganghwa yokseol* translation techniques

	Translation Techniques	
Ganghwa Yokseol Type	Literal Translation	4
	Equivalence	8
	Adaptation	8
	Deletion	15
	Addition	4
	Not Translated	12

Table 3 indicates the techniques used to translate *ganghwa yokseol* in the data are literal translation, equivalence, adaptation, deletion, and addition techniques. Among these techniques, the technique often used to translate *ganghwa yokseol* is the deletion technique. In the translation of this type of swearing, usually not only one technique is used, but it can also combine one technique with another. In the data, '*kkangphae saekki*' is translated as '*preman*'. In accordance with the meaning in the Korean Big Dictionary, *kkangphae* means a vulgar term for a group of acts of violence. Meanwhile, according to the Indonesian Big Dictionary, '*preman*' means a term for bad people (muggers, robbers, extortionists). So, it can be seen that the swear word *kkangphae* is translated literally. However, the *kkangphae saekki* swear word not only uses literal translation techniques but this swear also uses deletion techniques. According to Vinay and Dalbernet (1995), the deletion technique is a translation technique that removes one or several words, phrases, clauses, or sentences that are not needed in a text. In the case of swearing '*kkangphae saekki*' consists of the word kkangphae which means '*preman*' and '*saekki*' which is a swear word. However, based on the translation contained in the data, *kkangphae saekki* is translated only as '*preman*'. This shows that the translator only translated the word *kkangphae*.

Furthermore, the adaptation translation technique is not only used to translate *gibon yokseol* but also to translate *ganghwa yokseol*. The swear word that is translated using this technique is '*gassaekki*'. This swear word is translated as '*brengsek*' and '*bodoh*'. Following the *gibon yokseol* equivalent the words '*brengsek*' and '*bodoh*' refer to *saekki*. Previously it was explained that *saekki* is translated using the equivalent of '*brengsek*' and '*bodoh*' which is more in line with the message to be conveyed in the Extreme Job movie. Just as the swear words *kkangphae saekki* are translated using two techniques, the swear words *gaesaekki* are not only translated using the adaptation technique but also translated using the deletion technique. The *gaesaekki* curse consists of the word *gae* which means 'dog' and the word *saekki*, but based on the translation provided in the data, *gaesaekki* is translated as '*brengsek*' and '*bodoh*'. This shows that the translator only translates one of the curses or translates the word *saekki*.

Apart from *gaesaekki*, a swear word that is also translated using adaptation and deletion techniques is *yangachi saekki* which is translated as '*brengsek*'. Following the equivalent for *gibon yokseol* the word '*brengsek*' refers to *saekki*. Meanwhile, according to Korean Big Dictionary *yangachi* has the meaning '*geojireul sokdwege ireuneun mal*' which means a vulgar expression for 'beggar'. We can see that the translator did not translate all the expressions contained in the curse *yangachi saekki* because the translation cannot find the words 'beggar'. Thus, when translating the curse *yangachi saekki* the translator only translated the word *saekki*.

In addition to being translated using the techniques described above, there are also *ganghwa yokseol* curses that are not translated. Just like *gibon yokseol*, several *ganghwa yokseol* curses have equivalents but, in some contexts, the translator does not translate the swear words. The meaning of the curse disappears and is not replaced by any equivalent as a translation.

4. CONCLUSION

This research found 55 swear words that appeared in the Korean Extreme Job movie. After being classified using Chang's theory (2010), there are 33 *gibon yokseol* and 22 *ganghwa yokseol*. Based on the translation technique proposed by Vinay and Dalbernet (1995) the techniques used to translate *gibon yokseol* are literal translation (10 swear words), equivalence (8 swear words), adaptation (1 swear word), and 12 swear words are not translated.

Furthermore, the techniques used to translate *ganghwa yokseol* are literal translation (4 swear words), adaptation (8 swear words), equivalence (8 swear words), deletion (15 swear words), addition (4 swear words) and there are 6 swear words which not translated. In translating the *ganghwa yokseol* type of swearing, usually not only one technique is used but it can also combine one technique with other techniques.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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