

Landslide in Translation

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Abstract—In order for the recipients or the target language recipients to get the message conveyed by the communicator in its' source language, a translator must pay attention to the message contained in the source language. But in reality, in the translation process sometimes an interpreter translates a text not in accordance with the message contained in the source language text. This causes the translation results to be distorted which causes a shift in shape and meaning in the target language text. Especially translation in literary works, where this literary work is included in the type of expressive text with expressive language dimensions. This article employs Corinne Hofmann's roman *Die Weiße Massai* in its' source language and in Indonesian translation entitled *The White Masai*. This article discusses the shifts that occur in the translation of the roman by referring to the shift theory by Catford and coupled with the shift in expressions which are included in the macro-linguistic sphere. The findings in this article state that shifts occur due to differences in grammar between the source languages; German and target language; Indonesian.

Keywords—*distortion, shift, macro-linguistic*

I. INTRODUCTION

The state in this globalization era makes people more aware of the importance of knowing and learning the languages, and the cultures of other nations which lead to the importance of intercultural communication. This has led to the emergence of translation studies to make it easier for people to understand everything that comes from other nations. Nida states that translation is an attempt to produce equality [1]. This activity produces equal signs in terms of language, culture and message. From the statement above, it can be concluded that translation study is an activity in which there is a process of change or reproducing a text, whether it is in the form of oral or written texts into the target language that is commensurate in terms of the meaning or message contained in the text.

The role of a translator is very important in translation studies, namely as an intermediary in the communication of language, culture and values contained in the source language into the target language. This requires an interpreter to master the source language and understand the content in the source language text properly. Not only in the language of the source that must be controlled by an interpreter, however the target language must also be mastered well by an interpreter. Therefore, the main objective in translation is to convey the message contained in the source language into the target language, not just to

change texts from a source language into the target language.

In translating an oral or written text a translator always deals with a problem and must overcome it properly. This problem relates to the need for an interpreter to harmonize the language code, cultural values, style and aesthetics of the two languages [2]. In fact, it cannot be denied that the translation results produce a distorted product, both intra- and extra linguistically. This occurs because of differences in grammar and culture between the two languages which are sometimes difficult to achieve perfect equivalence.

The shift that occurs in a translation process can be in the form of changes in the meaning or changes in form in the translation results. The shifts are not only found in the final product of translation, but also in the process that occurs in translation. As the research conducted in the translation of the Holy Bible from English into Balinese [3], it was found that the shifting in the translation of the bible in terms of the greeting system in religious culture occurred with transposition and modulation shifting techniques. Transposition and modulation techniques were also used in Mardiana's research [4] which uses a short story entitled "My Beloved Edith" as the subject of research. The results of this study found that the techniques applied by a translator in translating short stories led to the emergence of a shift to achieve the equivalent message or meaning between the source language and the target language.

Another study that has been carried out related to the shift in translation is comparability research and shifts in the Angkola language translation text into Indonesian [5]. In this study produced a shift that occurred in the text due to the gap in language and culture between the two languages. Unlike the research conducted [1] discussing the shift in ideology that occurred in the translation of Karl May's roman *Und Friede auf Erden!* into Indonesian under the title *Dan Damai di Bumi!*. The results of the analysis in this study, the ideological shift in the translation of *Und Friede auf Erden!* into Indonesian occurs because the removal of part or all of the sentence and the replacement of adjectives and other types of attributes due to Islam and certain ethnicities Middle Eastern countries. From the studies mentioned, this article will discuss the shift in the roman translation of Corinne Hofmann's roman *Die Weiße Massai* into Indonesian. The difference between this study and previous research lies in the discussion of translation activities in romans that experience a shift in macro-linguistic or extralinguistics.

The scope of this research is in the translation of literary works whose language dimensions tend to be aesthetical which will cause a shift in language and culture between the two languages. Therefore, this study aims to describe the types of shifts that occur in the roman of the translation and the translation activities in roman that experience a shift in macro-linguistic or extralinguistics.

This article may provide a collective description of the structure of language or culture of a society that is described in the source language text and the representation of a translator in responding to the text in the target language to be delivered to the target language reader. This article is expected to provide an overview of the progress of translation studies, especially the translation of literary texts in Indonesia.

Die Weiße Massai roman has been translated into thirty-three languages, including translated in Indonesian. The roman has sold more than four million copies. This roman is a personal experience experienced by the author Corinne Hofmann from Switzerland who chose to live in the hinterland of Kenya and then fell in love with a Samburu soldier. Cultural differences experienced by Corinne while in Kenya caused problems in her life. In this roman there is a cultural term that the target language does not carry which causes a shift in target language translation.

Die Weiße Massai is the first roman written by Corinne Hofmann in 2000 [6] and translated into Indonesian in 2010 by Lulu Fitri Rahman [7] under the title 'The White Massai'. This roman is divided into several themes, each of which tells about an event. This research uses eight themes in the roman *Die Weiße Massai*.

Section II describes the notion of translation and translation shift. Section III describes the proposed research methods. Section IV describes the results and following by the discussion. Finally, Section V concludes this work.

II. RUDIMENTARY

A. Translation

An activity that arises because of the phenomenon of the development of the present era is translation, both for commercial and literary purposes. This translation study has been developing since the past twenty years. In the translation study, the two focuses in the consistency of the translation approach is written translation and oral translation or called interpreting or interpretation [8]. In the field of language, translation has three meanings including (1) a general study; (2) a translated text or product; (3) the process of interpreting a text [8]. The process of translating requires a translator to clearly determine the relationship between the two linguistic systems. One of these two linguistic systems has been available and written by the source language communicator (SL) and other linguistic systems that still have the potential or can be adapted or often referred to as the target language (TL). In this case it is important to know the translation theory from experts. [9] explained that "Translating consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in term of style" The statement can mean that the

process of translating the reproduction into the target language is as natural as possible with the source language in terms of meaning and style. [10] translation is "the replacement of textual material in one language (Source Language) by equivalent textual material in another language (Target Language) and the term equivalent is a clearly a key term." This statement can mean that translation is the transfer of a text that has similarities in the source language into the target language text, where the key terms in this case are similarities or equivalency. Another statement [8], whom said that translation is "... as changing of an original written text (the source text or ST) in the original verbal language (the source language or SL) into a written text (the target text or TT) in a different verbal language (the target language or TL)". This understanding can be translated as follows. Translation is a change from written text in the verbal language of the source language to written text in the verbal language of the target language.

From the statements made by the experts above it can be concluded that translation is an activity of transferring or reproducing a source language into a target language that emphasizes a similarity or in this case equivalence. Although in terms of equivalency, words are very rare to be found of its similarities in source language and target language, but this can mean as equivalent in terms of the meaning of the two languages.

B. Translation Shifts

Distortion in the translation proces often happens. Differences in the structure of language and culture between the source language and the target language that causes this distortion. Nevertheless, distortions can be accepted at a certain level of trust. However, translation is considered to be unfavorable when experiencing a lot of loss and gain.

The idea of translation shift was first proposed by J.C. Catford [10] whom stated that "By 'shift' we mean departures from formal correspondence into the process of going from SL into TL". The purpose of the Catford statement above is to transfer language from source language to target language with formal equivalence that emphasizes the form at once, in order to prioritize the content in translating.

The main priority in translating is the equivalency in terms of the content between the source language and the target language. This statement is as stated [9], "Translating consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in term of style" The statement can mean that translation is a product containing a language from the source language to the target language that is as natural as possible in terms of meaning and style. In this statement the position of style is in the second position which shows that a translation necessarily undergoes a shift in the target language. This shift occurs because the grammar system in the target language is different from grammar in the source language.

This shift in translation can occur in every translated text, both in informative, expressive and operative texts. Especially in expressive texts whose language dimensions tend to be aesthetic. Where an author produces a work by

creating expressions or thoughts creatively and artistically. Examples of expressive texts are poetry, romans, drama, novel.

The shift that occurs especially in literary work occurs because the translation results do not have the main objective of to reproduce equality from the source language into the target language but instead, pursuing negotiations and transactions between language and culture through the mediator of translators [11]. This results in a reduction or elimination that can be found in the translation of literary works.

The author will examine in the field of translation studies using the shift method. In the shift that occurs in a process or translation product, Catford [8] divides the shift of translation into two main categories, namely level shift and category shift. This level shift occurs in the word level that leads more to changes in aspects of grammar in the source language into the target language. For example *was in mich gefahren ist*. Translated in Indonesian to “*apa yang terjadi padaku*” or “what happened to me”. In the example above there is a level shift occurring, *gefahren ist* which is a shifted phrase to occur which is the word. Where in German grammar has the verb *sein* for the auxiliary verb, which in the example above has the word *ist*. The category shift is divided into four types, which are:

a) Structural shifts

This shift occurs because there are demands for grammar that are compulsory, but can also due to the writing style of the translator.

Example: ST: *Massai Männer*

TT: *Pria Masai* (Massai Man)

In German the marker (modifier) position of the word *Massai* is before the core (head), so it can be marked as the initial marker (premodifier). In Indonesian the marker is after the head called the post core (postmodifier).

b) Class shifts

This shift occurs when there is a shift in the class of words that often appear due to the equivalence of the word is already commonly used in the target language.

Example: ST: *einen Schmerz*

TT: *kesakitan* (painful)

In this example, the shift in the class *einen Schmerz* which is a noun ‘pain’ becomes ‘painful’ in the target language which is the adjective class word.

c) Unit shifts or rank shifts

The shifts in the level of the language unit hierarchy. The shift occurs from words into phrases, phrases to words, or phrases to clauses.

Example: ST: *das anders*

TT: *berbeda* (different)

In this example, there is a shift of units, which is phrase into word.

d) Intra-system shifts

A shift that focuses more on changes caused by differences in the grammatical system between the

source language and the target language even though they correspond to each other.

Example: ST: *bekommen*

TT: *disimpan* (to be saved)

In this example, the verb *bekommen* can be translated into *mendapatkan* (‘to get’), meaning that this verb uses the active form. The verb in the target language uses the affix (di-) which changed to *disimpan* (‘to be saved’) which shows the subject is subjected by an action.

Another shift in translation was introduced in the 1960s and 1970s from Czechoslovakia, in terms of the literary aspect of ‘expressive function’ [8]. The person who introduced the shift was Jirí Levý (1926-1967), who worked in the field of literary translation and was known in Western Europe through his German translation *Die literarische Übersetzung: Theorie einer Kunstgattung* and its relevance that can be measured by newer translations into English. Levý took a closer look at the translation from the surface of the structure of the source language and target language with particular attention to the translation of poetry. In addition, considering literary translation as something creative and reproductive with the aim of an aesthetic effect that is equal [8].

[12] stated that in the macro development the shift in expression occurs including semantic, textual, pragmatic, rhetorical, and stylistic components. The expansion of this shift fulfills Catold’s theory, which is considered obsolete because it only deals with micro linguistics, while translation activity also involves macro-linguistic or extralinguistics.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method in this study is qualitative descriptive, in which the authors in this study describe and explain the shifting phenomena that occur in the roman translation. The object of the study in the study is the translation shift that occurred in the translation of *Die Weiße Massai*. The data in this study are in the form of lingual units in the form of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences concerning the shift of translation. Collecting data in this study uses observation and writing techniques. According to Sudaryanto the technique used to obtain data is by listening to or reading the data sources used [12]. After collecting data, the data is analyzed using translational matching techniques, which is a technique that determines the other tools [12]. In this data analysis refers to Catford’s [10] theory of the study of translation shift, which has two main categories, which are level shift and category shift. Furthermore, the category shift is further divided into four categories: structural shift, word class shift, unit shift, intra-system shift. This is summarized in the steps of the study in accordance with the implementation stage, which are (1) the stage of providing data; (2) data analysis stage; (3) the stage of presenting data analysis.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Results

The following is the result of the data found by the author in Corinne Hofmann's *Die weiße Massai* roman in Indonesian The White Masai translated by Lulu Fitri Rahman on eight themes in the roman.

The German language source text uses simple words, phrases, clauses or sentences in the delivery of the message. Even so, in the target language text there are various shifts in translation, both shifting levels, shifting categories and expressions. The following is a diagram of the number of shifts found in the roman *Die weiße Massai*: (see in Figure 1)

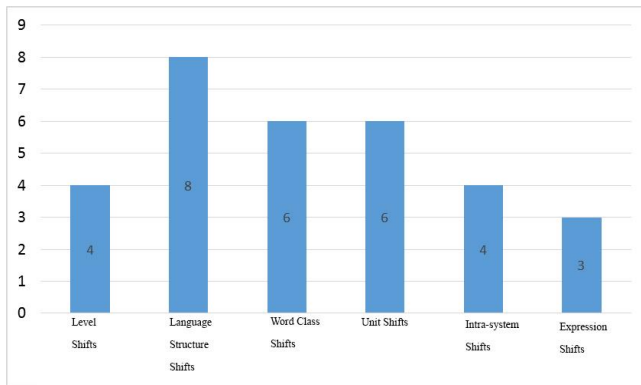


Fig. 1. The number of shifts found in roman *Die weiße Massai*

This discussion will provide a description and explanation of the type of shift that appears in the roman of *Die weiße Massai*. This type of shift is based on Catford's statement which divides it into two main categories, namely level shift and category shift [10].

a. Level shifts

This shift occurs more in the word class which leads to changes in grammar in the source language into the target language. The examples in the level shift found in the *Die weiße Massai* roman are as follows:

[1(12)] ST: *Mein Gott, denke ich, ist der schön, so etwas habe ich noch nie gesehen* [13].

TT: *Astaga, dia sangat tampan, lebih tampan dari siapa pun yang pernah kulihat* [7]. (Gosh, he is so handsome, more handsome than anyone I've ever seen)

In this sentence data, there is a level shift found. *Astaga* (Gosh) is the result of automatization of *mein Gott, denke ich*. *Mein Gott, denke ich* on a foregrounding basis here means *Tuhanku, aku berfikir* (my God, I think) but in the translation of *Die weiße Massai* it was translated into *Astaga* (Gosh). This is because if it is translated on foregrounding base, an aesthetic function will occur where the reader or listener will feel strange with the translation of *Tuhanku, aku berfikir* (my God, I think) because this translation does not exactly fit. In this sentence, Corinne was very stunned to see the figure of Lketinga who she thought was the most handsome man she had ever seen. The attraction of Lketinga is very strong and makes Corinne cannot look away from Lketinga.

b. Category Shifts

[10] Category shift is divided into four categories: language structure, word classes, language units and finally intra-system shifts.

1) Language Structure Shift

This shift occurs because of the grammatical structure of both languages, both the source language and the target language that is mandatory. The wording in translation is also a major factor in the analysis of the shift in the category of language structure. Here are the examples

[1] ST: *Die vielen Busse füllen sich in kurzer Zeit mit Menschen und Gepäck.* (Hofmann, 2000: 10)

TT: *Dalam sekejap semua bus telah dipenuhi manusia dan barang bawaan.* (Rahman, 2010: 4) (In an instant all buses have been filled with humans and luggage.)

From the data above, the shift found is a shift in the structure between the head of a clause (Head (H)) with its explanation (Modifier (M)). The sentence structure in the target language is preceded by an explanatory sentence "*Dalam sekejap semua bus telah dipenuhi*" ("In an instant all buses have been filled"). As for the source language, the main sentence is explained first "*Die vielen Busse füllen sich in kurzer Zeit*", with the adverbs of time placed after the main sentence.

2) Word Class Shifts

This shift occurs due to the difference in word class between the source language and the target language. Here is an example of a shift in the word class in the *Die weiße Massai* roman.

[4] ST: *Marco bemüht sich um ein Gespräch, wobei sich herstellt, daß auch der Massai kaum English spricht. Mit Gestik und Mimik versuchen wir uns zu verständigen.* [13]

TT: *Marco mencoba bercakap-cakap sedikit, tetapi perlahan ketahuan bahwa bahasa Inggris si Massai juga tidak terlalu bagus. Kami berusaha berkomunikasi dengan bahasa isyarat.* [7] (Marco tried to converse a little, but slowly found out that Massai's English was not too good. We try to communicate in sign language.)

The data in this sentence shows there is a shift in the word class. This shift often appears because the equivalence of the word is commonly used in the target language. Determiners in Indonesian are very rare. In the above sentence, it shows that there is a shift from determiner *ein Gespräch* to the verb *bercakap-cakap* (to converse).

3) Language Unit Shifts

This shift occurs at the level of the language unit hierarchy. This shift can be from words to phrases, phrases to words, phrases to clauses. Here are the examples of a shift in language units:

[11] ST: *Mir ist nicht sehr wohl. Eine Frau bietet mir Milch an, die ich angesicht der Fliegen ablehne* [13]

TT: *Aku merasa tidak terlalu nyaman. Seorang wanita menawariku susu dan ketika ku lihat lalat yang berterbangan, aku menolak*. [7] (I don't feel

too comfortable. A woman offered me milk and when I saw flies flying, I refused.)

The data above shows a shift in translation unit. The shift from word to phrase, which is influenced by the structure of Indonesian grammar, requires the subject as in the case above. In contrast to the German grammar structure in reflection sentences that put verbs in the last position. Where the word *ablehne* is translated to *menolak* (to reject) with the subject located in the second position in German.

4) Intra-System Shifts

This shift occurs due to the differences in the grammatical system between the source language and the target language, even though the two languages are interconnected. Examples of this shift are:

[10] ST: *Da kommt mir die Idee, in einem der vielen Hotels ein Ladenlokal zu suchen [13].*

TT: *Aku mendapatkan ide untuk membuka toko di salah satu hotel. [7] (I got the idea to open a shop in one of the hotels.)*

The shift that occurs in the data above is a shift in intra-system translation. The shift found is a plural object in the source language translated into a single object in the target language according to the context in the sentence. In source language is *der vielen Hotels* which means *banyak hotel* (many hotels), marked with the word *vielen* and behind the word *Hotel* there is a letter -s. However, it is translated in the target language into one hotel, which means the hotel is only one.

In completing the translation shift theory that was coined by Catford, translation activities were developed which involved macro linguistics or extralinguistics which gave rise to the expression shift theory which included semantic, textual, pragmatic, rhetorical and stylistic components [12].

5) Expression Shifts

In translating, shifts of expression that are often found, due to the writing style of the translator in translating a source language text into the target language. Examples of shifts found are as follows:

[2] ST: *Hier gibt es eine Abteilung für Frauen und weiter hinten eine für Männer. Ich muss natürlich zu den Frauen, und Lketinga verzieht sich zu den anderen Kriegern. Die Situation gefällt mir nicht. [13]*

TT: *Di sini terdapat satu area yang disediakan bagi wanita dan, agak jauh dari sana, area terpisah untuk pria. Tentu saja aku harus duduk bersama para wanita, dan Lketinga pergi bersama prajurit lainnya. aku tidak terlalu gembira dengan situasi seperti ini [7]. (Here, there was one area that is reserved for women and, some distance away, a separate area for men. Of course, I had to sit with the women, and Lketinga went with other soldiers. I was not too happy with this situation.)*

The sentence above shows a shift in expression translation. Shifting the translation of expressions in the sentence is due to the translator's writing style translated into the target language. Where the *eine für Männer* literally translates as *untuk pria saja* (for men only), but in the Indonesian

translation above there is the addition of a *area terpisah* (separate area) phrase. This characterizes the translator repeating the sentence as previously explained.

B. Discussion

Based on the results of the analysis above, it can be concluded that there is a shift in translation in the roman translation of *Die weiße Massai*. This translation shift includes level shifts and category shifts, which consist of language structures, word classes, units and intra-system shifts. In addition, there is a shift in terms of aesthetic functions namely expressions shifts. The most occurred is the structure shift with the number of eight data. This happens because the structure of the German language with Indonesian is different. However, these shifts do not change the meaning of the source language text, where changes that occur still use words, phrases, or expressions that correspond to the target language text. Although this is limited by the structure of the translator's grammar and writing style.

The translator in this roman translates communicatively to avoid the meaning contained in the source language not conveyed to the target language readers. This paper did not discuss in depth the shifts in translation that cause equivalency in terms of meaning in the language of acceptable sources that are in accordance with the culture found in the target language (Indonesian). Considering the Indonesian typology including agglutinative and language culture tends to use passive sentences.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Translation shifts can occur in the process and the results of translation. The shift can occur from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL), which can be analyzed from the process or in the results of translation. The results of the translation will experience a shift in meaning in the translation process that is in accordance with the expected context in the target language. Context in the target language also greatly influences translation, including culture and language usage habits in the target language. The shifts found in this translated roman occurred due to linguistic factors that differ between source language and target language. This shift is acceptable and has aesthetic value because it is commensurate with the message contained in the source language and delivered in the target language. The translator in this roman emphasizes the message from the source language which the original writer wanted to convey. Considering this is the translation of literary works with aesthetic language dimensions, this translation was not carried out literally which results in messages not being delivered to the target language readers. This research is expected to be able to enrich in the preparation of curriculum or learning plans for educators. As well as to develop learning materials, in this case learning material from literary works, especially roman. To interpret the study for the next researcher and develop a translation shift theory that is not only linked to micro linguistic factors but also macro-linguistic or extralinguistics.

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