# LANGUAGE COMPRESSION AND DELETION IN *THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION* AND ITS BAHASA INDONESIA SUBTITLE

Mardhiyyah Lolita Bandu  (mardhiyyahlolitabandu@gmail.com)

English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Yogyakarta State University

**Abstract**

The research aims to identify the compressed elements through the language compression strategy in the Bahasa Indonesia subtitle of The Shawshank Redemption, the information is omitted through the deletion strategy in the Bahasa Indonesia subtitle of the film, and the effects of the language compression and deletion strategy on the meaning equivalence in it.

This research applied a combination of qualitative and quantitative method, namely mixed method. The data sources of this research were *The Shawshank Redemption* film and its Bahasa Indonesia subtitle text The data were in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. While the contexts of the data were the dialogue. The data were collected and analyzed by categorizing the data which employed language compression and deletion. The trustworthiness of the data was gained by triangulation.

The results of this research are stated as follows. Firstly, there are seven elements which are compressed through language compression strategy found in *The Shawshank Redemption* and its Bahasa Indonesia subtitle. Of the seven elements, noun is the most often occurring type with 19 occurrences. It means that noun is not significant in delivering messages. It proves that the need for text compression is due to time and space constraint, in which the viewer should be given sufficient time to read, to watch, and to listen at the same time. Secondly, there are four parts of speech which are omitted through deletion strategy found in *The Shawshank Redemption* and its Bahasa Indonesia subtitle. Of the four information, the most often omitted parts of speech is complement. It means that complement is not significant in transferring messages. Deletion is needed since it changes the spoken register to the written register, in which the unnecessary spoken features in the source language are omitted in the target language. Lastly, the effects of language compression and deletions strategy on meaning equivalence are partial equivalence and no equivalence. Partial equivalence occurs the most in this case. It occurs 90 times. It means that the translation product or the subtitle of *The Shawshank Redemption* film is good and acceptable for Indonesian viewers.

**Keywords**: *The Shawshank Redemption,* language compression, deletion

## INTRODUCTION

English in film industries has an important role. It will attract audience or people who watch the film through English as the language in film because English is the most universal language in the world and people also can learn English easier through film using English as their spoken language.

Translation contributes not only in daily life but also in film. Nowadays, film industries become bigger because of market demand and people lifestyle. Film and English as a language cannot be separated because most of the Film is produced using English as a spoken language. English is the most popular language in the world because English becomes the most widely spoken international language and this is the reason why most of film use English as a spoken language. A film in English will be translated into other languages when the film published in other country that does not use English as

their main language. In film, there is a process to translate the Source Text (ST) to the target text (TT).

In this case, film needs subtitle. Subtitle is very useful for people who watch the film which uses different language because through the subtitle the viewer will be able to get the message from the film that they watch. Subtitle will produce by the translator and the process of translation in film subtitle will be analyzed in Audio Visual Translation (AVT). Through the AVT, the translator can produce subtitle to the target languages. A translator has to obey the rules of the subtitling. The rules are related to duration and space. Duration in this case is related to the time, how long the subtitle appears. Meanwhile, space is related to the size of the fonts, the number of characters, and the lines that are allowed to appear at the bottom of the screen. Related to those two restrictions, space and duration, there is a special treatment for the subtitle in which not all the expressions are translated. This is totally different from translating novels, books, or other written texts that all or almost sentences are translated to the target language.

Language compression and deletion become ones of translation strategies in film that will compress the subtitle and make the subtitle fit to the screen. In this case, not all of the English utterances in film will fit to the subtitle in the screen if that words or sentences does not compress. The aim of watching film is to understand the message from the film. Language compression and deletion strategy are useful for the people who watch film to get the meaning or the message from the film through the subtitle, in this case *Bahasa Indonesia.* The translator also needs to pay attention to all of the aspects that can affect the result of the subtitle.

There is an example of subtitle taken from the *Shawshank Redemption* film that says "That's God honest truth." It is translated in Bahasa Indonesia as "*Itu yang sejujurnya.*" It can be seen that the subtitle in Bahasa Indonesia are shorter than the English expression. It shows that the TT is more efficient in the number of letters. Besides, this also considers about how the viewer read the subtitle. If the English expression is translated completely, it will be 'Itu adalah kebenaran yang sesungguhnya dari Tuhan'. The translated expression in Bahasa Indonesia is longer and the duration for the audience to read is longer too. *The Shawshank Redemption* is chosen in this research because there are many words or sentences that were compressed in this film's subtitle. It can be seen that the subtitle in *Bahasa Indonesia* (TT) is shorter than the English (ST).

This research has three objectives: (1) to describe the elements that are compressed

through the language compression strategy in the *Bahasa Indonesia* subtitle of *The Shawshank Redemption* film; (2) to describe the information is omitted through the deletion strategy in the Bahasa Indonesia subtitle of *The Shawshank Redemption* film; and (3) to evaluate the effects of the language compression and deletion on the meaning equivalence in it.

The first research problem related to the elements compressed through language compression strategy. The researcher adopts the theory by Wing Bo Tso (2010: 22). According to Wing Bo Tso (2010: 22), language compression (condensing) refers to the act of reducing a text into a shorter form. Furthermore, the compressed elements include verb, noun, modal, adverb, adjective, interjection, preposition, pronoun, and conjunction (Hogue, 2003).

The second research problem related to the deleted information through deletion strategy. The researcher applies the theory proposed by Guerra (2012). Deletion strategy requires the translator to do the removal. It is characterized by partially removing while arranging the disappearance which was marked by the presence of omission of parts of speech thoroughly.

In addition, the deleted parts of speech includes subject, predicate, object, complement, and auxiliary (Hogue, 2003). The third research problem which is related to

the meaning equivalence, the researcher adopts the theory by Pym (2010: 7). The meaning equivalence proposed by Pym (2010) are divided into four categories, namely full equivalence, partial equivalence, no equivalence, and no meaning.

**RESEARCH METHODS**

A combination of qualitative and quantitative method, namley mixed method is applied in this research.

The data sources of this research were *The Shawshank Redemption* film and its Bahasa Indonesia subtitle text. All the data, the English expression and its subtitle in Bahasa Indonesia, are words, phrases, clauses, and sentences in which language compression and deletion strategy were used.

In qualitative research method, the main instrument of research is the researcher. The researcher become the main instrument because the researcher was the one who collect and analyze the data. There were also secondary instruments that appear in the form of data sheets and will be visualized in the form of tables.

In collecting the data, the researcher took the following some steps: watching the film, downloading the transcript, re-watching the film and the transcripts were checked in order to ensure accuracy, recording all the English dialogues and their Bahasa Indonesia subtitle expressions into the data sheet.

The procedures in data analysis were mentioned in the following steps: selecting and classifying all the dialogues in which language compression and deletion were used in the film, after find out and analyze language compression and deletion, the researcher analyzed meaning equivalence of language compression that occur in the film, coding the data to make easier of the analysis. In order to identify certain expressions, thus, the researcher created certain codes, applying the trustworthiness of the data by doing triangulation, drawing conclusion based on the result of the research, and reporting the results of the analysis in descriptive form.

In order to achieve the trustworthiness of the data, there were four criteria to check the trustworthiness of the data, namely credibility, dependability, conformability, and transferability (Suharso, 2006: 16-19). To gain those criteria, triangulation process was conducted. According to Moleong (2007: 128), triangulation is a method used to check the data trustworthiness by engaging something outside the data in order the data can be verified and compared. The researcher applied only one type of triangulation form namely member checking. Member checking is verifying the researcher's interpretations and conclusions with the various groups of participants themselves

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
### Findings

There are three objectives of the research: (1) to identify the elements that are compresses through the language compression strategy in the Bahasa Indonesia subtitle of *The Shawshank Redemption* film, (2) to identify the parts of speech omitted through the deletion strategy in the Bahasa Indonesia subtitle of the film, and (3) to evaluate the effects of the language compression and deletion strategy on the meaning equivalence in it.

Based on the analysis, this research reveals 79 data of language compression strategy and 14 data of deletion strategy used in translating the subtiltle of the film. Related to the degrees of meaning equivalence, 90 data belong to partial equivalence and there are three data belong to no equivalence. Meanwhile, there is no data belong to full equivalence and no meaning. The following sections illustrate the research findings.

### Discussion
### 1. Language Compression

There are seven elements which are compressed through language compression strategy found in *The Shawshank Redemption* film and its Bahasa Indonesia subtitle. Each is explained below.

## a. Verb

The evidence of The example of language compression of verb can be seen below.

(**Setting:** Andy and Red are having a chat)

**SL: One side in alabaster, the opposing side in soapstone. <u>What do you think?</u>**
**TL: Kuukir sebagian batu dengan alabaster, sebagian dengan batu sabu, <u>bagaimana?</u>**
**(051/LC/V/PE)**

From the example above, the translator compresses "what do you think?" and only translates into "bagaimana?". The complete translation should be "bagaimana menurut mu?". The purpose is to simplify the sentence without changing the meaning.

## b. Noun

The evidence of The example of language compression of noun can be seen below.

(**Setting:** It is the first time Andy talk to Red. Andy wants Red to get him a rock hammer )

**SL: I wonder if you might get me <u>a rock hammer</u>**
**TL: Aku ingin kau mencarikanku <u>palu</u>**
**(034/LC/N/PE)**

From the example above, the translator omits the word "rock". Actually, the word "rock" modifies the word "hammer". Yet, in the target language, it is only translated into "palu". The complete translation should be "sebuah palu batu".

## c. Adverb

The evidence of The example of language compression of adverb can be seen below.

(**Setting:** Andy overhears Hadley, the captain of the guards complaining about being taxed on an inheritance. He offers to help him shelter the money legally)

**SL: So, <u>anyway</u>, this lawyer fella says to me, "Your brother died a rich man"**
**TL: Si pengacara berkata kepadaku, "Saudaramu meninggal sebagai orang kaya**
**(038/LC/Adv/PE)**

From the example above, the translator omits the word "anyway". In conversation, anyway is also used to change the subject, return to an earlier subject or get to the most interesting point. The complete translation should be "Jadi, Si pengacara berkata kepadaku, "Saudaramu meninggal sebagai orang kaya".

## d. Adjective

The evidence of The example of language compression of adjective can be seen below.

(**Setting:** Red's first impression towards Andy)

**SL: Looked like <u>a stiff breeze</u> would blow him over**
**TL: Tampaknya <u>angin</u> pun dapat membuat tubuhnya terpental**
**(019/LC/Adj/PE)**

In Datum (019/LC/Adj/PE), it can be seen that the translator omits the word "stiff". It is considered as an adjective that modifies

the word "breeze". However, the translator only translates it into "angin". The full translation should be "angin kencang".

**e. Interjection**

The evidence of The example of language compression of interjection can be seen below.

(**Setting**: It is the first time Andy talk to Red. Andy wants Red to get him a rock hammer)

**SL: Well, that's free**
**TL: Itu gratis**

(035/LC/Int/PE)

From the Datum (039/LC/Int/PE), it can be seen that the word "well" is omitted. In this case, "well" is used to introduce something which are going to say or to continue a story. It is omitted since it carries less semantic meaning. Therefore, it can be omitted without changing the meaning of the dialogue.

**f. Pronoun**

The evidence of language compression of pronoun can be seen below.

(**Setting:** In 1947 Portland, Maine, banker Andy Dufresne is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover, and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences at the Shawshank State Penitentiary)

**SL: And she said she wanted a divorce in Reno**
**TL: Dan ia bilang ingin bercerai di Reno**
(003/LC/Pro/PE)

From the above example, the translator omits the pronoun "she". The complete translation should be "dan dia berkata dia ingin bercerai Di Reno". "She" is omitted

since the translator wants to avoid the repetition of the word "she".

**g. Modal**

The evidence of The example of language compression of modal can be seen below.

(**Setting:** Red's first impression on Andy)

**SL: I must admit, I didn't think much of Andy, first time I laid eyes on him**
**TL: Kuakui, aku tak berpikir banyak tentang Andy saat pertama melihatnya**
(018/LC/M/PE)

From the example above, the translator omits "must". In this case, "must" as a modal verb that is used for emphasis. The complete translation should be "harus ku akui". It is omitted since it carries less semantic meaning. Therefore, it can be omitted without changing the meaning of the dialogue.

**2. Deletion**

There are four parts of speech which are omitted through deletion strategy found in *The Shawshank Redemption* film and its Bahasa Indonesia subtitle. Each is explained below.

**a. Subject**

The example of deletion of subject can be seen below.

(**Setting:** In 1947 Portland, Maine, banker Andy Dufresne is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover, and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences at the Shawshank State Penitentiary)

**SL: I got back in the car, and I drove home to sleep it off**

**TL: Aku kembali ke mobil, dan pulang ke rumah**

**(002/D/S/Com/PE)**

In datum (002/D/S/Com/PE), the translator deletes the subject "I". The complete translation should be "aku kembali ke mobil dan aku pulang kerumah untuk beristirahat". The translator tends to delete the subject "I" to avoid the repetition of "I" in the target language. Thus, it did not appear in the target language.

**b. Predicate**

The example of deletion of predicate can be seen below.

(**Setting:** Norton has Hadley murder Tommy under the guise of an escape attempt)

**SL: I tell you son, this thing really came along and knocked my wind out**

**TL: Masalah ini datang begitu saja dan membuatku tak nyaman**

**(082/D/S/P/PE)**

From the example above, it can be seen that the translator omits the predicate "tell". Besides, the translator also omits the subject and the object. The complete translation should be "ku beri tahu nak, masalah ini datang begitu saja dan membuatku tak nyaman". It seems that the translator wants to shorten the text in the target language.". Although it is not completely translated, the meaning of the source language still can be understood by the audience.

**c. Object**

The example of deletion of object can be seen below.

(**Setting:** Andy overhears Hadley, the captain of the guards complaining about being taxed on an inheritance. He offers to help him shelter the money legally)

**SL: If you get the forms, I'll prepare them for you**

**TL: Jika kau dapat suratnya, akan ku siapkan untukmu**

**(044/D/O/PE)**

From the example above, the word "them" as the object is not translated in the target language. In the conversation context, the word "them" refers to the "forms". It can be omitted when this information already presented to clarify in the earlier conversation.

**d. Complement**

The example of deletion of complement can be seen below.

(**Setting:** In 1947 Portland, Maine, banker Andy Dufresne is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover, and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences at the Shawshank State Penitentiary)

**SL: and finds your wife in bed with her lover, riddled with 38 caliber bullet**

**TL: dan menemukan istrimu dan kekasihnya, tertembak 38 peluru caliber**

**(007/D/Com/PE)**

From the example above, the translator deletes the complement "in the bed" to shorten the target language. the full translation should be "dan

menemukan istrimu dan kekasihnya di ranjang, tertembak 38 peluru caliber" Thus, the subtitle is shorter and readable for the audience.

## 3. The Degrees of Meaning Equivalence

Since language compression and deletion make the target text shorter, the effect that is caused by language compression and deletion towards the meaning equivalence is partial equivalence. In this case, full equivalence does not occur because language compression and deletion compress and omit the source text. Hence, the target text shorter than the source text.

### a. Partial Equivalence

The example of datum which considered as partial equivalence can be seen below.

(**Setting:** Andy overhears Hadley, the captain of the guards complaining about being taxed on an inheritance. He offers to help him shelter the money legally)

**SL: Why should I believe <u>a smart banker like you</u>? So I can end up in here with you?**
**TL: Kenapa aku harus percaya <u>padamu</u>? supaya aku berakhir disini bersamamu?**
                          **(042/LC/N/PE)**

From the example above, the noun "a smart banker like you" is translated into "pada mu". Relating to the movie, the noun above refers to Andy. The translator only translates it into "padamu" since the audience already know who is Andy. Thus, it is considered as partial equivalence because the

message in the source language still can be understood by the audience of the target language.

### b. No Equivalence

The example of datum which considered as no equivalence can be seen below.

(**Setting:** In 1947 Portland, Maine, banker Andy Dufresne is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover, and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences at the Shawshank State Penitentiary)

**SL: Well, where I get hazy is where <u>the cleaning woman</u> shows up the following morning**
**TL: Yang membuatku bingung adalah muncul <u>seorang wanita</u> di pagi berikutnya**
                          **(006/LC/N/NE)**

The example above is considered as no equivalence since the target language is not suitable with the source language. In Datum (006/LC/N/NE), the translator translates "the cleaning woman" into "seorang wanita". The word "cleaning" is considered as noun. The full translation should be "Yang membuatku bingung adalah muncul **tukang bersih-bersih wanita** di pagi berikutnya". There is a different meaning between the source language and the target language. Thus, it is considered as no equivalence

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

### Conclusion

In reference to the first objective of the research, there seven elements which are compressed through language compression strategy found in *The Shawshank Redemption* and its Bahasa Indonesia subtitle. Of the seven elements, noun is the most often occurring type. It means that noun is not significant in delivering messages. In other words, the need for text compression is due to time and space constraint, in which the viewer should be given sufficient time to reach, to watch, and to listen at the same time.

In relation to the second objective, there are four parts of speech which are omitted through deletion strategy found in *The Shawshank Redemption* and its Bahasa Indonesia subtitle. Of the four parts of speech, the most often omitted is complement with eight occurrences. It means that complement is not significant in transferring messages. Deletion is needed since it changes the spoken register to the written register, in which the unnecessary spoken features in the source language are omitted in the target language.

Furthermore, with regard to the last objective of the research, the effects of language compression and deletions strategy on meaning equivalence are partial equivalence and no equivalence. Partial equivalence occurs the most in this case. It occurs 90 times or 96.7 %. It means that the translation product or the subtitle of *The Shawshank Redemption* film is good and acceptable for Indonesian viewers.

### Suggestions

In reference to the findings and discussion of the research above, the following presents some suggestions to some parties.

To English students, This research is expected to give additional source of information relating to translation topic, especially in understanding translation strategy and audio-visual translation.

Furthemore, future researchers are expected to conduct similar research using other translation strategies. All findings would benefit the teachers, students, translators, as well as those who are interested in song translation.

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