

**SUBTITLING STRATEGIES OF SLANG EXPRESSIONS
IN THE ENGLISH AND BAHASA INDONESIA
'GOOD WILL HUNTING' MOVIE TEXTS**

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The objectives of this research are: 1) to describe the types of slang expressions expressed in Text 1, 2) to describe the subtitling strategies employed in translating Text 1 into Text 2, and 3) to describe the degree of equivalence in Text 2. This research was descriptive qualitative. The main instrument of this research is the researcher herself. To achieve trustworthiness, triangulation method was applied. The results of this research show that there are five types of slang found in *Good Will Hunting*, i.e. apocope, acronym, metaphor, creativity, using the existing word; creativity appears more often rather than others. The subtitler applied seven subtitling strategies in translating the slang expressions, i.e. expansion, paraphrase, transfer, imitation, decimation, deletion, and resignation. The subtitler applied four equivalent degrees, i.e. fully equivalent degree, partly equivalent degree, different meaning, and no meaning. The fully equivalent and partly equivalent degrees are categorized in equivalent, and the different meaning and no meaning are categorized in non-equivalent. From 119 data, there are 70 data or 57.98% of the data in this research belonging to equivalent (fully equivalent is 11 data and partly equivalent is 59 data) and 49 or 42.02% data belong to non-equivalent (different meaning is 9 and no meaning is 40). This finding indicates that the translation of slang expressions in Movie: *Good Will Hunting* is sufficiently equivalent.

Keywords: slang expressions, *Good Will Hunting* movie, subtitling strategies, degree of equivalence

BACKGROUND

As social creatures, human beings cannot live alone but they always interact with each other. For these purposes, human beings use languages as a means of communication. In communication, there are two kinds of language, i.e. formal language and informal language. To determine what category a language belongs to, whether formal or informal, we should look at the degree of politeness which is influenced by the speaker,

the person who is spoken to and the context of the conversation. Formal English, for example, is used in international meetings and in the writing of academic journal. Meanwhile, One characteristic of informal English is slang. They use this kind of language in informal situation or place like home, school, university, market, and so on. Sometimes, they create new word from their own language and it can be understood only in their community.

It can make their communication to be effective, casual, simple, and playful.

There are some reasons which make slang become a problem for the translator in translating movie subtitle. They are the difficulties in understanding the meaning and in finding the equivalence. It requires the translator to understand the meaning of slang itself. Since slang is uncommon language. Sometimes, it causes the translator misunderstand the real meaning of slang because slang contains specific terms. Therefore, slang should be tackled carefully in translation. In addition, the English 'Good Will Hunting' movie text is referred to hereafter as Text 1, or T1 for short, and the Bahasa Indonesia 'Good Will Hunting' movie text is referred to hereafter as Text 2, or T2 for short.

The objectives of this research are to describe to describe types of slang expressions, to describe subtitling strategies used by the translator to translate slang expressions, and to describe the degree of equivalence of slang expression on its Indonesian Subtitle.

In the respect of the first objective, Sumarsono and Paina (2007: 155) identifies five types of slang expression. They are apocope, acronym, metathesis, metaphor, creativity, using the existing word.

In regard of the strategies used by the translator to translate the English slang expressions into Bahasa Indonesia, the translation strategies used in this research are proposed by Gottlieb (1992). Subtitle translation's aim is to translate a verbal

language to written and to transfer the information to the viewers in a limited space. Unlike literally translation, a subtitler (person who translate subtitle) needs an excellent listening skill to translate. A subtitler needs to listen to the audio of the film to match the voice of the characters (when they are speaking) with the subtitles which are usually placed at the bottom of the screen. In subtitle translation, the content in TT should have the same degree as in ST. In order to balance the content in the ST and TT, the subtitler uses subtitling strategies. Subtitling strategies are as follows: expansion, paraphrase, transfer, imitation, transcription, dislocation, condensation, decimation, deletion, and resignation.

In regard of the translation equivalence, this research applies the theory from Bell (1991) that explains a ST can be translated to TT in different degrees of equivalence. He divides it into four equivalence degrees: Fully equivalent, Partly equivalent, Different meaning, and No meaning. In this research, the accuracy that the researcher analyzes is the equivalence of the slang expressions that appear in the movie to its translation on Indonesian subtitle.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research employed a qualitative method since it produces descriptive data in the form of written text. The data in this research were in the form of either words or phrases. The data were collected manually from the movie *Good Will Hunting* and its English translation, *Good Will Hunting*. The

researcher is the main instrument in this research and the supporting instrument is the data sheet that was employed to record and classify the data.

To achieve trustworthiness, triangulation method was applied in this research, more specifically peer debriefing. The peer debriefing was conducted by asking two students of English Language and Literature to examine and evaluate the data.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. Findings

Table 1. The Frequencies of Types of Slang

No	Types of Slang	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Apocope	6	5.04%
2.	Acronym	6	5.04%
3.	Metathesis	0	—
4.	Metaphor	2	1.68%
5.	Creativity	77	64.71%
6.	Using the Existing Word	28	23.53%
Total		119	100%

According to Table 2, Creativity appears more often than other types in the frequent number of types of slang, in 64.71%. Second place is filled by Using the Existing Word in the frequent number of types of slang, in 23.53% of the data. Apocope and Acronym has the same frequent number of types of

slang, in 5.04% of the data. Metaphor is in the last frequent number of types of slang,

Table 2. The Frequencies of Subtitling Strategies

No	Subtitling Strategies	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Expansion	1	0.84%
2.	Paraphrase	51	43.70%
3.	Transfer	18	15.13%
4.	Imitation	4	3.36%
5.	Transcription	0	—
6.	Dislocation	0	—
7.	Condensation	0	—
8.	Decimation	6	5.04%
9.	Deletion	38	31.93%
10.	Resignation	0	—
Total		119	100%

In Table 2, the subtitler applies six subtitling strategies out of ten kinds of subtitling strategies on theory in translating English slang expressions on its Indonesian subtitle. The strategies used to translate the data containing slang expressions are Expansion, Paraphrase, Transfer, Imitation, Decimation, and Deletion. Meanwhile, Condensation, Transcription Dislocation, and Resignation are the subtitling strategies that are not used by the subtitler to translate the slang expressions.

Table 3. The Frequencies movie of Degree of Equivalence

No	Degree of meaning	Frequency	Percentage
Equivalent			
1.	Fully Equivalent	11	9.24%
2.	Partly Equivalent	59	48.74%
Total of Equivalent		70	57.98%
Non-Equivalent			
1.	Different Meaning	9	8.40%
2.	No Meaning	40	33.62%
Total of Non-equivalent		49	42.02%
Total		119	100%

In Table 3, the table of degree of equivalence finding above presents that Partly Equivalent degree is the most frequently with 49.58%. The next is No Meaning with 33.62%. The third is Fully Equivalent with 9.24%. The last one is Different Meaning with 7.56%.

B. Discussions

1. Types of Slang

1) Apocope

Skylar : But you can do my o-**chem** paper in under an hour.

The word ‘chem’ is shortening word from chemistry. Skylar gets very difficult organic chemistry task from her professor but Will who is her boy friend, can do it in just over an hour. The type of slang of this word is apocope.

2) Acronym

Head Custodian: Got this job through his **P.O**

‘P.O’ is known as abbreviation of Parole Officer. It is common abbreviation in the Buildings and Grounds Department in M.I.T. The word ‘P.O’ is uttered by head custodian to Professor Lambeau and Professor Lambeau feels strange with that Abreviation. Professor Lambeau emphasizes the word ‘P.O’ once more with wonder intonation. The type of slang word ‘P.O’ is acronym.

3) Metaphor

Chuckie: You are too much of a **pussy** to cash in it.

The word ‘pussy’ is slang expression which means the female sexual organs especially the vulva, a coward, or men who have an unsable brain. In this conversation, ‘pussy’ means coward because Chuckie sitirizes Will who does not want accept the job offer coming from proffesor Lambeau when everyone fells hard to find job. He equalizes the way Will of thinking like a coward. The types of slang expression ‘pussy’ in this conversation is metaphorical word to show displeasure or distress because ‘pussy’ is a word to describe a coward in slang terminology.

3) Creativity

Professor Sean: Even if I did know, I wouldn't tell a **pissant** like you.

'Pissant' is new term copunded from two words. 'Piss' is slang expression which is an uncountable noun meaning urin, and 'ant' comes from existing word means a small insect that lives in highly organized group. 'Pissant' is a slang expression means little no-life weasely loser who amounts to nothing or an insolent or insignificant person; a peon; a nobody. The slang type of 'pissant' is creativity by creating a new word.

4) Using the Existing Word

Chuckie: There's only so many you can **bang** your friends' future wife.

The word 'bang' is a slang term meaning to have sex with someone. 'Bang' has oroginal meaning to hit something in a way that makes a loud noise. The word 'bang' here refers to Morgan who is sitting next to her and having intent conversation in the bar. Chukie really adores this girl. This can be the reason why Chucie is getting mad at Morgan. From the explanation above the type of slang expression 'bang' is using the existing word.

2. Subtitling Strategies

In categorizing the translation strategies, this research adopts the theory comes from Henrick Gottlieb (1992).

a. Translation of Apocope

1) Translation of Apocope with Transfer Strategy

ST: **Med** school

TT: Sekolah *kedokteran*

'Med' is in a standard word of medical which includes slang because it is considered as apocope expression. It is used as slang expression or informally used as adjective for medical. The subtitler also translates it into noun 'kedokteran'. The subtitler also translates the whole sentence accurately as its meaning.

2) Translation of Apocope with Deletion Strategy

ST: "Hey, **hon**, don't forget the coffee."

TT: "Jangan lupa kopinya."

From the example above, the subtitler does not translate the slang expression. In the context that shown, 'hon' is a slang expression which is honey. The message of slang expression is not delivered completely.

3) Translation of apocope with Imitation Strategy

ST: ... in the auspicious M.I.T **Tech**

TT: MIT *Tech*

‘Tech’ comes from the standard word technology. It is considered as apocope slang expression. The speaker who is professor Lambeau utters the word technology with one ending syllables of a word that is ‘tech’. The subtitler translates it using imitation strategy. The imitation strategy is used to transfer the same form typically with terminology, names of places and people.

b. Translation of Acronym

1) Translation of acronym with Imitation Strategy

ST: ... in the auspicious **M.I.T** Tech

TT: *MIT* Tech

‘M.I.T’ stands for Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is prestigious university in Boston and also best engineering school in the world (www.urbandictionary.com). The speaker who is professor Lambeau utters Massachusetts Institute of Technology to his students into initial which is ‘M.I.T’. This initial is also famous everywhere especially for academic people. The subtitler translates it using imitation strategy. The imitation strategy is used to transfer the same form typically with names of places and people.

2) Translation of Acronym with Paraphrase Strategy

ST: I’ve now been sitting here for ten minutes lookin’ over this **rap** sheet of yours.

TT: Aku sudah duduk disini mendengar *ocehanmu*.

‘Rap’ is an abbreviation for the FBI’s interstate “Record of Arrest and Prosecution sheet”. The subtitler translates it as ‘ocehan’ that means ‘twaddle’ or ‘nonsense’ which does not have similar meaning in the source text. The subtitler translates it as a slang expression in the target text but it has different meaning and context

3) Translation of Acronym with Deletions Strategy

ST: I don’t have a **V.C.R** in my house.

TT: -

The subtitler omits the slang expression ‘VCR’ instead of translate it. ‘VCR’ is a slang expression that stands for Vaginal Cum Receptable or Video Cassette Recorder, but in tis context ‘VCR’ means Vaginal Cum Receptable. It is one kind of sex toys which is commonly used by American people but ‘VCR’ is not popular in TT. The subtitler does not translate it because Indonesia and America have different cultural nuance and habitual activity. It can be

translated into 'alat bantu sex' to make viewers know about the whole context although it does not exist TT or being an habitual activity in Indonesia. It also can answer viewers' curiosity about something new especially slang expressions.

c. Translation of Metaphor

1) Translation of Metaphor with Paraphrase Strategy

ST: You are too much of a **pussy** to cash in it.

TT: Kau sudah seperti menang lotere tapi *takut* menguangkannya.

The word 'pussy' is slang expression which means the female sexual orgasm especially the vulva, a coward, or men who have a usable brain. In this conversation 'pussy' means coward. The types of slang expression 'pussy' in this conversation is metaphorical word to show displeasure or distress because 'pussy' is a word to describe a coward in slang terminology. The subtitler translates it as 'takut' that means 'timid' or 'not brave' which are similar with its slang meaning. The subtitler uses 'takut' because he is considering the Indonesian culture who would saying that word in the character's situation.

2) Translation of Metaphor with Deletion Strategy

ST: You don't want to hear that **shit**, Skylar!

TT: Kau tak ingin dengar itu.

The word 'shit' is slang word that can be used to describe anything conceivable, from nouns to emotions. In this conversation, 'shit' replaces the word 'Will's past life'. In this conversation 'shit' means to denote his anger toward Skylar when they are disputing. It is considered impolite and rude expression of slang. The subtitler eliminates 'shit' in TT. It should be translated as 'masa lalu'. So, here, the message of text is not delivered completely.

d. Translation of Creativity

1) Translation of Creativity with Expansion Strategy

ST: I mean, I haven't got time to tell you, much less talk to that raving **loony** in there

TT: Tak ada waktu untukmu atau *orang gila* itu.

In the datum number 44 above, 'loony' in the standard word means 'mentally ill' or 'insane'. The subtitler is only translated as 'gila'. The context of the real meaning of it will not be delivered well without giving more explanation with the word 'orang'.

2) Translation of Creativity with Paraphrase Strategy

ST: I'm not goin' to Kelly's just 'cause you like the **take-out girl**.

TT: Aku tak mau kesana cuma karena kau suka *pelayan*.

From the example above, we know that ‘take-out girl’ is a slang expression meaning a public dating event where women can meet a variety of partners without any sexual pressure or coercion or women who decide they would like to get some action are able to take their partner home. The subtitler translates it into ‘pelayan’ because s/he is missing the context of conversation. It has different meaning from the meaning of its slang.

3) Translation Creativity with Transfer Strategy

ST: I don’t care if you **put from the rough**.

TT: Aku tidak peduli jika kau *homo*.

From the datum number 43 above, ‘put from the rough’ is a slang expression. It means homo. The subtitler translates it accurately to ‘homo’ in Bahasa Indonesia that means the same as in the English meaning.

4) Translation of Creativity with Decimation Strategy

ST: I mean, how hard is it to push a **motherfuckin’** broom around?

TT: Apa sulitnya menyapu?

‘Motherfucking’ is a new terminology compounded from two word. The word ‘mother’ comes from standard word which means a female parent and the word ‘fucking’ is a slang expression used to

emphasize a statement especially an angry one, something to add in an insult or having sex. In this context conversation, it is used to emphasized the word ‘broom’. The characteristic of this slang expression is creativity. The subtitler does not translate and delete it.

5) Translation of Creativity with Deletion Strategy

ST: That’s how to do it! **Attaboy!**

TT: —

As mentioned at the types of slang, ‘Attaboy’ is a slang expression which means word given when you do a damn good job. The subtitler eliminates its full element, there is no meaning of ‘Attaboy’ in TT not even the slang expression effect of it. Meanwhile, The subtitler omits the whole sentence.

. e. Transaltion of Using the Existing Word

1) Translation of Using the Existing Word with Paraphare Strategy

ST: I will take a **pitcher** of the finest larger in the house

TT: Aku minta *minuman* yang terenak.

From the example above, we know that ‘pitcher’ is a slang expression. The slang expression of ‘pitcher’ means a superior drinker, usually referred in a drunken context (pitcher of beer) . The subtitler translates it into ‘minuman’. This is classified as paraphrase because the subtitler is considering translate it in its

slang meaning in form of incomplete its standard word meaning. It should be translated into ‘minuman beralkohol porsi besar’.

- 2) Translation of Using the Existing Word with Transfer Strategy

ST: You dropped 150 **grand**

TT: Kau akan membuang 150.000

From the example of datum above, ‘grand’ is a slang expression means one thousand and the subtitler translates it as ‘seribu’ but in form of nominal. It has the same impact and meaning, so it is translated accurately.

- 3) Translation of Using the Existing Word with Transfer Strategy

ST: I hate that little **bicth**.

TT: Aku benci *dia*.

From the datum above, the word ‘bitch’ is a slang terminology for female dog. It beomes slang when it acquires several new meaning: a contemptible woman, a woman, a girlfriend, something different or unpleasant, and an exclamation for excellent, wonderful, and cool. In this context, it means an offensive way of referring someone especially an unpleasant one. The subtitler translates it into ‘dia’. ‘Bitch’ is considered less important because ‘dia’ has represented the original message of SL although it is not slang expression in TL.

- 4) Translation of Using the Existing Word with Deletion Strategy

ST: Little Morgan’s got a lot of **scrap** to him

TT: —

As mentioned at the types of slang, ‘scrap’ is a slang expression which means fight. The subtitler eliminates its full element, there is no meaning of ‘scrap’ in TT not even the slang expression effect of it.

3. The Degree of Equivalence of the Translation of Slang Expressions

a. Equivalent

1) Fully Equivalent

a) Fully Equivalent of Creativity

ST: **Tootsie Roll!**

TT: *Banci!*

‘Tootsie Roll’ is a slang expression means a tiny penis. ‘Banci’ is also a slang expression in Indonesian which means a man who acts like a woman (*KBBI*) where Indonesian people symbolize ‘banci’ also having a tiny penis. The subtitler successfully translate it to its equivalent meaning.

2) Partly Equivalent

a) Partly Equivalent of Apocope

ST: **Med** school

TT: Sekolah *kedokteran*

'Med' is in a standard word of medical which includes slang because it is considered as apocope expression. It is used as slang expression or informally used as adjective for medical. The subtitler also translates it into noun 'kedokteran', but 'kedokteran' is not an informal used or slang expression in Indonesia. That is why it is classified as Partly equivalent.

b) Partly Equivalent of Acronym

ST: Got thhis job through his

P.O.

TT: Ia direkomendasikan

P.O.nya

'PO' is a slang expression standing for 'Parole Officer'. The subtitler translates it as 'PO'. The subtitler uses imitation strategy to translate it. The subtitler maintain the word 'PO' as in the source language, but it is not a slang expression in Indonesia.

c) Partly Equivalent of Metaphor

ST: You are too much **pussy** to cash in it.

TT: kau sudah seperti menang lotere tapi *takut* menguangkannya.

'Pussy' is a slang expression means coward. The subtitler translates it as 'takut' that is the Indonesian meaning for 'pussy' but it is not a slang expression in Indonesia.

d) Partly Equivalent of Creativity

ST: Maureen, stop the **oral fixation** for a moment and join us.

TT: Maureen, jangan *bercanda* terus.

From the example of datum above, 'oral fixation' is a slang expression meaning a psychological condition in which a person is unconsciously obsessed with the mouth and feels the need to always be sucking or chewing something. It also means lead to overweightness, nail-biting and other habits, and excessive cock-gobbling or a term used for someone who constantly sucks, chews, bites, or knaws on object either do to practice for their nightly routine or to think. In the context, it means chewing something. The subtitle translates it as 'bercanda', which has the same meaning with 'oral fixation'. In the context, Maureen who is Professor Sean's student plays his hair and ignore of what her professor explained.

e) Partly Equivalent of Using the Existing Word

ST: How many **shrinks** you go to before me?

TT: Berapa *psikiater* yang sudah kau datangi?

From the example of above, 'shrinks' is a slang expression means psychiatrist,

psychologist, or therapist. The subtitle translates it as 'psikiater', which has the same meaning with the slang expression, but it is not a slang expression in Indonesian.

b. Non-Equivalent

1) Different Meaning

a) Different Meaning of Creativity

ST: If you gonna **jerk off**

TT: Jika kau ingin *bercanda*

'Jerk off' is a slang expression which means to masturbate by rubbing the penis. The subtitler translates it as 'bercanda' based on the story and it is has different meaning with 'jerk off'. Professor Sean in the context tells Will to go home because he mad at Will who is distracted and wasting time.

b) Different Meaning of Using the Existing Word

ST: I'm sorry you can't do this ... because I wouldn't have to sit here and watch you **fumble** around

TT: Aku tak mau duduk disini melihatmu *bingung*.

'Fumble' is a slang expression which means to stop right before ejaculation. The subtitler translates it as 'bingung' based on the story and it is has different meaning with 'fumble'.

2) No Meaning

a) No Meaning of Apocope

ST: It's just sad, **bro**

TT: —

As mentioned in the example of slang expression from apocope expressions, 'bro' means brother. 'Bro' is a common-used slang expression by American showing close relationship with others. However, the subtitler does not translate it and even eliminate it. The subtitler can translate it to 'sobat' or in the context 'sob'.

b) No Meaning of Acronym

ST: I don't have a **V.C.R** in my house.

TT: —

The subtitler omits the slang expression 'VCR' instead of translate it. 'VCR' is a slang expression that stands for Vaginal Cum Receptable or Video Cassette Recorder, but in its context 'VCR' means Vaginal Cum Receptable. It is one kind of sex toys which is commonly used by American people but 'VCR' is not popular in TT. The subtitler does not translate it because Indonesia and America have different cultural nuance, habitual activity, and custom. It can be translated into 'alat bantu sex' to make viewers know about the whole context although it does not exist TT or being a habitual activity in Indonesia. It also can answer viewers' curiosity about something new especially slang expressions.

c) No Meaning of Creativity

ST: Yeah you, you **skank face!**

TT: —

‘Skank face’ is a slang expression which means a slutty bitch who always looks like a whore and has no self-respect and tries to get guys that she knows she cannot have. In the TT, there is no ‘skank face’ translation. The subtitler does not translate it and he omits it.

d) No Meaning of Using the Existing Word

ST: You just want to have your little **fling** with the guy from the other side of town.

TT: —

‘Fling’ is a slang expression which means when you are not in a relationship with the other person but you do have the privileges as someone that is in one. It also means sexual or non-sexual, such as a kiss, hug, holding hands or dates and on the fact, there is no commitment and not serious. In the TT, there is no ‘fling’ translation. The subtitler does not translate it and he omits it.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion, there are some points that can be concluded

from this research. First, out of six types, there are five types of slang expressions found in the data namely, apocope, acronym, metaphor, creativity, using the existing word. Second, there are six strategies to translate 119 data findings, namely Expansion, Paraphrase, Transfer, Imitation, Decimation. Deletion. Third, 119 data, there are 70 data or 57.98% of the data in this research belong to equivalent (fully equivalent is 11 data and partly equivalent is 59 data) and 49 or 42.02% data belong to non-equivalent (different meaning is 9 and no meaning is 40). This finding indicates that the translation of slang expressions in Movie: *Good Will Hunting* is sufficiently equivalent.

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