MEANING ACCURACY AND NATURALNESS OF BAHASA INDONESIA SUBTITLING EXPRESSIONS OF THE ENGLISH SLANG EXPRESSIONS OF THE *TROPIC THUNDER* MOVIE TEXTS

By: Andhika Pangestu
Yogyakarta State University
Andhikapangestu15@gmail.com

Abstract

The study was aimed to analyze meaning accuracy and naturalness of Bahasa Indonesia subtitling expressions of the English slang expressions of the Tropic Thunder movie texts. The objectives of the research are (1) to determine the extent of the accuracy of slang expressions of English subtitle of Tropic Thunder movie that is represented in its Bahasa Indonesia subtitle, (2) to determine the extent of the naturalness of slang expressions of English subtitle of Tropic Thunder movie that is represented in its Bahasa Indonesia subtitle. The study applied descriptive qualitative method. The discussion was conducted in a descriptive way. Nevertheless, the quantitative data were used to empower the finding and also to ease drawing conclusions. The researcher analyzed the data by conducting purposive sampling. Note taking technique was used in the data collection. The technique was used to analyze the accuracy and naturalness of every slang expressions that were translated into Bahasa Indonesia. It eased the researcher to calculate the extent of accuracy and naturalness of the Bahasa Indonesia translation of slang expressions found in the movie. This research reveals two findings. First, the extent of accuracy level of Bahasa Indonesia translation subtitle of English slang expressions. Second, the extent of meaning accuracy level of Bahasa Indonesia translation subtitle of English slang expressions. The offline ad online dictionary from both Indonesia and English were used as the basic guidance of the analysis of accuracy level. Meanwhile, there are two readers who value the level of meaning naturalness of Bahasa Indonesia subtitle of English slang expressions found in the movie. The data show that there are 103 slang expressions found in the movie. There are 41 expressions or 39.80% of the high level accuracy; 14 and 9 expressions for medium level which are indicated by omission and addition; and 31 and 8 expression for low level which are indicated by different and zero meaning. It means most of the Bahasa Indonesia translation of English slang expressions is highly accurate. Meanwhile, reader 1 pointed there are 68 expressions or 66.01% of natural level; 29 expressions or 28.15% of less natural; and 6 expressions or 5.82% of low natural level. Then, reader 2 pointed there are 41 expressions or 39.80% of natural level; 42 expressions or 40.77% of less natural; and 20 expressions or 19.41% of unnatural level. It indicates that, although there is a slightly difference between reader 1 and reader 2, most of the Bahasa Indonesia translation of English slang expressions found in the movie are on natural level.

INTRODUCTION

Human beings and language cannot be separated from each other in society. Created as social beings, people need a language to communicate and to build a relationship with others. In this interaction, language becomes the primary means of communication. By using language, they reveal their ideas, express their feelings, make a joke with others, give information, command someone to do something, influence someone and etc.

Film is one of many ways to learn English. Through films we can learn not only the language, but also the country and people's customs, manners, tradition, etc. There are conversations in films that can reflect or represent their daily lives, besides the movement or the setting. Conversation or dialog in films is one of the most important things. By observing the dialog, we can know about all of those things above. Of course, the source to "dig" deeper to their culture through film is not only by learning from their dialog, but still dialog can be a great helper if you want to learn about their culture.

The film that the reasearcher wants to talk about in this study is a film entitled "Tropic Thunder". It is a 2008 American action comedy film co-written, co-produced, directed, and co-starred by Ben Stiller. The film also co-stars Robert Downey, Jr. and Jack Black. The story is about Ben Stiller's satirical look at Hollywood. *Tropic Thunder* concerns the production of an epic Vietnam War film that faces a failure because of the giant egos of everyone involved in the production. The first reason why researcher chose the film is because the film has received many good appreciations and it has many famous actors playing in it. The second is because the detail plot of the film. The theme of the film is interesting because it consists of social critics about filming in Hollywood. The critics are wrapped with action-comedy on the film. The last is, researcher found many slang language that is used in dialogue in the films. The slang that is found in the film is a kind of slang words that are unique according to researcher and it gives a challenge to translate it. The researcher limits the source of

data only on the use of slang language.

The reason why the researcher chooses only accuracy and naturalness is because the researcher thought these two factors are the most important aspect in Translation Quality Assessment. Accuracy dealt with the meaning between SL and TL. It means how far the meaning on the TL matches the original form on the SL. Then, naturalness deals with how the translation "tastes" like the TL. It means how the native of the TL understand the translation as they understand if it is a literature in their own language, not a literature written in foreign language and be translated. The objectives of the research are: (1) to determine the extent of accuracy of slang expressions of English subtitle of *Tropic Thunder* movie that is represented in its Indonesian subtitle. (2) to determine the extent of naturalness of slang expressions of English subtitle of *Tropic Thunder* movie that is represented in its Indonesian subtitle.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research was categorized as descriptive qualitative research. According to Suryawinata and Hariyanto (2003:173), research on translation errors, translation procedures according to the type of text, and so on, would be freely approached with qualitative design. By using the method the researcher will be able to explain or describe the important phenomena in the research.. This research was also supported by a quantitative analysis in which the researcher used numbers and percentages measuring the level of accuracy and naturalness for the slang expressions translation. The primary instrument was the researcher himself. Meanwhile, the secondary instrument in this research was data sheet. The researcher also uses two readers to determine the level of naturalness of translation of slang expressions.

The data of the research are slang expression units in English subtitle that are translated into Indonesian subtitle. The expression units can be in forms of phrases or words which have appeared in the English subtitle movie entitled

Tropic Thunder and its Indonesian subtitle as data source. The researcher chooses to analyze all the slang expressions appeared on the movie. The technique of collecting data was visual analysis. First, the researcher watched the movie. Then, he retrieved the script from the Internet. Next, watched the DVD version of the movie which used Bahasa Indonesia. The, the researcher identified the slang expression in the dialogue and looked for the equivalence of meaning and its naturalness in the Indonesian subtitle.

According to Sutopo (2006:257), the analysis process in qualitative method must be done at the first together with the data collecting process. In counting the percentage of the level of meaning accuracy and expression naturalness, Bungin's formula (2005:171) is used.

The techniques to achieve trustworthiness of the data are through 4 criteria. They are credibility, dependability, conformability, and transferability. Credibility serves as an inquiry to gain reliability. In achieving credibility, the researcher carried out deep and detailed observation of the data, so the data can be regarded credible. The researcher watches and reads the movie and its dialogue in both languages, English (source text) and Indonesia (target text), repeatedly in order to get the same conclusion; the data were coordinate with the research question. To get dependability of the data, the researcher used the triangulation technique. It means that he used sources outside the data to verify the data themselves or to compare them. The researcher tended to use other observers and sources. In utilizing observers, the researcher looked for some experts' judgment to confirm the obtained data. The researcher also consulted the research analysis to his thesis consultants. The consultants analyzed the research process and the data whether it is correct or still need to be analyzed. Hopefully, the judgments and suggestion of the consultants and the triangulation partners for the research gave advantages to the accuracy of the findings.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

There are 103 slang expressions found in the movie. The result of the highest level of accuracy is high level or accurate. It consists of 41 expressions out of 102 expressions or 40.19%. Meanwhile, the medium level reaches total 22.54 % with detail omission has 13.72% or 14 expressions and addition has 9 expressions out of 102 expressions. On the other hand, low level of accuracy has total 37. 25%. It is divided into 29.41 % or 30 expressions for different meaning and 7.84% or 8 expressions for zero meaning. This shows the dominance of high level of accuracy or fully accurate. From 41 expressions that are reached accurate level, a lot of them are translated literally. So it matches between the SL and the TL.

Meanwhile, the level of naturalness as stated by the table above is analyzed by asking the degree of naturalness from two readers. The readers determine the level of naturalness by reading the SL and compare it with the translation. As we can see, reader 1 judged most of the translations are natural. He pointed 68 out of 103 of the slang expressions or 66.01% are translated naturally into TL. Each less natural and unnatural level is pointed 29 and 6 expressions or 28.15% and 5.82%.

On the other hand, reader 2 judged there are many less natural translation of the slang expression. He pointed there are 42 out of 103 expressions or 40.77% that are translated less naturally. Then, he found that there are 41 expressions are translated naturally and 20 expressions are translated unnaturally 39.80% for natural and 19.41% for unnatural.

The following are the example of the levels of accuracy of translation of slang expressions.

a) **High Level**

SL: Think you can get us back to that **drop zone**, boy?

TL: Apakah kau bisa membawa kami ke **tempat awal**?

, the slang expression on the TL has the meaning a place where someone stops. It can be interpreted as a place where the group on the movie arrived as they landed from the helicopter. On the TL, it is translated as *tempat awal*. Although the expression is not

translated literally, but the meaning still equivalent with the SL because it still has the same meaning. *Tempat awal* also can be interpreted as a place where someone begins their journey, on the movie it is a place where the group started their shooting. So, the translation is fully accurate and matched contextually with the scene on the movie.

b) Medium level (omission)

SL: Motown, **get your Detroit jukebox Jheri curl ass** in this chickenshit chop-chop**! ASAFP!**

TL: Motown, **ayo masuk** ke helikopter butut ini**! Cepat!**

The translator omitted the meaning and the grammatical of the SL and translated simpler expressions. On the first expression, the omitted part is the meaning. The translator changed the meaning of the expression into a simpler one. On the SL, the speaker said to the listener to get in to the helicopter, but with an insult expression. On the TL, it simply translated into *ayo masuk*. Still, it is a command expression, but there is a meaning loss on the

translation process. The urgency of the command on the SL is missing when it translated into the TL expression. On the second expression, the translator changed the grammatical structure of the expression. Expression **ASAFP** stands for **A**s **S**oon **A**s **F**ucking **P**ossible. Yet, it only translated as *cepat!*. There is a meaning loss in the process. The urgency of the command is loss again in the process. The translator chose to simplify the translation in order to make the readers understand easier because such expressions do not exist on the TL. Yet, the meanings of the expressions are loss somehow.

c) Medium level (addition)

SL: Whiskey Fire Old Snake requests an **LZ prep**…

TL: Whiskey Fire Old meminta **tempat pendaratan disiapkan**…..

the translator used addition to explain the meaning of the phrase. **LZ** is a military slang expression that has meaning **Landing Zone** and the word **prep** is stand for **preparation**. If the expression is translated

literally without using addition, it would be *TP disiap. . .* It would be hard to understand even for the Indonesian readers because the expression is unnatural on the TL. The translator expanded the translation of the expression so the readers can understand the meaning of the expression.

d) Low level (different meaning)

SL: I love the **pussy,** hell yeah!

TL: Aku suka **perempuan**

According to *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, **pussy** means cat, while, on the TL it is translated into *perempuan*. On the slang term, **pussy** can have a meaning for woman's genital organ or having sex with woman. So, the translator used the meaning of the slang term in order to translate the expression. Although, the expression does not literally translated because of the norm issue but the meaning is fully carried to the TL. Still, the expression between the SL and the TL is differently translated. The expression also used in daily conversation on the TL.

e) Low level (zero meaning)

SL: **Pop an ass open!**

TL**: Bukalah kalengnya!**

On the SL, if the expression is translated literally it would become *letupkan sebuah pantat!*. Meanwhile, on the TL it is translated into *bukalah kalengnya!*. The translator interpreted the meaning of the expression and translated it into expression that can be used on the TL. If the translator translated it literally, the expression cannot be understood by the readers because it has no meaning at all. The literally translated expression of the SL is not used daily on the TL so the readers of the TL cannot understand the meaning of the translation and the translated expression is cannot be used on the movie. The translator try to translate the expression by make the context on the movie (the scene) and the translation equivalent.

Then, the following are example of analysis of naturalness

level of slang expressions translation found in the movie.

a) Natural level

SL: Whiskey Fire Old Snake requests an **LZ prep**…

TL: Whiskey Fire Old meminta **tempat pendaratan disiapkan**…..

, the two readers have the same opinion that the translations are considered have the natural level. Even though the first and second expression are in abbreviation forms, the readers considered they are translated naturally because the readers have the basic knowledge to what the abbreviations mean. They know the expression LZ stands for Landing Zone and RP stands for Release Point. If it translated into TL it would be *Tempat pendaratan* and if Release point translated literally, it would be become *tempat pelepasan*, but the translator changed it into *titik berkumpul* which is according to the two readers is a natural expression on the TL. The two readers judged those expressions have natural level also because the expressions are matched well with the context on the movie.

b) Less natural

SL: You **shit the money-bed**, my friend.

TL: Kau **membuang-buang uang studio**, kawan.

The two readers agree that the translations of the expressions are less natural. If the third expression on the table translated literally, it would have no meaning because such the expression cannot be translated literally. So, the translator free-translated it in order to make the translation easier to understand. There are also added meaning on the translation. The word *studio* on the translation result is the word that is added by the translator. It is the point where the two readers thought that the translator become less natural. On the SL, it is only mentioned **the money-bed**, there are no word *studio*. Yet, on the translation, the translator added the word *studio*. The added word could have a purpose to make the readers of the translation easier to understand the translation.

c) Unnatural

SL: **We're loaded**

TL: **Kita kaya raya**

, the two readers have same opinion about the level on naturalness of the translation. They agree that the translation of the slang expression is unnatural. The translation of the slang translation as it is stated on the movie subtitle is *kita kaya raya*. It can be seen that there is no equivalence meaning of the SL and TL and it affect the level of naturalness of the translation. The word **loaded** on the SL can have a meaning of something that have a full capacity, but it is translated into *kaya raya* on the TL. The two readers determine it is unnatural because of the factor.

CONCLUSIONS

After collecting and identifying the data, the researcher finds out that there are 103 slang expressions in the movie. The slang expressions found in the movie consist of military slang and vulgar expressions. Those expressions are analyzed by categorized into two research subjects, accuracy and naturalness. The accuracy only focuses on the meaning translation of the expressions and the naturalness focuses on the translation of the expressions.

The analysis shows that on the case of accuracy, the highest percentage is achieved by Accurate or High Level of accuracy with 39.80% or there are 41 expressions that categorized as accurate. The second highest level is belonged to Different Meaning or categorized as Low Level of accuracy with 30.09% or 31 expressions out of 103 expressions. Medium level accuracy which is divided into omission and addition is having each 13.59% or 14 expressions and 8.73% or 9 expressions. The rest 7.76% belongs to Zero meaning 8 expressions out of 103 expressions. The results show that the translation of the slang expressions on the movie text has a high level of accuracy. It means that the translation of the SL is highly equivalent with the TL. The high number of accurate level indicates that even when the form of the expressions is changed by the

translator, the meaning of the expressions still can be delivered.

The level of naturalness is analyzed by asking the degree of naturalness from two readers. The readers determine the level of naturalness by reading the SL and compare it with the translation. As we can see, reader 1 judged most of the translations are natural. He pointed 68 out of 103 of the slang expressions or 66.01% are translated naturally into TL, while less natural and unnatural level is pointed 29 and 6 expressions or 28.15% and 5.82%. On the other hand, reader 2 rated there are many less natural translation of the slang expression. He pointed there are 42 out of 103 expressions or 40.77% that are translated less naturally. Then, he found that there are 41 expressions are translated naturally and 20 expressions are translated unnaturally 39.80% for natural and 19.41% for unnatural. From the result, it can be concluded that the two readers have different opinion about the naturalness level of the translations. According to Reader 1, most of the translations are natural or it can be easily understood by the readers. Meanwhile, according Reader 2, most of the translations are less natural or it is a little difficult for the readers to understand the translation.

.

SUGGESTIONS

In this writing, the researcher only discusses about the translation of the slang expressions that are found on the movie text. Therefore, the writer would like to suggest the other students who are interested in doing research about translation to analyze other aspect that have not been discussed here. Furthermore, in doing translation, a translator should understand the proper use of the expressions so that he or she will be able to produce good work of translation. The other important thing that should be noted by the translator is that Indonesian translators should understand *KBBI* (The Great Dictionary of Indonesian Language) in order to produce translated texts in Indonesian. Moreover, the translator should understand the differences of cultural background between the Source Language and the Target

Language; hence their translation can be accepted in the Target Language.

REFERENCES

Bungin, B. 2005. *Metodologi Penelitian Kuantitatif: Komunikasi, Ekonomi, dan Kebijakan Publik serta Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial Lainnya*. Jakarta: Prenada Media.

Suryawinata, Z. and Haryanto, S. 2003. *Translation: Bahasan Teori dan Penuntun Praktis Menerjemahkan*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Kanisius.

Sutopo, H. B. 2006. *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif, Dasar Teori dan Terapannya dalam Penelitian. Surakarta*: Universitas Sebelas Maret.