

VERBAL HUMOR IN *GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY* AND ITS BAHASA INDONESIA SUBTITLING TEXT

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Abstract

This research attempts to analyze how verbal humor in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie is translated into *Bahasa Indonesia*. In doing so, three objectives are formulated: 1) to describe the types of verbal humor found in *Guardian of The Galaxy* movie, 2) to describe the strategies used by the translator to translate the verbal humor in *Guardian of The Galaxy* into Indonesian subtitle, and 3) to evaluate the impacts of the translation strategies on the degree of acceptability in verbal humor in *Guardian of The Galaxy* Indonesian subtitle. This research employed a descriptive qualitative method since it provides descriptions of translation phenomena in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie. The data of this research were taken from words, phrases and sentences that contain verbal humor found in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie and its *Bahasa Indonesia* subtitle. They were collected manually from English text as the phonic channel and *Bahasa Indonesia* text as the graphic channel of the original DVD of *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie. The researcher was the main instrument in this research. To gain trustworthiness, triangulation method was applied. The results of this research show three important findings. First, the types of verbal humor found in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie are verbal irony, allusion and wordplay. Among them, verbal irony is in the highest number of occurrence. It can be concluded that verbal irony is the most common types of verbal humor that the audiences can easily comprehend. Second, the strategies used to translate the verbal humor are transfer, paraphrase, condensation, imitation, deletion, transcription and decimation in which transfer becomes the most frequently used strategy. It is because the translation of verbal humor in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie still focuses on transfer the meaning of the humor, not on how to make the verbal humor in the target text. Third, from 48 data, 33 data of verbal humor in this research are considered acceptable, 13 data are considered less acceptable and 2 data are considered unacceptable. It indicates that the verbal humor translation of *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie is acceptable.

Keywords: translation, subtitling, verbal humor, degree of acceptability, *Guardian of the Galaxy*.

INTRODUCTION

Entertaining movie is one that could capture the audience's interest and it usually contains humor. Yet, humor is not a universal thing that could easily be understood by anyone in any country. Thus, the ability of the translator in translating humor in the movie is highly required. Humor is a big thing when it comes to translation. Not only the language from the ST that is translated to the TT that matters, but also the fact that not all countries share the same way to deliver humor. Although some of them are universal and can easily be understood by many people across the countries, but, when it occur in a particular movie from a particular country, the humor will be difficult to be transferred. However, a translator

who masters both the source language and the target language will have to consider some factors before translating difficult expressions like humor

Guardian of the Galaxy superhero-comedy movie is the object of the research. This movie is originally using English and in order to help people to understand, a *Bahasa Indonesia* subtitle is provided in the movie. *Guardian of the Galaxy* contains a lot of jokes that suits the researcher's thesis about humor. Thus, *Guardian of the Galaxy* is an interesting object to be studied. The researcher would like to analyze whether the SE and the TE, especially the expressions that contain humorous expression, are rendered in a good way or not.

There are three objectives in this research; to describe the types of verbal humor found in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie; to describe the strategies used by the translator to translate the verbal humor in *English spoken text* of *Guardian of the Galaxy*, and; to evaluate the impacts of the translation strategies on the degree of acceptability in English verbal humor in *Bahasa Indonesia* written text of *Guardian of the Galaxy*.

To analyze the type of verbal humor in *Guardian of the Galaxy*, the researcher used three frameworks of theories in this research. The first framework discussed the classifications of verbal humor. The data in this research will be divided into three categories based on the types of verbal humor they contain. The theory applied to analyze the

translation of verbal humor in this research is the one proposed by Spanakaki (2007). They are wordplay, allusion, and verbal irony.

The second framework discussed the classification of subtitling strategies. The researcher used theory proposed by Gotlieb (1992) which contains ten subtitle translation strategies to deal with the problem of subtitling. They are expansion, paraphrase, transfer, imitation, transcription, dislocation, condensation, decimation, deletion and resignation.

The third framework explains the degree of acceptability which adapted from Nababan, Nuraeni and Sumardiono (2012). To produce an acceptable translation, a translator should make the translation sounds natural in the target language. Acceptability is divided into three.

They are acceptable, less acceptable and unacceptable.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research conducted by the researcher is using descriptive qualitative method. This research aim at describing the phenomena found in the translation of verbal humor in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie. It analyses the types of verbal humor, the techniques used to translate verbal humor and the degree of equivalence of the verbal humor. Thus, a qualitative method is considered relevant to be applied in this research.

The data of this research are words, phrases and sentences containing verbal humor found in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie in English spoken expression and its *Bahasa Indonesia* subtitling text,

while the context of the data is the dialogues of the characters in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie. So, the data sources are the English spoken text and the *Bahasa Indonesia* written text of *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie.

In this research, the researcher is the main instrument in this research and the data sheet is the supporting instrument used to record and classify the verbal humor data in the movie.

The steps taken to collect the data for this research include: watching the movie several times to get an insight about the phenomena under study, which is the translation of verbal humor, transcribing the English text that contains verbal humor and their *Bahasa Indonesia* subtitling text, identifying all verbal humor and their translations as the

main data, classifying the verbal humor and their translations, comparing the data and made classification based on their subtitling strategies, classifying based on the acceptability of meaning, and putting the data into the data sheet.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In regards to the types of the verbal humor in *Guardian of the Galaxy*, there are three types of verbal humor found in this research. They are wordplay, allusion and verbal irony. verbal irony is the most frequent type of verbal humor with 66.67 % data occurrence. It is followed by allusion in the second place with 25 % data occurrence and wordplay with 8.33 % data occurrence in the third place. It can be concluded that verbal irony is the most common type of verbal humor.

It is used in common daily conversation and come out as the most ordinary form of verbal humor that the audiences can easily comprehend.

Regarding to the types of subtitling strategies, out of ten ten subtitling strategies, seven strategies are applied by the translator in translating the English spoken expression of *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie. the analysis shows that out of 48 data, transfer is the most frequent subtitling strategy used by the translator in translating the verbal humor dialogue with 29.17 % of occurrence. The second and the third ranks with 16.67 % are paraphrase and condensation. Imitation is on the fourth rank with 14.58 % occurrence, deletion 12.5 % and last but not least, decimation is

on the seventh rank with 2.08 % occurrence.

The last finding is in regards to the degree of acceptability of the translation of verbal humor in *Guardian of the Galaxy*. Based on the analysis, the researcher found that 68.75 % data in the research are belong to acceptable degree. The researcher also found 27.08 % data are belong to less acceptable degree and 4.17 % data are belong to unacceptable degree. The findings indicate that the translation of verbal humor in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie is considered acceptable.

1. Types of Verbal Humor in *Guardian of the Galaxy*

a. Verbal Irony

SE:

Peter: Shut up. Hey! What is that?

Rocket: **That's for if things get really hardcore.** Or if you wanna blow up moons.

TE:

Peter: Diam. Hei. Apa ini?

Rocket: **Untuk keadaan mendesak.** Atau meledakkan bulan.

(Datum number: 25/Vi/Cn/Lac)

The expression above is a hyperbolic expression that is translated with condensation strategy. The expression “*That's for if things get really hardcore*” is translated into “*Untuk keadaan mendesak*” is considered less acceptable because the hyperbolic expression from SE cannot be felt by the audiences. For suggestion, the translator can translate it with expansion strategy into “*Ini untuk keadaan super gawat darurat.*”

b. Allusion

SE:

Drax: How are we gonna leave?

Peter: Well, he's got a plan. Right?

Or is that another thing you made up?

Rocket: I have a plan! I have a plan!

Drax: Cease your yammering and relieve us from this irksome confinement.

Peter: Yeah, I'll have to agree with the walking **thesaurus** on that one.

Drax: Do not ever call me a **thesaurus**.

TE:

Drax: Bagaimana kita akan pergi?

Peter: Dia punya rencana. Benar?

Atau itu karanganmu juga?

Rocket: Aku punya rencana!

Drax: Hentikan ocehanmu dan bebaskan kami dari kurungan ini.

Peter: Aku setuju dengan **kamus** berjalan ini dalam hal itu.

Drax: Jangan panggil aku **kamus**.

(Datum number 22/AI/Tr/Ac)

The expression *walking*

thesaurus above is a proper name

allusion which translated into *kamus*

berjalan with transfer strategy. It

directly reminds us of a dictionary.

Since the translation can easily be

understood and arising amusement,

the translation is considered

acceptable.

c. Wordplay

SE:

Corpsman: He says that he's an "a hole." But he's not, and I'm quoting

him, here, "**100 % a dick.**" Nova:

Do you believe him? Corpsman: I

don't know if I believe anyone is

100 % a dick ma'am. Nova: I mean

do you believe that he is here to

help?

Corpsman: Yeah.

TE:

Corpsman: Dia bilang dia seorang "bedebah" tapi dia tidak, dan aku mengutip kata-katanya "**100 persen brengsek**".

Nova: Kau percaya dia?

Corpsman: Aku tak percaya ada orang yang 100 persen brengsek.

Nova: Kau percaya dia disini untuk menolong?

Corpsman: Ya.

(Datum number: 46/Wp/Tc/Ac)

The verbal humor found in the SE is wordplay in the form of homonymy.

In translating the expression, the translator uses transcription strategy.

The word *dick* in the expression is considered as a slang and unusual

expression that cannot be translated

literally into the TE. Along with the

context of the conversation, the

translator translates the expression

into *brengsek*. This translation is

considered acceptable and can be perceived well by the audiences.

2. Subtitling Strategies in Translation of Verbal Humor in *Guardian of the Galaxy*

a. Transfer

SE:

Rocket: ... Look at this guy! **Can you believe they call us criminals, when he's assaulting us with that haircut?**

TE:

Rocket: ...Lihat orang ini! **Kau percaya mereka sebut kita penjahat sementara dia menghina kita dengan potongan rambutnya?**

(Datum number: 08/Vi/Tr/Unc)

The utterance is a hyperbolic expression translated with transfer strategy. It is considered unacceptable because the TE sounds like translation and the meaning of the TE cannot be understood. Thus, the humor lost its essence. For suggestion, the translator can use paraphrase strategy and translate it into "*Orang-orang ini menyebut kita*

penjahat, menata rambutnya saja mereka tidak becus"

b. Paraphrase

SE:

Rocket: ...**Look how it thinks it's so cool. It's not cool to get help!** Walk by yourself, you little gargoyle...

TE:

Rocket: ...**Dia pikir dirinya keren. Minta bantuan tidaklah keren!** Jalanlah sendiri, Monster kecil. ...

(Datum number: 09/Vi/Pp/Ac)

It is considered funny that a little raccoon grumbling such thing and not knowing that a baby can't walk by him/her self. The expression is a verbal irony which translated using paraphrase strategy where some unimportant words are omitted, yet, it can still be understood and the humor can still be felt. Thus, the translation considered acceptable.

c. Condensation

SE:

Peter: Shut up. Hey! What is that?

Rocket: That's for if things get really hardcore. Or if you wanna blow up moons.

Peter: No one's blowing up moons.

Rocket: **You just wanna suck the joy out of everything.**

TE:

Peter: Diam. Hei. Apa ini?

Rocket: Untuk keadaan mendesak.

Atau meledakkan bulan.

Peter: Tak ada yang meledakkan bulan.

Rocket: **Kau selalu merusak kesenangan.**

(Datum number: 27/Vi/Cn/Ac)

The utterance uttered by Rocket is a hyperbolic translation translated with condensation strategy which translated into "*kau selalu merusak kesenangan*" and considered acceptable, because, although there are many reductions in the expression, the main idea / message can still be found in the translation. Thus, the translation of the SE is acceptable.

d. Imitation

SE:

Peter: Hey! Listen to me, you big blue bastard. Take those headphones

off. That's mine. Those belong to impound. That tape and that player is mine! (The jailer attack Peter with an electric shot, while Hooked on a Feeling song played)

Peter: **Hooked on a Feeling.** Blue Swede, 1973. That song belongs to me!"

TE:

Peter: Hei! Dengar, Raksasa biru bedebah. Lepaskan headphone itu. Itu punyaku. Itu milik barang sitaan. Pita rekaman dan pemutar itu punyaku!

Peter: **Hooked on A Feeling.** Blue Swede, 1973. Lagu itu punyaku!

(Datum number: 19/Al/Im/Ac)

The use of imitation strategy in allusion, especially in this expression is precise because it does not need to be changed in the translation version in order to maintain the cultural features of the SL in which somehow will be lost if the translator does not maintain the SL form. Thus, it can be concluded that the translation is acceptable.

e. Deletion

SE:

Korath: Drop it now!

Peter: **Hey, cool, man.** No problem.
No problem at all.

TE:

Korath: Letakkan, sekarang!

Peter: **Tenanglah.** Tidak masalah.
Sama sekali tidak masalah.

(Datum number: 01/Vi/DI/Unc)

The expression “*Hey, cool, man.*” is considered unacceptable because the translator omitting *hey* and *man* and translates it into “*Tenanglah.*” that results in less funny expression. For suggestion, the translator can maintain the words of the SE and translate it into, “*Hey, santailah sedikit bro*”.

f. Transcription

SE:

Rocket: ...What is this thing? Look how it thinks it’s so cool. It’s not cool to get help! Walk by yourself, you little **gargoyle**...

TE:

Rocket: ...Mahluk apa itu? Dia pikir dirinya keren. Minta bantuan tidaklah keren! Jalanlah sendiri, **Monster** kecil. ...

(Datum number: 10/Al/Tc/Ac)

The expression above was translated using transcription strategy. The expression *little gargoyle* is quite uncommon for the target audiences, in this case Indonesian audiences. This translation is considered acceptable. It can be seen from the naturalness of the translation that does not feel like one.

g. Decimation

SE:

Rocket: Xandarians. What a bunch of losers. **All of them in a big hurry to get from something stupid to nothing at all.** Pathetic....

TE:

Rocket: Bangsa Xandar. Sekumpulan pecundang. **Semuanya tergesa-gesa berubah dari hal bodoh menjadi nihil!** Menyedihkan.

(Datum number: 07/Vi/Dc/Unc)

The expression above is a hyperbolic expression which is considered amusing because it is said

by a little know-it-all Raccoon who does not have any idea about what the human do. The expression above was translated with decimation strategy into “*Semuanya tergesa-gesa berubah dari hal bodoh menjadi nihil!*” and considered unacceptable.

3. Degree of Acceptability in Verbal Humor Translation in *Guardian of the Galaxy*

a. Acceptable

SE:

Gamora:...It's dangerous and illegal work, suitable only for outlaws.

Peter: Well, I come from a planet of outlaws. **Billy the Kid, Bonnie and Clyde, John Stamos.**

Drax: It sounds like a place, which I would like to visit.

Peter: Yeah, you should."

TE:

"Gamora: Ini pekerjaan yang berbahaya dan ilegal, cocok untuk penjahat.

Peter: Aku datang dari planet penjahat. **Billy The Kid, Bonnie dan Clyde, John Stamos.**

Drax: Aku jadi ingin kesana.

Peter: Datanglah.

(Datum number: 32/AI/Im/Ac)

Those names belong to proper name allusion which makes the scene funny. The use of imitation strategy is acceptable because by preserving the form of the utterance, the humor can be felt by the audiences.

b. Less Acceptable

SE:

Peter: Shut up. Hey! What is that?

Rocket: That's for if things get really hardcore. **Or if you wanna blow up moons.**

TE:

Peter: Diam. Hei. Apa ini?

Rocket: Untuk keadaan mendesak. **Atau meledakkan bulan.**

(Datum number: 26/Vi/Cn/Lac)

The utterance “*Or if you wanna blow up moons.*” was translated using condensation strategy into “*Atau meledakkan bulan.*”. Some parts of the SE are omitted which results in the grammatically incorrect

translation, less amusing and hardly to be understood. For suggestion, the translator can use transfer strategy and translate it into “*Atau jika kau ingin meledakkan bulan.*”

c. Unacceptable

SE:

Rocket: Xandarians. What a bunch of losers. **All of them in a big hurry to get from something stupid to nothing at all.** Pathetic....

TE:

Rocket: Bangsa Xandar. Sekumpulan pecundang. **Semuanya tergesa-gesa berubah dari hal bodoh menjadi nihil!** Menyedihkan.

(Datum number: 07/Vi/Dc/Unc)

The expression above is a hyperbolic expression translated with decimation strategy into “*Semuanya tergesa-gesa berubah dari hal bodoh menjadi nihil!*” and considered unacceptable. Some important parts of the text are omitted in the TE. It makes the TE sounds a lot like translation which results in the humor difficult to be understood.

For suggestion, the translator can use paraphrase strategy to make the translation more comprehensive and acceptable. The translation should be “*Semua orang tergesa-gesa untuk mengejar berbagai hal mulai dari yang bodoh hingga yang tidak penting!*”

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion, there are some points that can be concluded from this research. The first findings indicates that verbal irony is the most common types of verbal humor that the audiences can easily comprehend. Since this type of verbal humor used in common daily conversation, it comes out as the most ordinary form of verbal humor that people can easily understand. Besides, verbal irony covers the widest scope among the other verbal humor types.

Regarding the second objectives of the research which related to the subtitling strategies in translating the verbal humor, the result of the research indicates that the translation of verbal humor in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie is still very much focus on transferring the meaning of the humor, not on how to recreate the verbal humor to be understood as the original version of humor in the target text.

In the respect of the third objective, it can be concluded that the translation is acceptable for the TL audience. The findings indicate that almost all of the translation of verbal humor in *Guardian of the Galaxy* movie can maintain both the verbal humor and the message of the SE at the same time and transfer strategy gives the most significant impact compared to the other

strategies in producing acceptable translations while condensation strategy gives quite a significant impact after transfer strategy in producing less acceptable translations.

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