CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In this era, translating is very needed in order to make other people or reader understand what the speaker talks about or the author writes in his or her books, poems, or other kinds of work. There are lots of translating results as we can see almost in all fields, beginning from educational to entertainment world. Translating itself is the process to transfer or to put up something written or spoken in a different form from the Source Language (SL) into the Target Language (TL). Translating is an important activity for people in this era, the activity which is not only important for the translator himself/herself but also important for the scientist–especially for those active in computer technology as a media that can observe the development of science and modern technology (Yusuf, 1994: 7).

A translator must convey the messages or ideas written in the Source Language (SL) into the Target Language (TL). However, it is difficult to do it since each language has different culture and system of language. But a translator is not only limited by his or her knowledge in grammatical structure and differences of the language culture and system but also limited by the implicit meaning conveyed in the Source Language.

There are various types of meaning that should be known by a translator in order to translate the messages correctly. An *implicit meaning* is the message which is not conveyed explicitly in the text.

A translator must have an ability or knowledge to catch the various types of implicit meaning written in the text. This kind of ability is very important for the translator to avoid any mistakes in doing the translation work so that the readers are not confused with the message written in the text. It is very important to deliver the implicit meaning into the target language. Therefore, in this research, the writer will try to analyze the existence of implicit meaning in the translation. In addition, she hopes that she could apply her experiences and the research findings to support her career as the translator in the future.

1.2 Theoretical Framework

1.2.1 Translation

As stated by Barnwell (1986:8) being a translator has become an internationally practiced profession since about thirty years ago. This is mainly caused by a certain idea that anyone has the right to speak and write in their own language although it is addressed not only for the people who use the same language. Moreover, in some countries, translations are more widely read than the original works. Therefore, translation, which had been treated as a neglected field, becomes an important skill to be practiced. In general, translation can be defined as the process of expressing the meaning of a material, including a text, in a different language. Through a translating process, people with different language can share messages or information, especially written ones, to each other without having difficulties caused by language differences. Larson (1984:10) states that a goal of a translator should be to produce a receptor language text (a translation)

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which is idiomatic; that is, one which has the same meaning as the source language but is expressed in the natural form of the receptor language.

According to Larson (1984: 3) translation is basically a change of form, the form of a language that refers to the actual words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, etc. which are spoken or written. In translation, the form of the source language is replaced by the form of the receptor (target) language. The form from which the translation is made will be called the source language and the form into which is to be changed will be called the receptor language.

Larson (1084:10) also states that a "word-for-word" translation which follows closely the form of the source language is called a literal translation. A literal translation is useful if one is studying the structure of the source text as in an interlinear translation, but a literal translation does not communicate the meaning of the source text.

Translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language. Each exercise involves some kind of loss of continuous tension, dialectic, an argument based on the claims of each language. The basic loss is on a continuum between overtranslation (increased detail) and undertranslation (increased generalization) (Newmark, 1984: 7).

A good translation has to make sense, read naturally, and be written in the ordinary language, the common grammar, idioms, and words that meet that kind of situation (Newmark, 1988: 24).

The most important thing of a good translation is that it should be accurate, clear, and natural (Larson, 1984: 485).

Natural usage comprises a variety of idioms or styles or registers determined primarily by the 'setting' of the text, i.e. where it is typically published or found, secondary by the author, topic and readership, all of whom are usually on the setting (Newmark, 1988: 26).

For the vast majority of texts, translators have to pay attention to: (1) word order; (2) common structures; (3) cognate words; (4) the appropriateness of gerunds, infinitives, verb-nouns; (5) lexical uses; (6) the use of the articles, progressive tenses, noun compounding, collocations, and the currency of idioms and metaphors (Newmark, 1988: 27).

Communicative translation is the one that transfers the precise contextual meaning in a certain way that both the content and the language are acceptable and understandable to the readers (Newmark, 1988).

Communicative translation, compared to semantic translation, tends to be smoother, simpler, clearer, more direct, more conventional, matches with a certain register of language, more likely to undertranslate, i.e. to use more generic, general terms in difficult passages (Newmark, 1984: 39).

Furthermore, Barnwell (1986: 8) stated that translation is re-telling, as exactly as possible, the meaning of the original message in a way that is natural in the language into which the translation is being made. Thus, it requires a translator's particular skill and training.

In translating process, a translator does not only translate a text literally. He/she also has responsibility to adapt the source language (SL) culture into the target language (TL) culture. It is important as every language has its own particular culture that affects the whole content of any text conveyed in that

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language. Thus, a translator has to be able to adapt each and every part of the SL text so that it is understandable when read by the readers with the TL culture background. Nevertheless, it is a great responsibility for a translator to keep the authority of the original writer. It means that the translator has no rights to change any information contained in the SL text. There will be no addition or deletion of important information allowed.

However, it is also important for a translator to produce a 'readable' translation. It is true that the first step for a translation, to translate the text quite literally is applicable. But a translator has to consider whether the readers will enjoy it as an interesting reading as it is in the SL, for example. The goal can not be achieved if the translator put accuracy above anything else. As a result, the criteria of the qualified translation are abandoned.

1.2.2 Implicit Situational Meaning

According to Larson (1984: 41) there are two types of information, they are implicit and explicit. In every context of a language, there are some information expressed explicitly, and there are information left implicit. Implicit information are referential, organizational, and/or situational. Implicit referential meaning is that the references to certain things, events, attributes, and relations are left implicit. The information left implicit is called referential meaning, but it is left implicit to signal the organizational meaning. Later, information which is left implicit when talking to one person might be made explicit when talking to another. This condition is called implicit situational meaning.

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There are two kinds of translation according to Larson (1984:15), they are form-based and meaning-based. Larson (1984) further clarifies that form-based translation attempts to follow the form of the course language and are known as literal translation. Meaning-based translation makes every effort to communicate the meaning of the source language text in the natural forms of the receptor language. Such translations are called idiomatic translation.

There are three kinds of meaning, referential meaning, organizational meaning and situational meaning. Referential meaning is a kind of meaning refers to a certain thing, event, attribution, or relation which a person can perceive or imagine. It is the informational content. Organizational meaning is signaled by deictic, repetition, groupings, and by many other features in the grammatical structure of a text. Situational meaning, the relationship between the writer or speaker and the addressee will affect the communication, i.e. where the communication takes place, when it takes place, the age, sex, and the social status of the speaker and the addressee and many other situational matters (Larson, 1984:36).

Related to translation, this feature may cause a problem. Every culture has its own referential meaning. The reference in one certain circumstance is not always known by people from other cultures. However, an author is more likely to write a text for a readership from the same cultural background as his. This can create a problem when a translator finds a referential meaning that is not known by the target language audience. Therefore, it is for the translator to decide whether the information will be left implicit or be expressed explicitly by adding

the information. Making implicit of a message means that the words are omitted, but the semantic content can be recovered from 'between the lines' (Ingo, 1990).

Nevertheless, implicit information needs to be added only when it is needed to communicate correct meaning or to assure naturalness of form in the target language translation (Larson, 1984).

1.2.3 Translation Theory

Translating is not easy as it seems, though. Although it is simply about transferring or rendering a text into another language, not everyone who has the ability to actively use both SL and TL can do the translation. What most people can do is figuring out the writer's intention and re-telling. Whereas, it is a heavy duty for a translator to re-tell what is intended by an author in another language not only by its form, but also by the sense of the original text through keeping the naturalness, accuracy, and clarity (Newmark, 1988:9).

There are many things that have to be considered by a translator to make a good translation. Furthermore, a translator has to be able to differentiate the methods, approaches, and strategies taken in translating different types of writing. This affects the last result of translation. There are several criteria for a translation to be considered as a good translation as conveyed by Kilham (1996). They are naturalness, accuracy, clarity, order, interest, and appropriateness of language. Those criteria can be used as parameters to determine whether a translation can be considered qualified or vice versa. It is probably not easy to fulfill the whole criteria above. A translator must be very skilful to do so, though. However,

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according to Barnwell (1986) and Frank (1999) when a translation has been accurate, clear, and natural, it has already been considered as a good translation.

1.2.4 The Translating Methods and Procedures

According to Newmark (1988: 19), the translating procedure begins with choosing a method of approach. There are two approaches to translating. The first is by translating the text sentence by sentence, then reviewing the position to 'feel' the text and read the rest of the SL text to examine whether it has been coherent. The second is by reading the whole text two or three times, understanding the intention of the text and translating it after taking all bearings.

After choosing one method, then a translator can start the translating process from the textual level. This is the basic level of translating when a translator translates the sentence literally, or 'intuitively and automatically make certain 'conversions' by transposing the SL grammar (clauses and groups) into their 'ready' TL equivalents and translating the lexical units into the sense that appears immediately appropriate in the context of the sentence" (Newmark, 1988:22).

Newmark (1988) further classifies that the next level is the referential level. This level is closely related to the facts that every language, culture, text genre or field has their own particular characteristics. There are many special terms used to express something. Furthermore, the meaning of the terms in a certain field is sometimes confused with the meaning in another field. In addition, referential level is the level of translating process to overcome the problem related

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to the fact that all languages have the tendency to be polysemous in their words and structures, by adjusting these gaps between both SL and TL.

The third level is cohesive level which links the textual level and the referential level. In relation to this level, Newmark (1988) continues its elaboration that this level is about the sentence structure that involves the use of conjunction, enumerations, reiterations, definite article, general words referential synonyms and punctuations. It is also related to the mood of the dialectical factor moving between positive and negative or emotive and neutral. This cohesive level is a regulator for whether every paragraph or sentence is linked coherently or vice versa. At this level a translator reconsiders the length of the paragraph or sentence, the formulation of the title and the tone of the conclusion.

After getting the first three levels in the translating process, there is a level of naturalness. This last level measures whether a translator has been succeeded to achieve the aims mentioned above.

Naturalness in translation can be easily defined as the condition when a translation text 'tastes' as though it is an original writing. However, naturalness is not quite easy to be applied by translators. To determine whether a translation can be considered natural or unnatural, sense is the factor that influences someone's judgment the most. The readership will be able to sense whether the translation is quite natural and readable or vice versa. But it does not mean that naturalness can only be determined by waiting for the instinct to tell us whether a translation can be considered natural or unnatural. It is true that naturalness is something that is rather subjective as there is no such thing as universal naturalness for what is natural for certain readership maybe unnatural to the other. It is closely related to

the sensitivity of the translator in determining the appropriate method and picking the right equivalences for each text genres as there is a quite big difference in translating a formal and colloquial text.

The level of naturalness can be measured when the translation makes sense and reads naturally. Natural here means that it is written in an ordinary target language, uses the common grammar, idioms, and words that suit the situation.

The whole translating process involves the acts of keeping in parallel the four levels mentioned above. One thing that a translator must bear in mind is that the main goal of the whole processes is to embrace the readers to understand the text. Therefore, at the final stage of translating process, naturalness and accuracy become an important goal for a translator.

1.2.5 Semantics

Semantics is the study of the systematic ways in which languages structure meaning (Finnegan, 1997). Ali (2005), states that semantics deals with the deep structures of words, expressions and texts. Semantics examines word and sentence meanings while generally ignores context (Finnegan, 1997). From the definitions above, we can conclude that semantics is all about meaning.

Semantics is an important feature dealing with translation. In translating a text, any kind of it, a translator has to know what is being said in the original text, and then take its meaning. Ingo (1990) reports that the semantics aspects can be brought to the front in translation by paying attention to semantic additions,

explicit meaning, semantic omission, implicit meaning, nuance of meaning and puns, accepted inaccuracies, inexactitudes, wrong meaning, and metaphors.

Furthermore, Nida and Taber (1969) state that translating consists of reproducing the closest natural equivalent of the source language message in the target language, first is in term of meaning and second is in term of style. The meaning comes first before the style. The two theories make it clear that the message can be the most important thing to maintain in the translation.

From those considerations, explicit meaning, semantic omission, and implicit meaning are the most relevant ones to the present study. Making explicit means that new words are added but no new information is given. Semantic omissions are preferred to become the lesser the better, because too many omissions can cause wrong effect to the readers. In making implicit, some words are omitted, but the semantic contents can be recovered from 'between the lines'.

Larson's (1984) implicit situational meaning, that becomes one of the baseline theories of this study, is a feature of semantics. Here, the writer will analyze some information in the song lyrics translation which shows the implicit situational meaning, i.e. the information that is made explicit in one point and being made implicit in another.

According to Nida and Taber (1969), in translation there will be "loss" of semantic content. However, the translator should attempt to keep the loss to a minimum. In transferring message from one language to another it is the content that should be the primarily maintained, especially as it is not a translation of poetry. The form may be different, but the meaning should be the same as the original.

The problems of semantic adjustment commonly occur in the case of idioms, figurative language, shifts in central components of meaning, generic and specific meanings, pleonastic expressions, special formulas, redistribution of semantic components, and provision for contextual conditioning (Nida and Taber, 1969:106).

Nida (1969) proposes that there are some methods of semantic adjustment that the writer finds relevant to use as analysis tools in this research:

1. *Idioms*

   a) From idioms to non-idioms

   b) From idioms to idioms

   c) From non-idioms to idioms

2. *Figurative meanings of individual words*

   a) Shifts from figurative to non-figurative usage, *e.g.,* "taste death" becomes "die"

   b) Shifts from one type of figurative expression to another figurative expression, *e.g.*, "heart" changed to "liver"

   c) Non-figurative expressions changed to figurative ones, *e.g.,* "to trust" rendered as "to lean on".

3. *Generic and specific meaning*

   a) From generic to specific meaning

   b) From specific to generic meaning

4. *Redistribution of semantic components*

   a) Analytical, *i.e.,* "expansion" or distribution of two components over a number of different words, *e.g.,* "one who will receive" for *heir.*

   b) Synthetic, grouping of several semantic component into a single term, *e.g., siblings* "brothers and sisters".

5. *Formulas*

   a) Reformulation, *e.g.,* "blessing I will bless thee" I will surely bless you".

6. *Provision of contextual conditioning*

   a) Addition of so-called "classifiers" *e.g.,* "**animals** called camels"

1.2.5 Naturalness and Accuracy in Translations

a.   Naturalness

Naturalness is one factor that determines whether a translation is readable or vice versa. According to the *Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary,* naturalness is the state or quality of being like real life. Due to the translation context, it is more to the condition whether the translation sounds natural or it sounds like a foreigner speaking or whether a short story sounds like a speech material. An ideal translation has to be able to give the readers the same impression as the source language text so that they do not realize that they are reading a translation (Finlay (1974) in Simatupang, 1990: 3-4). this statement gets along with France's statement, *'in translation the important point is to achieve the same degree of vividness as intended by the author, by whatever idiomatic means the language offers. Beware of making a lively narrative stuffy by being too*

literal. Translate idiom into idiom. 'Naturalness can be determined by the sub-criteria such as order, interest, format and punctuation, and appropriateness of language.

b.   Accuracy

Accuracy struggles with the question whether the meaning is changed in any way or whether the information conveyed properly without any unnecessary addition or deletion. A translator is demanded to find the right equivalence in TL to replace the SL words. Equivalence is not a literal translation of a word. It is more referred to as the word that has equal meaning. It can also be said as the 'adapted' literal translation. It is important to support the naturalness, accuracy, and the clarity of a translation, as stated by Hoed (1977:12). In translation, we are not looking correspondence, but equivalence.

1.3 Research Questions

The writer would like to observe some variables in order to find the answers of the following research questions:

a.   How can the translated version of the song lyrics be transferred implicitly?

b.   How can the translated version of the song lyrics be considered natural?

c.   How can the translated version of the song lyrics be considered accurate?

1.4 Aims of the Research

The aims of the study are:

1. To analyze whether the translated version of the song lyrics can be transferred implicitly.

2. To analyze the strategies of the translator to achieve the level of naturalness in translating the song lyrics.

3. To analyze the strategies of the translator to achieve the accuracy in translating the song lyrics.

1.5 Significance of the Research

The writer hopes this study will be useful for translators in understanding the implicit meaning. The writer hopes they can enlarge their knowledge especially in understanding the implicit meaning and the translation techniques used to translate the text. So, the translator can translate the implicit meaning and its accuracy without changing the meaning of the Target Language.

Once again, the writer hopes this study will help the translator to create and result in a better translation especially dealing with the implicit meaning without omitting the messages or ideas.

1.6 Scope of the Research

The scope of the study is limited to identify, find out, and describe the use of implicit situational meaning, naturalness, and accuracy in the song lyrics translation.

1.7 Research Methodology

In this research, the writer used the descriptive and comparative methods. The data that have been collected were then classified as objective as possible. Then the writer compared and analyzed them based on the theory explained in the next chapter. The writer explained the analysis whether or not the way of translating the implicit meaning on the data was ambiguous, easy to understand, and accurate with the source language.

1.8 Clarification of the Main Terms

There are some terms that might be helpful to describe the specific terms in translation. They are:

1. **Implicit situational meaning:** information which is left implicit when talking to one person that might be made explicit when talking to another (Larson, 1984).

2. **Naturalness:** the state or quality of being like real life (*Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*).

3. **Accuracy:** the state of being exact or correct *(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary)*.

4. **Song:** poem set to music, intended to be sung *(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary)*.

5. **Lyrics:** words of a song *(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary)*.

6. **Translating:** rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text (Newmark, 1988).

7. **Translation:** a text or work that has been changed from one language into another *(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary).*

8. **Semantics:** the study of the systematic ways in which a language structures meaning (Finnegan, 1997).

9. **Semantic adjustment:** adjustments made in translating a text in order to preserve some certain contents so that the intended meaning can be maintained (Nida and Taber, 1969).

10. **Colloquial:** (of language) used in ordinary or familiar conversation; not formal or literary (Concise Oxford Dictionary – Tenth Edition).

1.9 Paper Organization

This research paper consists of three chapters. Chapter I consist of background, theoretical framework, research questions, aims of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research, research methodology, clarification of the main terms, and paper organization. Chapter II explores findings and discussion and Chapter III provides the conclusions and suggestions.