CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

As the beginning of this chapter, it will focus on the background and the problems of the study. It starts with the background which discusses briefly the overview of the issues of translation ambiguity in translation production process in the two directional translations, forward and backward translation. Then, it continues to cover the scope of the research, research questions, aims of the research, significance of the research, definitions of terms, and organizations of the research.

1.1 Background

In the case of translation processes performed by bilinguals, it still has been a huge debate whether the words in the first and second language access the same semantic representations (meanings); or each of them in fact has their own semantic representation. With respect to this issue, the postulation within the Distributed Feature Model (DFM) proposed by van Hell and de Groot (1998) then strives to accommodate the issue of semantic representations in translation processes in either forward or backward direction (Kroll and Tokowicz, 2001). This model postulated that semantic representations are shared across two or more languages possessed by bilinguals (van Hell & de Groot, 1998).

However, this model in fact does not touch on and consider the translation process in which the words in some particular languages probably have multiple translation equivalents (number of translation effects) in another language and it has to be treated differently. Moreover, if the effect of number of translation is not included as a consideration in translation test, it will be difficult to determine the bilinguals' level of proficiency. Accordingly, to modify and perfect the Van Hell and De Groot' DMF, Tokowicz et al (2002) then initiates and popularizes the idea of Translation Ambiguity. Translation ambiguity alone is defined as a casein which one word existing

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in one language is translated into other words in another language with multiple options of translation equivalents (Tokowicz&Degani, 2010).

In order to examine the issue of translation ambiguity, the Number of Translation (NOT) effect is then used as a tool or model to investigate the translation performance of bilinguals as suggested by Tokowicz and Kroll (2001). This model has been used in several studies to examine some language phenomena under the realm of bilingualism. In 2011, Michael et al carried out a research involving a group of proficient English-Spanish bilinguals. In this research, translation production test in forward and backward directions was served as in order to find out the NOT effects in translation processes. The results of this study showed that translation-ambiguous words (words with multiple translation equivalents/ one-to-many mapping) in fact were translated less accurately than translation-unambiguous words (words with one translation equivalent/ one-to-one mapping).

Although there are numerous studies employing the Number of Translation (NOT) effect regarding the translation ambiguity, the majority of the studies used noun words as an instrument. This fact then leads to present study to investigate three different word classes covering verbs, adjectives, and nouns in translation processes. This attempt is really influential in order to complete the incomplete puzzle in the case of verb, adjective, and noun word translation processes, specifically performed by early-sequential Sundanese-Indonesian bilinguals.

By employing the Number of Translation (NOT) effect, this present study strives to uncover some language phenomena under the umbrella of bilingualism. In particular, this study attempts to investigate the performance of early-sequential Sundanese-Indonesian bilinguals in performing translation production task in either forward or backward direction of translation.

1.2 Scope of the Research

The study focuses on the performance of early-sequential Sundanese-Indonesian bilinguals in performing translation production test in either forward or backward direction of translation.

1.3 Research Questions

There are many previous studies carried out by some language scholars who have been concerned with the issues of translation performance in forward and backward directions. However, most of the previousstudies do not explore specifically the the performance of early sequential Sundanese-Indonesian bilinguals in performing translation production test in order to uncover the issues regarding translation ambiguity. Accordingly, this study attempts to investigate theseaforesaid issues by addressing the following research question:

1. How do early sequential Sundanese-Indonesian bilinguals perform forward and backward translation?

1.4 Aims of the Research

As stated in the previous section, this study aims atsuccessfully obtaining these following objectives:

1. To analyze the performance of early sequential Sundanese-Indonesian bilinguals in forward and backward translation.

1.5 Significance of the Research

This study is significant at least to these two areas, covering theory and prospect of further studies. First, the results of this study are expected to theoretically enrich the literature of Translation Ambiguity issues, especially in the case of word translation in early-sequential Sundanese-Indonesian bilinguals in either forward or backward direction of translation. Second, since there is no known study regarding the translation ambiguity tested through translation production test in the case of

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Sundanese-Indonesian bilinguals, for the future prospect, it is expected that this study can be used as a basis literature for the language practitioners to find out more regarding the issues of translation ambiguity in the realm of psycholinguistics.

1.6 Definitions of Terms

In order to guide the analysis, particular terms need to be clarified. The terms are as follows:

a. **Forward and Backward Translation**

Forward translation is the process of translating words from the first language into the second language through conceptual mediation or conceptual representation (Harley, 2005).Backward translation is the process of translating words from the second language into the first language, the vice versa of forward translation, and it is mediated mostly by the word-word association (Harley, 2005).

b. **Word Class**

Word class, such as noun, verb and adjective, is defined as one of the grammatical groups, into which words are categorizedbased on their use (Cambridge Advanced Learners' Dictionary, 2003).

c. **Early Sequential Bilingual**

Early sequential bilingual is the phenomenon in which L1 is acquired first and L2 is acquired respectively in early childhood (Harley, 2005).

d. **Translation Ambiguity**

Translation ambiguity is defined as a case in which one word existing in one language is translated into other words in another language with multiple options of translation equivalents (one-to-many effect/ Number of Translation "NOT" effect) (Tokowicz&Degani, 2010).

e. **Translation Production Test**

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Translation production is a kind of translation test or task whose functions are to investigate language production. Specifically, "translation production is a task in which a word is presented in one language and its translation equivalent must be spoken in the other language, is frequently used to examine language production" (Tokowicz, 2000).

f. Sundanese (*Bahasa*Sunda)

Sundanese (*Bahasa*Sunda) is a vernacular or local language of Sundanese community (Huri, 2014) spoken in *Pasundaan* areas or *Tatar Sunda* covering West Java (Jawa Barat) and Banten. This language appears along with the emergence of Sundanese society (Ikmaliyah, Haerudin, Hernawan, 2014)

g. Indonesian (*Bahasa*Indonesia)

Indonesian (*Bahasa* Indonesia) is a language which is officially legalized and proclaimed, since the Youth Pledge in 1928, as the national language of Indonesia (Sneddon, 2003).

1.7 Organization of the Paper

This paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter 1 specifically elucidates the introduction of the study, covering the basic concepts of the study and the reasons behind the study. Chapter II discusses the theoretical background and the references or the previous studies related to the present study. Chapter III presents the methodology of the study which is serialized into research design, research Participants, data collection, and data analysis. Chapter IV explores the results, discussion of the collected data, and findings. As the last part of this paper, Chapter V explains the conclusion of the study as well as the recommendation for the further studies.