CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Interaction among states and nations throughout the world is in high traffic, and will always be higher than before. The world's governments and citizens meet for the sake of various interests: politics, economy, education, culture, and so on. Seeing this case further, it is known that *language* plays a significant role.

There is not any exchange among civilizations in the world without language as the bridge. Related to the issue, to use the same language is one of the methods. In this case, nowadays, English is the first option, apart from French, Arabic, Chinese, and some other international languages, while another method is language transfer through translation (and interpretation). According to Newmark (1988:5), translation is "rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text".

Communication across nations through translation has existed for a very long time. As Nida (1991:19-20) says:

> "... interlingual communication has been going on since the dawn of human history. As early as the third millennium BC, bilingual lists of words — evidently for the use of translators — were being made in Mesopotamia, and today translating and interpreting are going on in more than a thousand languages..."

The more massive international interaction invites the involved parties to pay more attention to the role of language, including translation issues. Aside from the development in theoretical aspects, technology also supports the progress of translation. Today, technology works in the field of translation to create a facility named "machine translation" (MT).

MT projects are motivated by the idea that the world needs technology to support the increasing need of interlingual communication. As an example, at the beginning of the 1990s, 300 million pages were translated from and into languages around Europe and United States, and 150 million pages were translated from and into Japanese for various purposes (Loffler-Laurian, 1996, cited in Craciunescu, et al., 2004).

Since the idea of MT came up in 1930s (Craciunescu, et al., 2004), the MT programs have been created and improved to have the characteristics of human translator. Hutchin (1995, cited in Khosravizadeha & Pashmforoosh, 2011) states that technically, the main goal of machine translation is to achieve the automated process and high quality draft of translation. But then, such dream faced various challenges. One of the practical problems found, as stated by Khosravizadeha & Pashmforoosh (2011), is that the speaker's meaning or the pragmatic aspect cannot be easily transferred by such machine.

In the last decades, the existence of MT projects became one of the burning issues, not only within linguist circles, but also among common society. It is true that today more people use MT to get translation assistance for some

benefits: ease of access, high speed and low cost. Even many professional translators also operate it as a preparation of a rough draft (Champollion, 2003; Lagoudaki, 2008; O'Hagan & Ashworth, 2002 in Aiken & Balan, 2011) and some of them use MT to get the gist of foreign text (Altay, 2002 in Aiken & Balan, 2011).

A number of MT programs can be accessed easily as online applications, some of which are even free of charge. The most well-known MT programs are *Alpaworks*, *E-lingo*, *Reverso*, *Yahoo! Babel Fish, Systran*, *Transcend*, *Applied Language*, *SDL Automated Translation Solutions*, *Windows Live Translator,* and *Google Translate* (Craciunescu, et al., 2004, Aiken & Balan, 2011).

Some studies aimed to compare MT programs were conducted, two of which were run by Aiken et al. (2009) and "NIST comparison" (2005). The first study, which covered four programs, showed that *Google Translate* (GT) was the best, followed by *Yahoo!*, *X10*, and *Applied Language*. The second study, which covered 22 MT programs, showed that "GT was often first and never lower than third in rankings using text translated from Arabic to English and from Chinese to English" (Aiken & Balan, 2011).

Although it is regarded as superior, some studies showed that GT also has minuses as other MTs do, when it is compared to the work of human translator (HT). Khosravizadeha and Pashmforoosh (2011) state that GT suffers from a number of disadvantages and needs human involvement at post-editing phase.

This research is an effort to assess the problems encountered by GT when translating a short story, and aims to offer general post-editing techniques which are useful to improve the quality of GT's text.

In this research, the main theory of translation problems is taken from Mona Baker's *In Other Words* (1992). The English short story used in this research is Shirley Jackson's *Charles*, and its translation in Bahasa Indonesia, which was used as comparator, was translated by Syafruddin Hasani.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background, this research was conducted to answer three research questions as follows:

1. What problems are encountered by *Google Translate* in translating *Charles* by Shirley Jackson into Bahasa Indonesia?

2. What strategies are applied by the human translator in translating *Charles* by Shirley Jackson into Bahasa Indonesia?

3. Based on the problems identified and strategies applied by the human translator, what post-editing techniques can be formulated to improve the quality of *Google Translate*'s translation of short story?

1.3 Aims of Study

In line with the research questions, the study was conducted with the following aims:

1. to identify problems encountered by *Google Translate* in translating *Charles* by Shirley Jackson into Bahasa Indonesia;

2. to identify strategies applied by the human translator in translating *Charles* by Shirley Jackson into Bahasa Indonesia;

3. to formulate post-editing techniques to improve the quality of *Google Translate*'s translation of short story.

1.4 Research Methods

This research is constructed with a descriptive qualitative research design. Frankle and Wallen (1993:389) suggest that descriptive qualitative is a method of research to investigate the quality of relationship, activities, situations, or materials, then to synthesize the information obtained from various sources (e.g. observations, interviews, and document analysis) into coherent description of what the researcher has discovered.

1.4.1 Data Collection

1. Identifying and classifying translation problems encountered by GT.

2. Identifying and classifying translation strategies applied by human translator.

1.4.2   Data Analysis

1. Elaborating each identified translation problem and relating it to the theory of translation problem proposed by Baker.

2. Elaborating each identified human translator's strategy and relating it to the theory of translation strategy proposed by Baker.

1.5 Organization

This paper is organized by following the guideline written in the book of *Pedoman Penyusunan Skripsi* by Tim Jurusan Bahasa Inggris UPI (2010). This paper consists of five chapters, each of which has its own role in delivering contains in detail. Chapter I is *Introduction*, which aims to introduce the paper in brief, and which is divided into *background*, *statement of problems*, *aims of study*, *research methods*, and *organization*.

Chapter II is entitled *Theoretical Foundation*, which is responsible to elaborate the theories and the previous studies related to the research as an effort of giving reasonable arguments.

Chapter III is *Research Methods*. This part is an elaboration of technical issues in the research, which describes research design, assumptions in the research, clarification of key terms, steps of finding data, and steps of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is *Findings and Discussions* presenting the collected data, the analysis process of the data, and the interpretation and discussion of the findings.

The last part, Chapter V is *Conclusion and Suggestion*. The first part is the report on the results of the study to give statements as the answers to the research problems. The second part is on the important points related to the research which can be offered to support other similar research in the future and any parties who have interests in the research findings.