

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.1. Summary

The general purpose of this study was the investigation of the librarians' ability in coping with difficulties found in translating an article of a scholarly journal article. The text selected for the study in the field of Psychology was broken down into twenty-three text items for research treatment. Various difficulties comprising linguistic and cultural barriers experienced by the translators resulted in the insufficiency of meaning. Quantitatively, as much as 26.8%. It means that the ability of the translators to communicate the original ST as exercised by the author proved to be low. Approximately some 73.2% of the whole text was communicated with some adequacy. This readily perceived insufficiency was contributed by three dimensions: the components of ability as acquired by the translators, the methods used, and the equivalences to be achieved for the readership: making use of the purpose in the TT. There is a high likelihood that the components unexercised by most of the translators, the repeatedness in terms of their using the translation methods, and the equivalence they decided to achieve play a greater role in showing some typicality – the meanings being insufficient because of the same loss, similarity of using the methods, and similar representation of decision to achieve the equivalence. This study, therefore, was meant to function also as an initial step toward a betterment in the field of

translation both in terms of quality and quantity – relatively sound translation meaningful to certain academic community (the target readers, especially).

In the literature, it has been indicated that the willingness of subject librarians working at an academic library to challenge the translating task is low despite its obligatory kind of assignment imposed by the *Perpusnas RI* – Indonesian National Library. Part of the reason is that they must experience being influenced by the properties of SL text in their TL leading to generating some insufficiency of information. Around 20% of insufficiency takes place or, it is unlikely that comprehension rises above 80% percent level. The ability of translating in general has been indicated in numerous studies. Criticisms on different ways of approaching the very attempt of transferring someone else's ideas into the translators' thought followed by reproducing the intent as exercised by the original writer are existent.

Celebrated translators with years of experience in producing celebrated translations are not an exception in losing information when communicating their own way – struggling with challenges and problematic issues. Translation is a challenge and as such demands those undertaking translation to: (1) prevent from lacking of elegance of a translation; (2) avoid lacking of richness of expression; (3) connect style and content; (4) precipitate into the nightmare of unknowable; (5) come up against obsessive outbursts by avalanches of confused words; (6) preserve the flow of the language; (7) temper fidelity to the text with fluidity of language; (8) maintain the sense of language (while targeting for the readership); (9) give reasons for undertaking the translation; (10) unresolve ambiguities; (11) avoid making the TT sound too different from the original; (12) prevent from being tempted to interpret instead of sticking to

translation; (13) communicate with ACN; (14) avoid translating the same word differently at different times; and (15) prevent from imposing their own style.

The data for this study were collected from ten selected university subject librarians working at an academic library. Total participation of 100 percent during the process of translating 23 text items or altogether 134 sentences of a journal article resulted in hand-written translations (See Appendix 1). Seven reader informants were interviewed to identify their comprehension on the translations produced by the librarians. These data were analyzed to seek answers to the research questions. The informants' responses to the observation and their answers through one-on-one interview through the two modes revealed the translators' profile and identified the sources of inability to translate especially hard written expressions.

The translators' inability prevented them from producing a text with a high quality from which their readers should benefit. Their being unable to survive from flawed translations contributed to difficulty of constructing a new reader thus making it an insufficiency of information on the readership's part.

5.2. Conclusions

The translations as the text reproduced by the librarians represented the components of abilities – Components 1 to 11 of Abilities 1 to 3 most of the translators have in attempting to transfer hard written expressions by employing primarily semantic and secondarily communicative methods to achieve pragmatic equivalences. Based on the results of the study, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The inability to reproduce a text with its incompleteness acceptable to the readership was, overall, due to: (a) the translators' less thorough knowledge of both the SL and the TL; (b) being not familiar in both cultures of the languages; (c) being intimately familiar with the translators' L1 only; (d) the translators' less than adequate facility for writing and the ability to articulate accurately the work to be translated; and (e) being not able to develop research skill and acquire reference sources to produce high quality translation. Therefore, the translations are a bit far from being close to the SL: the choice of words in reproducing the ST text proves to be less than a pleasure to read.
2. The translators' intention to compromise on meaning appropriately and with flexibility to make both content and language accessible and comprehensible to the readership faces adversities which include: (a) analyzing and describing the formal equivalences of language; (b) finding appropriate formal equivalences in the TL; (c) reproducing a relatively satisfactory content equivalent of the original ST; (d) lacking of functional equivalence within the respective communication structure of SL and TL. Accordingly, repeatedness in terms of using the same two methods was detected.
3. The high frequency of unexercising the same components of abilities by most of the librarians denotes quite similar texts reproduced and hence typicality of the meanings being insufficient is emerged. On average, as reflected by the translators in transferring the ideas of the original writer, they do not understand the way natives think as they produce a text with accuracy of their capacity. The difficulties encountered by the librarians then includes the followings: preventing themselves from providing relevant or

significant information; properly adapting source-culture conventions to target-culture standards; focusing on language structures or preventing deviations from standard TL usages; and creating adequacy to the purpose of the ST in the TT.

5.3. Limitations of the Study

It was apparent that this study had time, event, and process limitations. Ivanic and Weldon (1999) contend that there is some potential loss of objectivity in every stage of research in terms of both data collection and analyses. Therefore, the in-depth picture of the case might not be presented sufficiently in that the value of this case study might be limited. Although this study has generated some interesting findings, it might still be far from being conclusive and comprehensive in nature. There are several limitations that may affect credibility and transferability of this study. Other limitations of the study include lack of data about the intercoder reliability of coding procedures and researcher bias. As a consequence, the findings might not entirely reflect the characteristics of the librarians' translating ability as evidenced by this group of professionals upon the completion of the study.

5.4. Implications

A number of inabilities as shown by frequent wrongly-translated text from the original ST by the translators serve as a source of exploration. It is implied that a group of professionals – the university librarians, would undertake another task of translating with some improved accuracy, better clarity and reasonably sound naturalness: reeducation. The overall performance of this group could be discouraging to some extent but, to other translators of different groups of professionals this disclosure would be both a challenge and a stimulant.

As implied by most informants in the study, difficulties of various stages would remain challenging and would therefore give rooms for further exploration. With regard to the incompleteness of information as provided by translators on average, functional equivalence within the respective communication structure of SL and TL would probably more convincing than formal equivalence or even cognitive equivalence.

Regardless of any possible betterment in reproducing an ST by way of functional equivalence, other aspects concerning the perspective of librarians' monolingual comprehension of the translated text would be plausible to be taken into consideration. The significant correlations among the librarians' abilities, the methods used in a repetitive mode, and the pragmatic equivalence achieved could imply that there should be one missing factor contributing significantly to the insufficiency of meaning experienced by these professionals. It is also implied that the repeatedness of using the same methods occurring during the process of translation would suggest some typical insufficiency of meaning in the TT.

In their attempts to provide meaningful equivalent text, the librarians would prevent themselves from relying heavily on the principles and rules for translating what they thought they knew. The impact, though, would be the readership's to opt: accepting or rejecting the produced translations.

5.5. Recommendations for Further Research

Further research is needed in the area of translating and translation with regard to their theoretical and applied principles that might be relevant to translation teaching policy maker

regarding quality translation. Avenues to translation is a possibility as it has been noted that while translation itself is vital, needs for translation are being met by a small though capable activity. All of us might find that there are attractive opportunities for improvement in translation and, work aimed at such improvement is due urged. Hence, further study could be conducted in the following areas:

1. Techniques of translating the untranslatables being methods as the emphasis towards translating especially hard written expressions. This area of further study could be a challenge for those who insist that translation is impossible. Hoed (1992:xiii) says that although there are many difficulties in translating, there is still a possibility to translate. Part of the reason is that there are general language components and system. Accordingly, reeducating professionals through training and study would be a possibility.
2. Specification of potential competencies that other groups of professionals (e.g. lawyers, medical doctors, economists, engineers) might have in translation. Different fields of study as an object of translation suggest various kinds of translations in terms of their readability to readership in the light of the receptor's characteristics.
3. Relativity of soundness among different equivalences (cognitive, formal, functional). Completeness in terms of absolute equivalent never exists. Therefore, strengths and weaknesses of each of the approach give room for further investigation.

4. Untranslatability in Indonesian cultural setting. This area of study deals with an interplay between two languages involving many aspects. As coined by Musyahda (2005:72), simply knowing the words and grammar of a language does not ensure successful communication: its interpretation depends among others on cultural assumption.
5. Developing models of translation adopting contemporary linguistic theories. Among interesting topics to investigate include a dynamic model of translation competence acquisition, with empirical-experimental studies based on representative samples.
6. Translating scholarly articles across disciplines from scientific journals: an improved analysis. This area of further study would best be emphasizing on in-depth analysis of seminal theories of translation.
7. Research similar to this one but involving a wider scope of translating and translation with larger institutional and personal participation: similar study of different groups of professionals to translate Law Science since it is considered as the most difficult translation in the world except The Holy Qur'an and The Bible. In the case of religious texts, form and contents often constitute an inseparable bond (Nida, 1976:68), which is a challenge to prospective translators.

As for the reeducating professionals towards some betterment, advantages and disadvantages are worth taking into consideration. One thing for sure is that translational practice has to change in the light of theories (Viaggio in Dollerup, 1994). To be more

specific, professional development in translation training, for example should not admonish translators to be good (Ibid: 97). The initial knowledge as possibly suggested in this work could be a field of objects and acceptable statements as well – ideas to start with.

