

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This section provides the background of the study. It highlights various aspects related to the realization of the research. It consists of background, reasons of choosing the topic, scope of the study, problem statements, aims of the study, significances of the study, research methods, source of the data, clarification of key terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

Nowadays, the field of translation has undergone wide task in many kinds of texts, including literary work texts. Many kinds of literary works are translated from source languages to target languages. They are poetic texts, novels, short stories, novelette, drama, film, etc.

Among of the all literary works mentioned above, drama is said to be one of the most neglected areas (Bassnett 1996). Compared to poetry translation or other prose texts, drama has characters that are more specific; it cannot be translated the same way as other prose texts (Bassnett 1996). Furthermore, the other specific aspects of translating drama emerge in the form of the text itself, which is mostly dialogue, and in how to resolve problem that probably appears excluded linguistics aspect (Bassnett-McGuire, cited in Assimakopoulos 2002).

There will be no two languages, which are similar precisely. Culler (cited in Baker 1991:10) proposes, "Each language articulates or organizes the world differently, languages do not simply name existing categories, they articulate their own." Since every language has

do not simply name existing categories, they articulate their own." Since every language has its uniqueness, the way people expresses their mind is influenced by so many factors. They are not only influenced by linguistics factors; there are factors excluded it. In line with that, the same case also applies in the field of translation.

In the field of translation, including in drama translation, a good translator has to bridge the gap between source language (SL) and target language (TL), both from linguistics factor and excluded it. One of the main problems in this area is how a translator manages equivalence between SL and TL by considering the both factors so that the readers or the hearers can comprehend the intended text well.

In connection with that, equivalence in translation is defined as a relation that holds between a source language (SL) and a target language (TL), (Bolanos 2003). Equivalence is also said as "a procedure which replicates the same situation as in the original, whilst using completely different wording" (Vinay and Darbelnet, cited in Leonardi 2000). Additionally, there are some levels in translating equivalence; 'translating equivalence must be considered a semiotic category, comprises a *syntactic*, *semantic*, and *pragmatic* component '(Neubert, cited in Bassnett 1996:27).

Among of the levels, pragmatic equivalence is relatively more comprehensive in investigating drama translation compared to the others level because pragmatics not only covers the text dimension, but also the context. "Pragmatics is the branch of linguistics that studies the use and meaning of utterances in relation to their situations" (Finegan et al. 1997:176). Moreover, "pragmatics pays attention more to the relationship of utterance to its context" (Finegan et al. 1997:140). In other words, pragmatics appreciates not only text, but

also context. As a result, pragmatic equivalence is essential in drama translation. Newmark accounts for one of purposes in translating is to be 'referentially and pragmatically accurate' (1988:115).

Furthermore, in terms of pragmatic equivalence, Baker (1991) offers more elaborative discussions compared to the other concepts. She discusses in particular the translation of pragmatic equivalence in one of chapters of her book, *In other words* (1991). She distinguishes equivalences that can appear between word level and above word level. Equivalences above word level comprised of *grammatical equivalence*, *textual equivalence*, and *pragmatic equivalence*.

Because of her comprehensiveness in discussing pragmatic equivalence, her discussion becomes the main basis of this study in analyzing the establishment of pragmatic equivalence in drama translation.

1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

The writer is interested in investigating drama translation because of the distinctive nature of drama compared to other prose texts, particularly in the form of the text that is mostly dialogue. In drama, dialogue is viewed as "an act of communication on the assumption that the main purpose of a play is to communicate ideas and, thus, generate certain feelings to audience" (Assimakopoulous 2002:3). Since it is seen as an act of communication, the dialogue of drama cannot be separated from the context of which it is uttered. Both text and context has to be handled by a drama translator. As a result, the main task of it is to translate drama referentially and pragmatically accurate, as what Newmark says (1988:115). In this study,

Pragmatics is used as the comprehensive tool in establishing the pragmatic equivalence because, as it is said before, it covers text and context.

1.3 The Scope of the Study

There are three kinds of texts in drama (Mayne & Shuttleworth 1986); they are dialogue, non-dialogue, and stage direction text. In this study, the writer only focuses on to dialogue texts because it is the main distinctive nature of a drama text compared to the other literary works. Dialogue refers to the characters' speech. The samples of the texts are taken from both the Indonesian and English version of the drama.

1.4 Problem Statements

This study investigates how the translators (Bernard Sellato and Karin Johnson) establish pragmatic equivalence in the translation of the work of Arifin C. Noer's entitled *The Bottomless Well* under the following questions:

1. What translation strategies did the translators use in establishing pragmatic equivalence in the text?
2. What kinds of translation methods that were used by the translators?

1.5 The Aims of the Study

The study is aimed at finding out:

1. The translation strategies used by the translators in establishing pragmatic equivalence.
2. The translation methods of the drama.

1.6 The Significances of the Study

This study is expected to give some positive impacts to both the readers of this paper and for the researcher of this study:

1. To give academic input in which what translation strategies and methods might work well for translating a drama, particularly in establishing pragmatic equivalence.
2. To provide an alternative English material for practicing of literary work translations, especially drama translation.
3. To learn further about the translation of drama, particularly in the way of establishing pragmatic equivalence from Indonesian into English.

1.7 Methodology and Procedures of the study

1.7.1 Methods of the Study

This study employs qualitative research by using descriptive method. Qualitative method is employed to reveal any phenomenon that the fact of it is not yet much known. This method is also used to give the intricate details of the investigated phenomenon that are difficult to convey with the quantitative method (Strauss and Corbin 1990). Meanwhile, descriptive method in this study is used to explain and analyze pragmatic equivalence established in the drama. The goal of this study is to describe accurately the facts, characteristics, and relationships in establishing the pragmatic equivalence from the SL (Indonesian) into the TL (English) in the process of drama translation.

1.7.2 Procedures of the Study

The writer takes several steps as follows:

a. Collecting the data

The writer selects thirteen representative texts to be analyzed.

b. Identifying the data

In this stage, the writer conducts close reading (textual analysis) in identifying the potential establishment of pragmatic equivalence found in the texts.

c. Presenting the data

After collecting and identifying the selected texts, they are then presented in form of tables supported by descriptive analysis.

d. Analyzing the data

The data are analyzed from the point of view of pragmatic equivalence, by conducting two levels of analyses, which are the analysis of context and text. The analyses are conducted to find out the strategies used by the translators of the drama in establishing the translation of pragmatic equivalence based on the work of Mona Baker (1991), and to reveal the translation methods by adopting Newmark's eight criteria of translation methods (1988).

1.7.3 Population and Sample

Population of this study is very large, that is the translation of pragmatic equivalence found in the drama, and the samples are taken from both the Indonesian and English version of the drama. The writer selects thirteen texts to be analyzed. The texts are considered representative because they contain the potential establishment of the pragmatic equivalence's translation.

1.8 Source of the Data

This study is conducted based on the translation of Arifin C. Noer's drama, *The bottomless Well*. The original drama, *Sumur Tanpa dasar*, was written in 1964. In 1989, the drama was rewritten and then translated in 1992 by Bernard Sellato and Karin Johnson. The translation version is published by *The Lontar Foundation*, Jakarta. The drama is chosen because it provides translation texts from Indonesian into English, and it is accessible to be analyzed.

1.9 Clarification of Key Terms

Several terms should be clarified to avoid misunderstanding in the study, they are mentioned as follows:

1. SL (Source Language) or ST (Source Text)

SL or ST in this study is Indonesian. The term SL is sometimes used to discuss a case of translation in general. ST is usually used when analyzing or discussing a particular text.

2. TL (Target Language) or TT (Target Text)

TL or TT in this study is English. The term TL is sometimes used to discuss a case of translation in general. TT is usually used when analyzing or discussing a particular text.

3. Analysis

According to *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (2001:76), analysis is "a careful examination of something in order to understand it better."

4. Translation methods

The method used in translating the text of the drama by adopting Newmark's eight criteria of translation methods (1988).

5. The translation strategies in establishing pragmatic equivalence

It refers to the translation strategies of establishing pragmatic equivalence in the translation of drama from SL into TL based on the work of Mona Baker (1991).

6. The original version of the drama

The Indonesian version of the drama (*Sumur Tanpa Dasar*)

7. The Translation version of the drama

The English version of the drama (*The Bottomless well*)

8. Pragmatic equivalence

Pragmatic equivalence means that the target language has direct equivalence for text, which occurs in the source text at pragmatic level.

9. Drama

According to *Longman Dictionary of contemporary English* (2001:539), drama is (1) "play for the theatre, television, radio," (2) "plays considered as a form of literature."

10. The Data of the study

The data are the texts taken from both Indonesian and English version of the drama. The texts analyzed are in form of dialogue texts.

11. Dialogue text

A dialogue text is the speech among the characters in the drama. In *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (2001:1745), one of the definitions of speech is "a set of lines that an actor must say in a play."

1.10 Organization of the Paper

The research paper is organized into five chapters as follows:

Chapter 1 (Introduction)

This section provides the background of the study. It also highlights various aspects related to the realization of the research.

Chapter II (Theoretical Foundation)

It contains theoretical foundations that are relevant to the study. They serve as the basis for investigating the research problems.

Chapter III (Research Methodology)

It discusses the methodology of the research. It includes the research method that is qualitative research by employing descriptive method, the techniques of research, and the steps of analyzing the data.

Chapter IV (Investigation)

This section reports the result of the study. It is the core unit of the research paper. It contains findings and discussions.

Chapter V (Conclusions and Suggestions)

It contains the writer's interpretation towards the result in a form of conclusion and the implication or the suggestion in accordance with the result of the study and the possibility of conducting further study related to this research.

