

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the nature of the study. It consists of several sections that present the background of the study, research questions, purposes of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

Translation activity of any kinds of texts, whether literary or non-literary texts might be more than just translating the texts in terms of the language. It is an activity of rendering the message, the meaning, and the idea of the author to target language readers. In this context, Newmark (1988:5) in his book entitled "The Textbook of Translation" mentions the definition of translation as "the process of rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text".

Translation is also appropriate as a means of communication among the people who do not share the same language. It is in line with Gerding-salas (*Teaching Translation, Problems and Solution: 2000*) who states that the aim of translation is to serve as a cross-cultural bilingual communication vehicles among people. She adds that translation has also developed because of rising international trade, increased migration, globalization, the recognition of linguistic minorities and the expansion of the mass media and technology.

Today, with the existence of high technology, many kinds of information on science, medicine, technology, economy, etc. are accessible among people around the world without the limitation of time and space. However, since many people do not share the same

language, those kinds of information can not benefit people if there is no, among other means, translation service exists.

Apart from those kinds of information, nowadays we can find lots of world's literary works such as novel, short story, and poetry produced by the world's famous men of letters. However, since most of the works are written in the authors' mother tongue that the readers don't understand, they appear a need to be translated to many kinds of language understood by the readers. With the existence of the translation version, those world's literary works would be much familiar for the readers, so that they can enjoy the works conveniently.

In the perspective of non-literary and literary text translations, Budiman (2002) in an essay entitled *Tidak Sekedar Alih Bahasa*, states that there are some differences in the process of translating non-literary and literary texts. In translating non-literary text like textbooks, scientific writings, or other literatures about technology, medicine, agricultural, sport, economy, etc., a translator tends to be free in conveying the message. As long as the message is conveyed clearly to the reader, s/he may omit some less important details or even change its complex sentence structure into a simple one. Meanwhile, she further states that in translating literary texts like novel, a translator may only have to transfer the words from SL into TL by its most appropriate equivalent, while its meaning, form and atmosphere should be faithfully preserved.

Any kinds of translation, whether it is a literary or non-literary translation, will not exist if there is no translator, since s/he is the one who has a task to render the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text.

In terms of literary work translation, Iliev who is known as a translator of Goethe and Faust's great works as cited by Kurnia (2003)

[<http://www.sinarharapan.co.id/hiburan/budaya/2004/0131/bud2.html>], a translator is actually the one who has an important role in spreading the world literary works. S/he then has a responsibility to convey the message contained in those works. In order to be able to convey the message successfully, a translator must be someone who has a perfect knowledge of language from which s/he is translating and equally excellent knowledge of the language into which s/he is translating as suggested by Vallejo (Accessed on December 5, 2005). S/he should first recognize the text type (genre) that s/he is going to translate, and then s/he must understand perfectly the content and intention of the author whom s/he is translating. Another thing is that, s/he has to be able to decide what kind of translation method that should be employed, because it can influence whether or not his/her translation comprehensible and acceptable to the reader.

In doing the translation activity, a translator often faces some problems. As reported by Abdeillah (Accessed on February 10, 2006), the problems can be divided into linguistic problem and cultural problem. The linguistic problem includes grammatical differences, lexical ambiguity, and meaning ambiguity. The cultural problems refer to different situational features. Especially in translating novel, Newmark (1988:171) says that the problem lies on how to find the relative significance of both the SL culture and the writer's moral purpose to the reader.

Those problems frequently met in the process of translating a text, especially literary text such as novel, imply that knowing languages and being efficiently bilingual is not enough to become a translator (Delisle:1980). Gerding-Salas (Teaching Translation, Problems and Solutions: 2000) states that knowledge of specialized subjects, a wide cultural background,

and the global vision of cross-cultural and interlingual are other important things that should be taken into account for a good translating performance.

Indonesia is one of the countries that import the world's literary works, especially novel. Since the novels are written in the authors' mother tongue especially English, than the existence of a translator is extremely important.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher was interested in conducting a research in relation to English students' techniques in translating an English novel as the one of the literary works with all the problems and the solutions. The research was based on their skill after following translation classes.

1.2 Research Questions

The study attempted to answer these following questions:

1. What kinds of translation method did the students use in translating the novel?
2. What problems did the student face in the process of translating the novel?
3. How did the students solve those problems?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

The study was aimed at:

1. finding out the translation methods that the students used in translating the novel
2. exploring the problems faced by the students in the process of translating the novel
3. investigating the strategy that the students used in solving the problems

1.4 Scope of the Study

The study focuses on the process of translating an English novel into Indonesian, "The Notebook" written by Nicholas Sparks, published by Warner Books, New York in 1996. The process of translating focused only on one chapter of the novel that is the 11th chapter entitled "A Letter from Yesterday". The translation was conducted by six students of the eighth semester of English non-education program. The 11th chapter was chosen as the subject of the study due to its language structure that needs a carefulness and appropriate translation methods from the translator in order to produce a readable translation. This chapter also contains some vocabularies that require the translator to be very careful in rendering them with appropriate equivalencies in TL. Moreover, this chapter has several pronouns that should be appropriately translated, so the translation will refer to the appropriate characters. The other two things that would be investigated are the problems that were faced by the students in translating the chapter and how they solved those problems.

1.5 The Significance of the study

Since the study was to analyze the students' translation of a chapter in a novel, the researcher expects that the study could encourage the students and the translators to learn more how to translate a novel properly. Later on, the results of the study are also expected to provide more theories or literatures about aspects especially the difficulties and also the solution in translating a novel as one of the literary genres.

1.6 Organization of the Paper

The writer organizes the paper into five chapters that explain the research. The first chapter contains introduction, which illustrates background of the study, scope of the study, research questions, Purposes of the study, methodology, the significance of the study, clarification of terms, and the last is organization of the paper.

The second chapter contains theoretical foundation that illustrates theories about translation, translation method, the role of the translator, the problems of translation, the criteria of acceptable translation, and also the description of translation of literary works.

The third chapter contains the research method that illustrates the setting and participants of the study, methodological of the research, and also the synopsis of the novel.

The fourth chapter describes the data presentation and analysis.

Last but not least, it is the fifth chapter that contains conclusion and suggestions. It illustrates the writer's conclusion about the study and also conveys the suggestions for the next research or those who might get benefit from this paper.

