

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Reading novels is one of people's enjoyable activities. A large number of novels have been published in Indonesia in every genre. Spreading Indonesian books abroad can be a very effective means to introduce the culture and values of Indonesia. Unfortunately, only a few of those novels are published in other countries. One of those few books that become international books is Andrea Hirata's novel *Laskar Pelangi*. This best selling novel has been translated into many languages including English entitled *The Rainbow Troops*. Thus, this can be a good opportunity to introduce Indonesia.

However, translating this novel into another language takes a risk of losing the original values because it involves activity of rendering cultural and ideological values of other countries (languages) manifested in the text which might be different from or even contrast with Indonesian's culture.

In translating a text, a translator will try hard to make the readers understand the text as much as the intended readers of the text do. This principle is proposed by Nida as quoted in Venuti's book *The Translator's Invisibility: A history of translation* (1995:21) that 'the translator must be a person who can draw aside the curtains of linguistic and cultural differences so that people may see clearly the relevance of the original message'. This notion indicates the role of the translator

as the mediator between the target readers and the author of the text. With this strategy, the text will be understandable by the readers of foreign culture because the translator makes the text as culturally clear as possible to the readers of different culture. This strategy is what Venuti calls domestication.

Venuti argues that domestication strategy violates the text because in this strategy, the text is forced to meet the acceptance of the target language readers and therefore the text is reconstructed in such ways to fit the values or beliefs that already exist in the target language. Further, this strategy also indicates dominance of the target language culture. By doing domestication, the target language does not preserve the source language values. Domestication strategy as violence of translation is advocated by Venuti in opposition to the Anglo-American tradition of domestication. As a resistance to this, he then suggests foreignization to challenge the norms and expectation of the target language and culture. By using foreignization strategy, the text preserves its original values and thus makes the readers read the text as a translation. It is contrasted to domestication in which the translated text can be read as merely text. In other words, domestication makes the translator invisible whereas foreignization makes the translator visible.

The reason Venuti proposes foreignization to oppose Anglo-American domestication tradition is because British and American books have been widely translated in many languages but they themselves rarely translate book from other languages. And if they translate books they tend to domesticate the translation. Here, Venuti objects the situation because he believes it is a form of ethnocentric

violence of translation. This fact shows the hegemony of English cultures which widely impact the world with the circularity of their books.

Several studies have been conducted concerning domestication and foreignization translation. Among them, a study conducted by Esmail Zare-Behtash and Sepideh Firoozkoobi (2009) from Iran can best represent the case. Their research entitled *A Diachronic Study of Domestication and Foreignization Strategies of Culture-Specific Items: in English-Persian Translations of Six of Hemingway's Works* observed how six of Hemingway's novels were translated into Persian. The research was considered diachronic because it sought to reveal the way Hemingway's novels were portrayed in Persian context over specific periods of the 1950s to the 2000s. The result obtained from the study is that domestication is the most frequently used strategy in rendering Hemmingway's works into Persian. Another study was also conducted by Ligita Judickaitė (2009) which aimed to convey the translation strategy applied in *Ratatouille* Lithuanian subtitle. In a film, there are various names, idioms, or activities that represent its culture which may not be the TL's. Concerning that fact, a film can also be an object of translation study. Here, Judickaitė tried to describe whether the English culture specific-items were domesticated or foreignized in *Ratatouille* Lithuanian subtitle. From the study, it can be concluded that the film is mostly domesticated. The reason behind this choice of strategy is because the film was intended for children and therefore the subtitle should be made simple and easy to understand.

However, in dealing with translated texts, strategies in translation are not the only aspects to consider. Accuracy is also an important aspect in translation. Larson in her book *Meaning-based Translation* (1984: 485) points out that *accuracy*, *clearness* and *naturalness* are the features that a translator wants to be sure about. It is because the translation activity should keep the meaning of the original text as much as possible. In other words, translation accuracy is the extent to which a translator understands a text and how far she/he can translate the text accurately.

Meanwhile, Waddington in his journal (2001:4) proposes 'Method A' taken from Hurtado (1995) to determine the accuracy of translation. The measurement of accuracy level is divided into eight categories i.e. *contresens* (changes to the contrary), *faux sens* (substantial change of meaning of source text), *nonsense* (lack of sense), addition, omission, unresolved extralinguistic references, loss of meaning, and inappropriate linguistic variation (register, style, dialect, etc.). By measuring the accuracy in a translated text, it will be possible to see how the strategies of translation applied in a text affect the quality of translation itself.

Andrea Hirata's *Laskar Pelangi* and its English translation, as the corpus of the study, is very potential to be analysed because this novel talks about a Malay childhood with a lot of cultural description inside. When the novel is translated into English, it is undeniable that there will be cultural gaps. Thus the translator should determine which strategies and procedures employed in the translation. Based on this consideration, the writer believes this novel will meet the aim of the research which is to find the strategy followed by the translator in translating culture-specific items in this novel and to see the accuracy of the translation.

1.2 Research questions

To guide the research, two questions are provided below:

1. What culture-specific items are found in Andrea Hirata's *Laskar Pelangi*?
2. Which strategy between domestication and foreignization is more preferred in rendering culture specific items in Andrea Hirata's book *Laskar Pelangi*?
3. How does the choice of translation strategies affect the accuracy of the translation?

1.3 Aims of study

This study, in accordance with the questions proposed above, attempts to recognize the culture-specific items manifested in the source text and to depict the procedures of domesticating and foreignizing translation followed by the translator in rendering the culture-specific items in *Laskar Pelangi*. Figuring out the extent to which they are either preserved or perished in the translated version and the accuracy level of it would be the final goal of this research.

1.4 Significance of the study

The writer believes the research can provide a new way of reading a translation work. The research tries to make readers aware that, however, a translation will never be the same as the original. It is due to the fact that the original text contains some values which might be different from those in the target language.

It should be remembered that a text is not intended to be acceptable for the readers in different language. Thus it is undeniable that when the text is translated there

will be loss in it. However, this loss cannot make the process of translating text stop. What should be considered is the way the translator translates the text. Both domestication and foreignization have their own weakness and strength. Whichever strategy the translator chooses to employ will have different effect on the readers.

The study of translation strategies used in *The Rainbow Troops* is expected to open the readers' eyes of translation process and its effect. Hence when they read translation texts they will not only just read but they can try to see beyond the texts. In other word the readers are expected to develop their critical thinking of the translation texts they read.

1.5 Research methods

1.5.1 Design

In conducting the research, the writer uses descriptive method. As the name suggests, descriptive method is used to describe the information derived from the existing condition. Thus, the writer believes that this method is suitable for the research since it meets the purpose of the research, which is to describe the translation strategies and the accuracy in the *The Rainbow Troops*.

1.5.2 Research Procedure

The research will be focused on the novel *Laskar Pelangi* by Andrea Hirata and its English version *The Rainbow Troops*. The novel along with its translation is the corpus which later will be examined thoroughly to answer the research

questions above. To retain the expected result, specific procedures are taken as listed below:

1. The first step is reading *Laskar Pelangi* and its English translation thoroughly. It is expected the writer can gain complete understanding about the texts and can estimate the culture-specific items in the text.
2. The next step is picking up the culture-related words, phrases, or idioms found in the corpus. This finding will be the first gained-data to be analyzed.
3. After defining the cultural items, they are put into each category of culture-specific items proposed by several scholars.
4. The following step is to determine the procedures and strategies of the translation of culture specific items in *The Rainbow Troops* according to the procedures mentioned by several scholars and strategies by Venuti.
5. After that, all the culture-specific items are examined to see their accuracy using the method proposed by Waddington.
6. Drawing conclusion will be the final step in conducting the research. Conclusion is based on the findings and data analysis.

1.6 Organization of paper

This paper consists of five chapters, all of which have their own schema.

CHAPTER I

It introduces the content of the paper that includes background of the study, research questions, aims and significance of the study and also organization of the paper.

CHAPTER II

This chapter contains the elaboration of the theories and studies relating to the issue raised in this paper. To make it more explicit, this chapter conveys the strength and the weakness of previous studies and depicts the focus of the research provided in this paper.

CHAPTER III

This chapter is about the detail of the methods applied in this study. It describes the steps and procedures taken in conducting the research. It begins with the details of the problem formulated in form of questions then the explanation of the design to analyze the data.

CHAPTER IV

This chapter includes the findings and its analysis. It will explain how the study comes up with its findings and the discussion of the analysis. After the analysis has been conducted, the interpretation is taken in accordance with the analysis.

CHAPTER V

It is the last chapter which includes two sections namely conclusion and suggestion. The conclusion signifies that the study has reached the result. It also describes thorough interpretation of all the analysis elaborated in Chapter IV. Meanwhile, suggestion is about the advice given to the next researchers in conducting similar studies in order to gain more satisfying and flawless result.