CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the background of the research, scope of the study, research questions, aims, significance of the study, research methodology, data resources, data collection and analysis, clarification of key terms, and also the organization of the study.

1.1   Background of the Study

This paper is a report of a translation study of movie subtitles. This study is primarily based upon the observation and analysis of slang words in a movie which refers to action crime entitled "The Departed". Slang was chosen as a topic in this paper because it has become a hot issue nowadays and the debate of its definition, classification and linguistic relevance are increasingly interesting to discuss. According to Michael Swan (1996: 22) "slang consists of words, expressions or special use of language found mainly in very informal speech, especially in the usage of particular groups of people."

Meanwhile, The Oxford English Dictionary (1995:388) defines slang as "very informal words and expressions used in spoken conversation, especially by a particular group of people." In addition, Fairclough (1984) claims that the characteristics of slang words are not Standard English so that they will not be found in a Standard English Dictionary. He also adds that there is another fact of slang words; some slang words are detected in any dictionary but their meanings

1

do not match with the literal meanings because they depend on the content where these slang words are used.

Recently, Slang is popular among teenagers and adults. This phenomenon has emerged because slang is the use of highly informal words and expressions that are not considered to be standard language. Thus, either adults or teenagers prefer to use it because it tends to be casual and does not need any grammatical rules.

Slang is used only by a particular group of people in a certain territory for particular purposes. For instance, teenagers use slang to create identity in order to be different from adults and Afro–American people use slang to distinguish them from white people. Sometimes the slang words are not understood by people who are not familiar with them. Hence, translation is needed to overcome such a problem.

Nowadays, the use of slang is getting more globalized; in reality, people often use slang words in instant messaging by using short-formed words. More over, slang is also used in American or English movies especially movies that focus on gangster or teenager lives. "The Departed" (2006) is one of movies that is full of slang words. This movie was directed by Martin Scorsese and won several Oscars in The 79th Annual Academy Awards. This tells about a war between the Boston state police force and Irish-American organized criminal. Young undercover cop Billy Costigan is assigned to infiltrate the mob syndicate run by gangland chief Frank Costello. While Billy quickly gains Costello's confidence, Colin Sullivan, a hardened young criminal who has infiltrated the

state police as an informer for the syndicate, is rising to a position of power in the Special Investigation Unit. Each man becomes deeply consumed by his double life, gathering information about the plans and counter-plans of the operations he has penetrated. However, when it becomes clear to both the mob and the police that there is a mole in their midst, Billy and Colin are suddenly in danger of being caught and exposed to the enemy-and each must race to uncover the identity of the other man in time to save himself.

This study concerns investigating the types of slang that might appear in the subtitles of "The Departed" film. One type of slang classification is obtained by Willis (1964), he states that there are two broad kinds of slang; slang items that give new meanings to standard words and slang items that are new inventions or at least have only a slight connection with establihed words. Another type is gained by Feldman (2008) and Sourdot (2008), who categorized types of slang based on how they are developed.

Furthermore, this study investigates the translation strategies that are used to translate the slang items in the subtitles of "The Departed". This study employs techniques or strategies which are proposed by Gottlieb (1992) to analyze strategies used by a subtitler in subtitling the dialog. There are ten techniques that can be employed in subtitling, namely: expansion, paraphrase, transfer, imitation, transcription, dislocation, condensation, decimation, deletion and resignation. In addition, this study also examines the quality of slang translation by using Barnwell's (1996) method. She indicates three factors related to the translation judgment, such as: accuracy, clarity and naturalness.

It is hoped this research which focuses on investigating the slang classification, strategies of subtitling and the quality of slang translation can reveal some aspects in a movie-subtitling study and contribute to the field of subtitling itself.

1.2   Scope of the Study

Based on the background of the research that has been explained above, the scope of study is narrowed only to discover what types of slang which are found in the subtitles of "The Departed" movie, the subtitling strategies which are used to translate those slang words and also the quality of slang translation.

This study utilizes two slang classifications proposed by Willis (1964) and Feldman (2008) and Sourdot (2008) in order to discover the types of slang in the movie subtitles. Moreover, the strategies of subtitling proposed by Gottlieb (2002) are used to reveal the subtitling strategies applied in subtitling the slang in the movie subtitles. In addition, Barnwell's (1996) quality judgment criteria are used to identify the quality of slang translation.

1.3   Research Questions

This study attempts to answer the following questions:

1.   What types of slang are found in the movie entitled "The Departed"?

2.   What kind of subtitling strategies are used by the subtitler in subtitling the slang in "The Departed" movie?

3.   What is the quality of slang translation in the subtitles of "The Departed"
        movie?

1.4   Aims of the Study

Regarding to the research questions that have been mention above, the writer
attempted:

1.   To discover the types of slang found in the subtitles of "The Departed"
        movie.

2.   To reveal the subtitling strategies used in subtitling the slang in the
        subtitles of "The Departed" movie.

3.   To identify the quality of slang translation in the subtitles of "The
        Departed" movie.

1.5   Significance of the Study

        The writer chose a topic relating to the analysis of slang classification in
the subtitle of "The Departed" movie, the subtitling strategies that are applied in
that movie and also the quality of slang translation because this is an interesting
activity on audiovisual translation. The writer's decision is also supported by
Taylor (1999) who states that audiovisual translation has recently become a topic
of interest within the discipline of translation studies.

        In addition, this study is expected to analyze the English – slang items and
observe subtitles in connection with the discipline of translation studies,
specifically in the strategies used in translating the movies and English slang

items as well. Furthermore, this study is expected to contribute and benefit the development of translation studies in English Department, especially in the Indonesian University of Education.

1.6   Research Methodology

This present study uses a qualitative method in order to complete the research and analyze the data because the goal of this method is to describe the facts, characteristics, and relationships of the researched elements. Bogdan and Biklen (2004: 37) states that there are five features of the qualitative method:

> The natural setting is the direct source of data and the researcher is the key instrument in qualitative research; qualitative data are collected in the form of words or picture rather than numbers; Qualitative researchers are concerned with process as well as product; Qualitative researchers tend to analyze their data inductively; How people make sense of their lives is a major concern to qualitative researches.

In addition, Moleong (1995) says that qualitative research is descriptive, which means that the analyzed data and its findings are in the form of descriptions, instead of numbers. Therefore, it is clear why this method was chosen.

A descriptive method was applied in presenting the data, analysis, and its findings. Gay L.R. asserts that the descriptive method outweighs any other methods because of its systematic and factual description and illustration of the features and relationship of the examined data (1987). The writer believes that descriptive methods are appropriate for this study because the goal of this study is

6

to systematically, factually, and accurately describe or illustrate the facts, characteristics and relationships of the researched elements.

1.7 Data Resources

The main data of the research were taken from the DVD of a movie entitled "The Departed". Both the movie scripts and the subtitle scripts were taken from the dialogues of the original movie. Later, the writer transferred both the scripts and the subtitles into written texts.

1.8 Data Collection

The technique of this research was included to collect the data through the following steps:

1. Watching the DVD of "The Departed" several times to comprehend the whole of stories.

2. Identifying the English version of the scripts to find slang.

3. Collecting the dialogues in the scripts which contain slang.

4. Transcribing dialogues of the movie both English and its Indonesian subtitles.

5. Classifying all slang which are found in the movie subtitles.

1.9 Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the writer analyzed them through the following stages:

1. Reading and comparing the original scripts of the movie and the Indonesian subtitle script of "The Departed" movie.

2. Juxtaposing the written dialogues (English version) and the subtitle Indonesian version) of the movie.

3. Classifying and categorizing the types of slang based on two slang classifications proposed by Willis (1964) and Feldman (2008) and Sourdot (2008)

4. Determining the strategies in subtitling the slang items by using Gottlieb's strategies (1992).

5. Gathering the findings based on each slang classification and subtitling strategies and counting the number of each of them.

6. Calculating the total number and percentage of classifications and strategies applied.

7. Analyzing the types of slang and their subtitling strategies.

8. Judging the quality of slang translation by using Barnwell's (1996) method that focuses on three criteria: accuracy, clarity and naturalness. In addition, each criterion is measured by four kind grades: bad, fair, good and excellent. Here is the example of table design of slang translation quality check questionnaire:

N o	Source Language	Target Language	Translation Quality											
			Accuracy				Clarity				Naturalness			
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1	Bye-Bye, Punk ass!	Sampai Jumpa, Keparat!												

The figure of translation quality judgment is depicted in the form of questionnaire (appendix 3). Furthermore, to assure the certainty of the quality of translation, the writer compared his judgment with another reviewer's judgment. In conclusion, the questionnaires of the quality of slation were given to the one reviewer. She is an eight semester student who had taken translation and interpreting class.

9.   Describing and interpreting the results.

10.   Drawing conclusions according to the results.

1.10   Clarification of the Key Terms

In order to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding, some terms used in this chapter are clarified in this chapter as follows:

1.   Analysis: "study of something by examining its parts" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995:13).

2.   Slang words: "very informal words, phrases, or meanings not regarded as standard and often used by a specific profession, class, etc" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995:388).

3.   Translation: "Rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way the author intended the text" (Newmark, 1991:27)

4.   Subtitling strategies: "strategies are also known as shift or producers or techniques. It is the strategy that used by translator to translate the source text to target text" (Gottlieb, 1992:10)

5.   Movie: "cinema film" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995:271).

1.11 Organization of the Study

This study is organized into five chapters as follows: first, chapter I provides the background of the study, scope of the study, research questions, aims of the study, significance of the study, clarification of the key terms, and also organization of this study.

Chapter II focuses on the theoretical foundation which provides information to investigate the research problems. The theories that are explained are translation definition, translation process, translation methods and the quality of good translation, slang theories, functions and origins of slang, types of slang, subtitling theories, subtitling strategies, and related previous studies. All of them are useful to investigate the data findings.

Chapter III describes research methods, source, techniques of collecting data, techniques of analyzing data, and synopsis of the movie. In addition, chapter IV presents the result of the study after conducting the research and obtaining the necessary data that are depicted including the analysis of the data using the theoretical framework. This study ends in chapter V that concludes the writer's interpretation of the research findings in the form of conclusions and suggestions.