CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background

Translation is an activity which enables human beings to exchange ideas and thoughts regardless of the different languages used. Al Wassety (2001) views the phenomenon of translation as a legitimate offspring of the phenomenon of language, since originally, when humans spread over the earth, their languages differ and they need a means through which people can interact with others who speak a different language.

Translation is, in Chabban's words (1984: 5), "a finicky job", as it has not yet been reduced to strict scientific rules and it allows for the differences that are known to exist between different personalities. Translation is a heavily subjective art, especially when it deals with matters outside the realm of science where precisely defined concepts are more often expressed by certain generally accepted terms.

In summary, translation is a science, an art, and a skill. It is a science in the sense that it necessitates complete knowledge of the structure and make-up of the two languages concerned; the Source Language and Target Language. It is an art since it requires artistic talent to reconstruct the original text in the form of a product that is presentable and acceptable to the readers who are not familiar with the original. It is also a skill because it entails the ability to smooth any difficulty in the translation and the ability to provide the translation of something that has no equal in the TL.

In translation, the richness of vocabulary, depth of culture, and vision of the translator, surely have very conspicuous effects on his/her work. Another translator may produce a reasonably acceptable version of the same text, which may very well reflect a completely different background, culture, sensitivity, and temperament.

From a different perspective, El Touny (2001) focuses on differentiating between different types of translation. He indicates that there are eight types of translation, namely word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptive translation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation. He advocates the last type as the one which transmits the meaning from the context, respecting the form and structure of the original and which is easily comprehensible by the readers of the TL.

A good translation is the one that carries all ideas of the original as well as its structural and cultural features. In another perspective, a good translation work is the one that is clear, accurate, and natural. Clear means that it is easy to understand, logical, and free from unnatural forms or expressions which hinder understanding. Accuracy refers to preserving the meaning of the original text.

A translation, which is accurate, is faithful to the intended meaning of the original author. There are two types of accuracy, namely exegetical accuracy, which refers to how closely a translated text preserves the meaning of the original text; and communicative accuracy, which refers to the degree to which the original meaning in a source text is understood by the readers of a translation.

A translation is natural if its wordings and grammatical patterns are those which occur in everyday speech and/or writing of its fluent speakers/readers. Many language criteria should be checked to determine how closely a translation follows natural language patterns, including ordinary vocabulary and grammatical patterns, sentence length, word usage, normal idioms, figures of speech, and word order.

The three requirements of good translation are apply to all existing genres or text types, including short story. In the case of translating short story, the purpose of resulting a good translation work and the convenience of the readers should be placed into the translator consideration.

1.2   The Reasons for Choosing the Topic

Translators have to assess their texts critically; they have to decide which lexical units are central, which ones have more important function, and which ones are

peripheral so that the relative gains and losses in a translation may correspond to their assessment. The importance of the translation of some novels and short stories has been the introduction of a new vision of injecting a literary style into another language culture (Newmark, 1988: 171).

Indonesia has many novel and short stories writers with their best-seller books, and of course, each of them has their own style in writing their works. One of them is Djenar Maesa Ayu, a female writer who has unique style in writing. In her short stories compilation "Mereka Bilang, Saya Monyet!", she has expressed her idea in a very unusual style for most of Indonesian writers.

Oftentimes, Djenar Maesa Ayu brings the reader to the imagination in her mind. She usually puts the readers in a place where they can serve as "watchers" who are able to see the scenes that have been written in all points of view. Her unique style in writing has been the most interesting part of her works. She always tries to make the readers able to feel the same feeling which are felt by the figures in her stories or even the same feeling as she felt. The diction or words she has chosen in arranging the sentences are wonderful and very unusual in the context of Indonesian language. There are many words which symbolize many things in her work. The researcher has chosen this short story because the writer is famous for her unique style in expressing her idea. She often uses idiomatic words and symbols that only can be understood by few people, she even uses some vulgar and impolite words in order to convey her scenes to the readers. Therefore, the researcher is interested in analyzing the translated version to find out about the methods in translating symbolism in her short story.

1.3 Research Question

This research addresses the following question as follows:

❖ What are the methods in translating symbolism in Djenar Maesa Ayu's short story "Mereka Bilang, Saya Monyet!"?

1.4 The Aim of the Research

The aim of the present research is as follows:

❖ To find out the methods used by the translator in translating the symbols.

1.5   Limitation of the Research

In this research, the researcher analyzes Djenar Maesa Ayu's short story entitled "Mereka Bilang, Saya Monyet!" which is placed in her short stories compilation which is also entitled "Mereka Bilang, Saya Monyet!" The researcher focuses on the methods used by the translator in translating symbolism. In the case of Ayu's work, in which she has used many unusual symbols in her short story, the difficulty of translating these words is the main interest of the researcher to study.

1.6   Significance of the Research

This research is expected to have some contributions on the translation field. The expected contributions are as follows:

1. The findings of this research are expected to provide some meaningful information related with the methods of translation and symbolism in a literary work for those who are interested with the translation field.

2. The findings are expected to provide some insightful information for those who get involved in translation as a study or as a profession.

1.7   Method of the Research

The method that is used in this research is descriptive method, which is qualitative in its nature. This method is used since the researcher intends to make a clear prediction and description on how to translate symbolism in a literary work. As stated by Nazir:

> Kerja peneliti bukan saja memberikan gambaran terhadap fenomena-fenomena, tetapi juga menerangkan hubungan, menguji hipotesa-hipotesa, membuat prediksi, serta mendapatkan makna dan implikasi dari suatu masalah yang ingin dipecahkan (1966: 64).

Alwasilah states that:

> Apa yang akan dilakukan (action) untuk mencapai tujuan penelitian itu pada garis besarnya ada empat, yaitu (1) membangun keakraban dengan responden, (2) penentuan sampel, (3) pengumpulan data, dan (4) analisa data (2002: 144).

Since the researcher will not use respondents, in order to reach the objectives of the research, the researcher only determines the subjects, collects the data, and analyzes the data.

1. Subjects

   The subjects of this research are symbols in a short story entitled "Mereka Bilang, Saya Monyet!" written by Djenar Maesa Ayu. The difficulty of translating the symbols is the main interest of the researcher to analyze.

2. Data Collection

   In collecting the data, the researcher will take several steps as follows:

   a. Read the original and the translated version.

   b. Compare the translated version with the original version in order to find out the methods used by the translator in translating the short story.

   c. Select some sentences containing symbols.

3. Data Analysis

   The data will be analyzed qualitatively to find out the methods in translating the symbols. As stated by Hubberman and Miles, in Denzin and Lincoln, that data analysis contains three linking sub-processes, namely data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing.