

Semantic Strategies in the Indonesian Translation of The Tales of Beedle the Bard

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Semantic Strategies in the Indonesian Translation of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*

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ABSTRACT

This translation analysis research aims to find semantic strategies contained in the Indonesian translation of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* book and how the translators implemented them. The semantic strategies used are the theories suggested by Andrew Chesterman. Those semantic strategies include nine categories, namely synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, converses, abstraction change, distribution change, emphasis change, paraphrase, and trope changes. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. The data are collected with purposive sampling and then analyzed with stratified sampling. The result shows that there are sixty-eight data found that cover all of the nine semantic strategies: two synonymies, six antonymies, ten hyponymies, two converses, two abstraction changes, fifteen distribution changes, seven emphasis changes, twenty-two paraphrases, and two trope changes. In this research, the researcher aspires to be able to broaden her own insights—as well as the readers'—about semantic strategies in translation. Therefore, this comprehension of translation strategies and theories can be helpful for upcoming translation research and projects.

Keywords: semantic strategies, translation strategies, qualitative research

1. INTRODUCTION

That books are windows to the world is undeniable. From nonfiction to fiction, readers will benefit greatly if they read them carefully. Many great writers have produced extraordinary works, contributing to the repertoire of reading texts.

However, it is also inevitable that these great works are born all over the world, and written in various languages which makes speakers of other languages unable to understand the contents of the book. This is where the role of translators is needed. Of course, not just anyone can be a translator. According to Andrews and Maksimova [1], in order to produce a translation worth reading, a translator must meet the following four qualifications:

- 1) fluent in both (or more) languages,
- 2) understand whom the translation is intended for (audience),
- 3) understand the cultural and sociolinguistic context, and
- 4) the purpose of the interaction.

When carrying out the translation process, translators will encounter various difficulties and challenges. Therefore, many translation experts develop theories, techniques, and strategies to overcome these problems. One of them is Andrew Chesterman [2] who classifies translation strategies into three groups: syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic strategies. Syntactic strategies involve changing the syntax which generally manipulates form. Semantic strategies are primarily related to lexical semantics, but Chesterman also includes changes to other nuances of meaning such as emphasis. On the other hand, pragmatic strategies involve greater changes from the source text. Pragmatic strategies no longer change form or meaning, but manipulate messages from the text being translated.

In this study, the researcher analyzed the translation strategy of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* by J.K. Rowling into Indonesian. However, the strategies that will be examined are centered only on semantic strategies. Therefore, this study aims to find semantic strategies in the translation of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, and how the translators implemented them.

Research related to semantic strategies of translation techniques has been conducted by Tamara et al.[3]. However, the data source that those researchers analyzed was the novel *They Do It with Mirrors*. In addition, the researchers also added a syntactic approach. Yulianti et al [4]. also conducted research on the semantic approach to translation using data from the novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. However, the researchers did not analyze all aspects of the translation and only focused on the translation of the idioms

in the novel. Research that uses the same data source as the current research is the one that was conducted by Hanifah [5]. However, the researcher carried out a study on the analysis of characters, not a translation strategy. Thus, although there have been similar studies, the current research has its own uniqueness and differences.

The reason why the researcher conducts this research is that semantic strategies deal with deeper problems in translation because they not only discuss emerging difficulties in syntax form but it helps translators to overcome the problem they face with the nuance of meaning. As Nida stated in Hatim and Munday [6], analysis of semantics which is the science of meaning can be an ultimate challenge for translators who are non-native speakers of English. This is because they were sometimes confused by the ambiguities as well as the intricacies that appeared in the original text, especially those of multiple senses, figurative meanings, and near-synonyms. In addition, Andrews and Maksimova [1] cited Newmark that said semantic translation is more complex and detailed than communicative translation because the primary objective is to closely reproduce the context-driven meaning. Therefore, by conducting this research, the researcher hopes to broaden her insights about translation strategies, specifically the semantic ones, so that she can properly implement them whenever she has future translation projects. Not to mention this research can also be used by readers or other researchers to deepen their comprehension of translation strategies and theories.

2. THEORETICAL REVIEW

Chesterman [2] divided semantic strategies into nine groups: synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, converses, abstraction change, distribution change, emphasis change, paraphrase, and trope change. The explanation of each category is as follows:

2.1 Synonymy

In this strategy, rather than using the direct equivalent of the SL word, the translator uses the synonym or the near-synonym for that particular word. This is done usually in order to avoid repetition.

2.2 Antonymy

This semantic strategy is done when the translator uses the antonym while combining it with a negation element. So, instead of directly translating expensive into mahal in Indonesian, the translator can use the phrase tidak murah which is the antonym of mahal with the negation tidak. Proshina [7] called this strategy a shifting negative modality, i.e., "substituting a negative component with a positive one".

2.3 Hyponymy

This is a strategy where the translator shifts the hyponym and hypernym relationship. There are three categories for this strategy.

ST hypernym to TT hyponym, or the translation becomes more specific than the original text.

ST hyponym to TT hypernym, or the translation becomes more general than the original text.

ST hyponym X to TT hyponym Y (of the same hypernym).

Hypernym can also be stated as superordinate as it functions at the generic level, as Hatim and Munday [6] mentioned in their book, *Translation: An advanced resource book*. Proshina [7] stated the hyponymy relations as specification and generalization, where specification substitutes words that have a more general meaning with words that have a narrower meaning, and the opposite is a generalization. Therefore, subcategory (a) is a specification and (b) is a generalization.

2.4 Converses

Converses is a strategy where the translator uses an opposing viewpoint for the same state of affairs, for example, exclusive is translated from the opposing viewpoint by using the word that means inclusive. Proshina [7] proposed an antonymic translation that has a similar notion to Chesterman's converses, i.e., "describing the situation by the target language from the contrary angle".

2.5 Abstraction Change

This strategy is used when the translator shifts the level of abstraction, for example from abstract to concrete or from concrete to abstract.

2.6 Distribution Change

This strategy deals with a change in distribution. The changes can be expansion where the translation has more words or compression where the translation has fewer words. Hatim and Munday [6] also said that a single word in the source language may be made longer into several words in the target language, or vice versa, a phrase in the source language is dense into a single word in the target language.

2.7 Emphasis Change

Due to some reasons, the translator may add to, reduce, or alter the emphasis of meaning.

2.8 Paraphrase

Paraphrase strategy may result in a translation that is loose or free, sometimes even under-translated. This is usually done when the translator is faced with idioms or other idiomatic expressions that do not have any equivalents in the target language. Weissbort and Eysteinnsson [8] had a similar notion that paraphrase is a translation that carefully follows the original's outline while retaining enough leeway to portray the "spirit" and "sense" of the original rather than just the "letter". For the same purpose, i.e., changing the words or structure with another one because there is no exact equivalent in the target language, Proshina [7] suggested a technique called complex compensation.

2.9 Trope Change

This strategy can be used with the translation of figurative expressions. There are four subclasses for this translation strategy:

ST trope X to TT Trope X

In this subclass strategy, the figurative expression in the ST is preserved with the same kind of figurative expression in the TT. For example, a metaphor is translated into a metaphor.

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ST trope X to TT Trope Y

In this subclass strategy, the figurative expression in the ST is also translated into a figurative expression, but with a different realization. For example, a metaphor may be translated into a simile.

5

ST trope X to TT trope none

In this subclass strategy, the figurative element is not retained and is translated into a non-figurative expression.

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ST trope none to TT trope X

This subclass strategy is the opposite of the previous one. In this case, the translator translates a non-figurative expression in the ST into a figurative expression in the TT.

3. METHODOLOGY

Since this research is an analysis by giving an explanation in a descriptive way, the method used is descriptive qualitative. As Leavy [9] said, "qualitative research is generally appropriate when your primary purpose is to explore, describe, or explain." This research used primary data as the data are collected by the researcher herself [10]. Since the data taken are from texts, the data are considered micro-level data (ibid.). The sampling method used in this research is purposive sampling because it involves selecting samples based on pre-defined parameters, i.e., the translation that uses semantic strategies. The collected data are then analyzed by using stratified sampling because this research ensures each group of the semantic strategies is represented.

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This research uses two sources of data. The first one is the original book of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* [11] written by J.K. Rowling and published by Bloomsbury Publishing in association with the Children's High Level Group. The second one is its Indonesian translation *Kisah-Kisah Beedle Si Juru Cerita* [12], published by PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama and translated by Nina Andiana and Listiana Srisanti.

The researcher has used the following procedure to carry out this research:

- 1) Read the original book of *The Tales and Beedle the Bard* as well as its Indonesian translation to fully understand the content and the message,
- 2) Re-read both of the texts once more, but this time while marking down any semantic strategies used in the Indonesian translation,

- 3) Classify all the collected data into synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, converses, abstraction change, distribution change, emphasis change, paraphrase, and trope change,
- 4) Check the groupings again to ensure there is no mistake, and
- 5) Analyze the data by using Chesterman's semantic strategies theory as well as other supporting theories by other experts.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After collecting the data, the researcher found 68 semantic strategies which include 2 synonymies, 6 antonymies, 10 hyponymies, 2 converses, 2 abstraction changes, 15 distribution changes, 7 emphasis changes, 22 paraphrases, and 2 trope changes. Below are the discussion and analysis of data samples from each group.

4.1 Data of Synonymy

ST : "Bring me all your problems, all your **troubles**, and your woes!" he screamed, fleeing into the night ... (p. 9-10).

TT : "*Bawalah semua masalahmu, semua **kesulitanmu**, dan semua keluhanmu!*" teriaknya sambil berlari di tengah gelapnya malam ... (p. 30).

The common equivalent of *trouble* is actually *masalah* in Indonesian. However, the word *masalah* has already been used for the translation of the word *problem* that precedes. Thus, in order to avoid repetition, the translator used the synonym of *masalah*, i.e., *kesulitan*.

4.2 Data of Antonymy

ST : "**Be still**. Be silent!" shrieked the wizard, but not all his magical powers could quieten the warty pot, which hopped at his heels all day ... (p. 7).

TT : "***Jangan melompat-lompat**. Diamlah!*" pekik si penyihir, tapi seluruh kekuatan sihir yang dia miliki tak mampu membuat kuali kutilan itu diam. Kuali itu terus saja melompat-lompat mengikutinya sepanjang hari ... (p. 28).

As Chesterman stated, antonymy is translating into an antonym of the word in the source language and combining it with a negation. In the data above, the source text is in a positive form *be still*. However, in the Indonesian translation, we can see that it became *jangan melompat-lompat* which includes a negation *jangan* and the antonym of *still*, i.e., *melompat-lompat*. Therefore, this data used an antonymy semantic strategy.

4.3 Data of Hyponymy

4.3.1. Generalization

ST : A fragment of parchment within the **slipper** bore the words "In the fond hope, my son, that you will never need it." (p. 4)

TT : *Di dalam **sepatu** itu terdapat sepotong kain bertuliskan, "Anakku, harapan terbesarku adalah kau takkan pernah membutuhkan sepatu ini."* (p. 25)

Slipper is a kind of shoe that makes it a hyponym. However, the translation uses a generalization *sepatu* which is the equivalent of *shoes*, not *slippers*. Therefore, the translator applied the hyponymy strategy from specific to general or from hyponym to hypernym.

4.3.2. Specification

ST : Upon the father's death, the son found hidden **inside** the old cooking pot a small package bearing his name (p. 4).

TT : *Setelah kematian ayahnya, anak laki-laki itu menemukan bungkus kecil yang tersembunyi di dasar kuili tua milik ayahnya, dan namanya tertera di bungkus tersebut* (p. 24).

¹ The word *inside* is translated into *di dasar* in Indonesian. The real equivalent of *inside* is *di dalam*, while *di dasar* means *at the bottom* in English. Therefore, this translation applied specification strategy because it shows a specific part of the inside of the pot. In other words, the translator shifted a hypernym to a hyponym.

4.4 Data of Converses

² ST : She hoped that the Fountain might relieve her of **powerlessness and poverty** (p. 23).

TT : *Dia berharap Air Mancur akan mengembalikan kekuatan serta kekayaannya* (p. 47).

In the data above, there is a change in point of view which is contradictory. The source text uses the words *powerlessness* and *poverty*, while the target text uses their opposing pairs. *Kekuatan* is *power* in English, which is an opposition to *powerlessness*. *Kekayaan* is *wealth* in English, which is an opposition to *poverty*. Therefore, the translator implemented the converses strategy for this case.

4.5 Data of Abstraction Change

4.5.1. From concrete to abstract

ST : And he slammed the door in the old woman's **face** (p. 5).

TT : *Dan dia membanting pintu di hadapan perempuan tua itu* (p. 25).

Face is a concrete noun, but the translation is shifted into a more abstract sense. The equivalent of *face* is actually *wajah*, but in the target text, we can see that it is translated into *di hadapan* which is *in front of* in English. *Di hadapan* or *in front of* is abstract; therefore, the translator changed the sense from concrete to abstract.

4.5.2. From abstract to concrete

¹ ST : In a corner **behind** her, the King's sheets were washing themselves in a wooden tub (p. 68).

TT : *Di salah satu pojok pondok, dalam sebuah ember kayu, seprai-seprai Raja tercuci sendiri* (p. 96).

In the data above, the word *behind* is translated into *pondok*. *Behind* is abstract and its Indonesian equivalent is actually *di belakang*. Meanwhile, *pondok* means *cottage* which is concrete. Therefore, this translation implemented an abstraction change strategy, specifically from abstract to concrete.

4.6 Data of Distribution Change

4.6.1. Expansion

ST : But the wizard slammed the door **on her** (p. 8).

TT : *Tapi si penyihir membanting pintu **di hadapan perempuan muda itu*** (p. 28).

The phrase *on her* in the source text has only two words. However, when it is translated into Indonesian, it becomes *di hadapan perempuan muda itu*, which consists of five words. Thus, in this translation, there occurs a distribution change of expansion.

4.6.2. Reduction

ST : At once there came **a loud clanging and banging** from his kitchen (p. 5).

TT : *Saat itu juga terdengar **suara berisik** dari dapurnya* (p. 26).

In the original text, the phrase *a loud clanging and banging* consists of five words. Meanwhile, in the Indonesian translation, it becomes *suara berisik* which only consists of two words. Therefore, the translator implemented a distribution change, namely reduction.

4.7 Data of Emphasis Change

4.7.1. Omit emphasis

ST : The table was laden with silver and gold bearing the finest and most sumptuous foods (p. 50).

TT : *Meja dipenuhi peralatan makan dari emas dan perak yang dipenuhi anggur terbaik serta berbagai makanan mengundang selera* (p. 76).

In the original text, *most sumptuous* contains a superlative *most*. If the translation is faithful enough, it should actually preserve the superlative into *berbagai makanan yang paling mengundang selera*. However, the translator omitted the superlative and change the emphasis contained in the source text. Thus, there occurs an emphasis change.

4.7.2. Add emphasis

ST : Then the shamed King and all the noblemen and women returned to the palace, leaving the tree stump cackling behind them (p. 77).

TT : *Kemudian Raja yang sangat malu beserta seluruh bangsawan kembali ke istana, meninggalkan tunggul terbahak* (p. 105).

In the data above, the word *shamed* is translated into *sangat malu* in the Indonesian language. There occurs an addition of emphasis as the translator added the word *sangat* which is *very* in English, when the fact is there is no such adverb of degree in the original text. Thus, this translation applied an emphasis change.

4.8 Data of Paraphrase

4.8.1. Paraphrase of Idiom

ST : **"Faint heart!"** she chided him. "Draw your sword, Knight, and help us reach our goal!" (p. 25).

TT : *"Pengecut!" katanya mencemooh sang kesatria. "Tariklah pedangmu, Kesatria, dan bantu kami mencapai tujuan!"* (p. 49).

The phrase *faint heart* is an idiom. If it is translated literally into Indonesian, it will become *hati lemah* which does not sound natural to the readers. The translator solved this problem by using a paraphrase strategy and translated it into *pengecut* which makes more sense in the Indonesian language.

4.8.2. Paraphrase of Phrasal Verb

ST : This youngest brother knows that taunting Death—by engaging in violence, like the first brother, or by meddling in the shadowy art of necromancy, like the second brother—means **pitting** oneself **against** a wily enemy who cannot lose (pp. 94-95).

TT : *Si bungsu tahu bahwa menantang Kematian—lewat jalan kekerasan seperti si sulung, atau coba-coba mempraktikkan necromancy seperti si tengah—berarti **membuat** dirinya **melawan** musuh licik yang tak mungkin kalah* (p. 126).

According to Oxford Learner's Dictionary [13], the phrasal verb *pit somebody or something against something* means to test somebody or their strength, intelligence, etc. in a struggle or contest against somebody or something else. The Indonesian language does not have phrasal verb; therefore, it cannot be translated. As a result, the translator used a paraphrase strategy by translating it into *membuat dirinya melawan* which is the translation of the phrasal verb's definition.

4.9 Data of Trope Change

ST trope X → TT trope X

ST : ... and there on the threshold stood a young woman sobbing as though her heart would break (p. 8).

TT : ... *dan di ambang pintu berdiri seorang perempuan muda yang menangis begitu sedih, seakan hatinya akan patah* (p. 28).

As though her heart would break is a hyperbole because it shows an exaggeration. A hyperbole is a kind of figurative expression, and its translation, *seakan hatinya akan patah*, is also a hyperbole. Thus, this translation implemented a trope change from ST trope X to TT trope X.

ST trope X → TT trope none

ST : ... keeping their sweet slumber free of wicked dreams and protecting the precious flower of their innocence (p. 17).

TT : ... *menjaga agar tidur mereka tidak dipenuhi mimpi buruk, serta melindungi kepolosan manis mereka* (p. 40).

The precious flower in the sample data above is a comparison of purity and sweetness. Therefore, it is a figurative expression namely metaphor. In the Indonesian translation, we can see that the figurative expression is dropped altogether. It directly says *manis* which is the equivalent of *sweet*. Thus, this translation applied a trope change strategy from ST trope X to TT trope none.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Out of the nine semantic strategies proposed by Chesterman [2], the Indonesian translation of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* book contains all of them. The data include two synonymies, six antonymies, ten hyponymies, two converses, two abstraction changes, fifteen distribution changes, seven emphasis changes, twenty-two paraphrases, and two trope changes.

From the analysis, we can find that in the hyponymy strategy, the translators used two out of three subclasses, i.e., ST hypernym to TT hyponym (specification) and ST hyponym to TT hypernym (generalization), while the third subclass namely ST hyponym X to TT hyponym Y was not applied. For

abstraction changes, the translators did not only use the shift from abstract sense to concrete sense, but also the other way around. In the distribution change strategy, both expansion and reduction were implemented. They also did not only omit an emphasis in the emphasis change strategy but also add an emphasis to their translation. The translators then also used the paraphrase strategy to translate mostly phrasal verbs and some idioms. This was done because the Indonesian language does not have the phrasal verb in its grammar, and some idioms are just untranslatable. In trope change strategy, they only utilized two out of four of its subclasses, namely ST trope X to TT trope X and ST trope X to TT trope none, while ST trope X to TT trope Y and ST trope none to TT trope Y were not applied.

¹ For future researchers who are willing to conduct similar research, the current researcher suggests using semantic strategies proposed by a different expert thus allowing for a variety of strategies that will enrich research results that are useful to readers. Future researchers may also analyze their own translation rather than other people's translation so that the research analysis can present definite reasons without presumptions or assumptions.

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