

## THE TRANSLATION OF METAPHORS IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS* FROM ENGLISH TO INDONESIAN

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**Abstract:** Translation is undoubtedly an important but at the same time difficult work. Metaphors are among the potential areas of translation problem. This study aimed at describing how metaphors in the novel *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* are translated from English to Indonesian, and evaluating the appropriateness of the translation results. Findings showed certain strategies were applicable and determinant to the appropriateness of the English metaphor translation to Indonesian: adoption or reproduction, adaptation or replacement with Indonesian metaphors, conversion to simile, adoption plus sense, conversion to sense, and deletion. Metaphor translation appropriateness shall be arrived if it qualifies referential and contextual accuracy. Missing one or either two of the accuracy kinds may result in less and inappropriate metaphor translation respectively.

**Keywords:** translation, metaphorical expression, translation appropriateness, metaphor translation strategies

### INTRODUCTION

That translation work is of great importance but at the same time difficult and complex is a two-face of a coin which most translators share a view. On the delighting face, there is a mouthful significant importance of translation in transmitting culture, revitalizing language, interpreting texts, disseminating knowledge, suggesting the relationship between thought and language, and contributing towards understanding between nations. It is also a unique source of knowledge and wisdom for mankind (Newmark, 1988). It enriches the intellectual life in the target communities and introduces new linguistic structures or new genres into

the target language and culture (Stiffener in Malkmajaer, 1988). On the discouraging face, it is an inconvenient and difficult work even before a translator begins his work, more difficult than a writer doing his own composition; because a translator is tightly possessed of the content of the source text. The difficulty is folded when the translator's source and target language mastery is not of an advanced level. The difficulties lie on making decision which principle to refer to; whether the translation should incline to the source or the target language, to be faithful or beautiful, literal or free, and whether to attempt to and struggle for the form or the content.

Translation is the reproducing in the receptor language or target language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and second in terms of style (Nida and Taber, 1982). In translating process, some areas may appear to be potential problems for a translator in transferring the content and the structural form of the source to the target text. Among the commonest problem of content transfer in translation are idioms and figurative meanings (Nida & Taber, 1982).

The translation of idioms and figurative meaning is more problematic since they contain metaphorical expressions.

Metaphor is an indirect speech act of word, expression or sentence whose meaning is what a speaker might utter it to mean, in a way that departs from what the word, the expression or the sentence actually means. In other words, a metaphorical meaning is made up of the speaker's meaning and the word or sentence meaning (Searle in Orthony 1982). The purpose of metaphor is to describe an entity, event or quality more comprehensively and concisely in a more complex way than is possible by using literal language, not just for the purpose of coloring language, but more important is of sharpening it in order to describe the life of the world or the mind accurately (Newmark, 1988).

Because of its nature of using a figurative word to denote meaning, a metaphor or expression with metaphorical meaning is difficult to translate between languages. They are more difficult to translate compared with words with mere literal meanings. In fact, metaphor is at the center of all problems of translation (Newmark, 1988).

However, not rarely we have found that sentences are used in

perfectly ordinary contexts with other than their literal meanings. Indeed, almost every sentence produced by any human being contains importantly metaphorical or other figurative elements. We use or hear hundreds of metaphors in everyday speech, in slang, in news reporting, in novels, etc. (Wales, 2001). In fact, (as stressed by de Man, 1979 in Wales, 2001), they are part of the fabric of language, even of thought.

The translation of literary forms such as novels and short stories between languages are not easy to work out. Even, the translation of novels and short stories is the second most difficult after the translation of poetry (Newmark, 1988). This is truly so in greater part because the existence of metaphors in such writings is ubiquitous. In fact, metaphors in novels and short stories are often boldly translated to literal language, which thus unwittingly sacrifice their language features that function for coloring or sharpening the author's description in their writings. Consequently, readers of the translated texts may not be able to have equal enjoyment as felt by the readers of the original novel or short story.

To transfer successfully the equivalent metaphors from the source language to the target language text, it requires a translator to have knowledge to identify and interpret the metaphor itself. Without such knowledge, it is difficult to work out the interpretation of the metaphor and to represent the metaphorical meanings in the source language text to the target language text.

The blend of the above-mentioned importance of translation in nation development, the challenging problems of translation works, the power of metaphor, the difficulties of

metaphor translation, and its ubiquity in novels were the attraction calling for this study. This study described the strategies of metaphor translation and evaluated the appropriateness of metaphor translation from English to Indonesian as found in the novel *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

## METHOD

Two types of textual data served as the data source: (1) the original J.K. Rowling's novel *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (2000), published by Bloomsbury, in order to obtain the English metaphors and (2) the Indonesian version of the novel, *Harry Potter dan Kamar Rahasia* (2000) published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama Jakarta.

The researcher first read the original novel *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* in order to figure out the intention of the writer, and the function and type of the text. Then, he identified all the English metaphors in the original novel and their translation in the Indonesian translation version. Next, he made comparison of the English metaphors with the Indonesian translation in order to describe and analyze the various strategies used by the translator. Lastly, he performed an evaluation of the appropriateness of the translation of the English metaphors in the original novel to the Indonesian translation concerning with the referential accuracy and the contextual accuracy.

Judgment or evaluation of the appropriateness of metaphor translation was based on the researcher-made standards referring to referential or semantic and contextual or pragmatic accuracy (Newmark, 1988, p 188). The evaluation result is classified into appropriate, less appropriate and inappropriate metaphor translation.

A metaphor translation is marked

appropriate when it has both qualities of referential and contextual accuracy. Referential accuracy bears the quality of faithfulness of the translation to the source language text, and contextual accuracy bears the smoothness, naturalness, thus, acceptability of the translation in the target language text.

A metaphor translation is marked less appropriate when it has referential or semantic accuracy, but is lacking of contextual or pragmatic accuracy, which is necessary for making natural, and thus, acceptable translation in the TL context. A metaphor translation is also marked less accurate when the translator drops or gives up the metaphorical image too easily, while actually there is still alternative attempt to be made for conveying both the image and the metaphorical meaning and the interpretive meaning of the metaphor to the target language.

An English metaphor translation to Indonesian is marked inappropriate if the translation is referentially or semantically defiant or corruptive which signals the unfaithfulness of the translation to the original text. This unfaithfulness may be due to inaccurate addition or subtraction of information, misinterpretation of the metaphorical meaning, or inaccurate deletion due to the translator's incompetence.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Analysis and evaluation of the metaphor translation*

The novel *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* bears more saliently the expressive, emotive, creative and aesthetic functions of language, which takes serious imaginative literature text type. In such a text type, metaphor plays much a part to make strong expressive impression of the language. It is also the link between the expressive and aesthetic

functions. Through images, metaphors connect the extra-linguistic reality with the world of the mind through language. Thus metaphor, being both an expressive and aesthetic component, has to be preserved intact in translation. Therefore, the translator should strive to transfer the metaphorical expressions to the TL text in order to preserve the expressive and aesthetic components of the original. Dropping or giving up the metaphorical images that exist in the original novel in the translation would mean lessening or corrupting the expressive and aesthetic functions which in turn would lessen the value of the novel translated.

There are 224 metaphors identified in the 366 pages novel *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. These English metaphors are translated to Indonesian through various metaphors translation strategies (see table 1). The strategy taken by the translator determines the success or appropriateness of the metaphor translation. A suitable metaphor translation strategy may bring to appropriate metaphor translation. Below are representative examples of the analysis and evaluation of the metaphor translation.

#### *Appropriate metaphor translation*

A metaphor translation is marked appropriate when it has both qualities of referential and contextual accuracy. Referential accuracy bears the quality of faithfulness of the translation to the source language text, and contextual accuracy bears the smoothness, naturalness, thus, acceptability of the translation in the target language text. The following are representative examples of appropriate English metaphor translation to Indonesian.

- (1) *'They gave me a nice, shiny engraved trophy for my trouble and warned me to keep my mouth shut.'*  
 ("Mereka memberiku trofi bagus, berkilau dan berukir, dan memperingatkan aku untuk tetap tutup mulut.")

The secondary meaning of this complex metaphor *keep my mouth shut* is to *keep secret of something*. It is translated *tutup mulut* in Indonesian. In this strategy, the translator has reproduced the original image of the metaphor in the Indonesian translation. The image *tutup mulut* is similarly a standard and popular metaphor in Indonesian culture which the translation readers will not fail to understand. By adopting or reproducing the metaphor, he has maintained faithfulness to the original and has kept the figurative or metaphorical aspect in the Indonesian translation.

- (2) *He promised Harry he would flay him within an inch of his life when the Masons had left.*  
 (la mengancam akan menghajar Harry sampai nyawanya tinggal seujung rambut.)

The secondary or interpretive meaning of the metaphorical utterance *flay him within an inch of his life* is 'to flay very severely.' The metaphor is translated to Indonesian to *menghajarnya sampai nyawanya tinggal seujung rambut*. The English metaphor cannot be adopted or reproduced directly to Indonesian to *menghajarnya sampai setiap inci hidupnya*, as it does not read smooth and natural, therefore not acceptable. Dealing with this problem, the translator's strategy is to adapt or replace the English metaphorical image with the Indonesian image which has similar interpretive meaning to the original. By replacing with the standard and popular metaphorical image in

Indonesian, the translation can be both faithful to the original and acceptable in the receptor's language.

- (3) *'We've been here nearly four hours! I'd never have believed it-time has flown, hasn't it?'*  
(*"Kita sudah disini hampir empat jam. Aku tak percaya, waktu berlalu bagai terbang ya?"*)

The metaphor *time has flown* in the original text has the secondary or interpretive meaning 'time has passed very fast.' The metaphor is translated to Indonesian to *waktu berlalu* *bagai terbang*. The translator's strategy is to translate the English metaphor to a simile in Indonesian. The translator may not adopt or reproduce the English metaphor to *waktu telah terbang*, as it will read strange and awkward. By translating it to a simile, it succeeds the referential and contextual accuracy for being faithful to the original and acceptable in Indonesian context.

- (4) *Harry told them all about Dobby. Very fishy. 'said Fred finally.*  
(*Harry menceritakan kepada mereka semua tentang Dobby.*  
*"Sangat mencurigakan, kata Fred akhirnya.)*

The metaphor *very fishy* has the interpretive meaning 'very suspicious' in the original text. It is translated to Indonesian to a sense or literal language *sangat mencurigakan*. Although the translation does not bear the metaphorical aspect of the English metaphor, its meaning is similar to the metaphor's interpretive meaning. The translator cannot adopt the metaphor to *berbau ikan* or *berbau amis*, as it will not be understood correctly by the TL text readers. Therefore, she should literalize the translation. By literalizing it, the translator maintains the faithfulness of the translation to the interpretive

meaning and enables the readers to understand the translation correctly and easily.

*Less appropriate metaphor translation*

A metaphor translation is marked less appropriate when it has referential accuracy which qualifies faithfulness of the translation to the original primary meaning, but it lacks contextual accuracy which is requirement of acceptability of the translation in the TL context. A metaphor translation is also marked less appropriate when the translator drops or gives up the metaphorical image too easily, while actually there is still alternative attempt to be made for conveying both the image or the metaphorical meaning and the interpretive meaning of the metaphor to the target language. The following are some examples.

- (1) *'Harry! What d'yeh think yer doin down there? Harry's heart leapt.*  
(*"Harry !" sedang apa kau disini? Jantung Harry melompat.)*

The metaphorical utterance *Harry's heart leapt* has the interpretive meaning 'extremely shocked' in the original text. It is translated to Indonesian to *Jantung Harry melompat*. The translator has adopted or reproduced the metaphor to Indonesian. This strategy has made the translation faithful to the original, and therefore referentially accurate. However, it does not read smooth and natural in Indonesian. In other words, it is not acceptable in Indonesian, and therefore, contextually not accurate. It will be appropriate if the metaphorical utterance is replaced with an Indonesian metaphor *jantung Harry mau copot* in order to make it more acceptable in the TL context.

- (2) *'Why would anyone want to celebrate the day they died? ' said Ron. Sounds dead depressing to me.'*

("Kenapa ada orang ingin merayakan hari kematian naereka?" Tanya Ron. "Kedengarannya suram bagiku.")

The metaphor *dead depressing* in the original text has the interpretive meaning 'extremely frightening and sad.' The metaphor is translated to *suram* in Indonesian. This translation, not only that it has lessened the meaning of the English metaphor in the original text, but it also does not have clear meaning and may not be understood clearly in Indonesian. The researcher suggested that it is translated to *kedengarannya menyeramkan sekali*, in order to make the meaning clear and understood by the TL text readers.

- (3) "Yeh should've ignored him, Arthur, 'said Hagrid Rotten to the core the whole family, everyone knows.'  
("Ku seharusnya jangan acuhkan dia, Arthur, ' kata Hagrid. Jahat sekali seluruh keluarga, semua tahu.")

The metaphorical utterance *rotten to the core* has the interpretive meaning 'extremely or acutely bad or mean' in the original text. This metaphor is translated to a sense or literal language *jahat sekali* in Indonesian. The translator has dropped or given up the original metaphorical image too easily in the Indonesian translation. Consequently, the translation has lost its self-expressive and aesthetic function. Therefore, the researcher marks it as less appropriate translation. Actually, in order to this metaphor can be translated *sudah busuk sampai ke tulang seluruh keluarga itu* in order to keep the metaphorical image and be more faithful to the original which is the suggestion to make appropriate translation.

#### *Inappropriate metaphor translation*

The researcher marks an English metaphor translation to Indonesian as inappropriate if the translation is not

referentially accurate, which signals the unfaithfulness of the translation to the original text. This unfaithfulness may be due to inaccurate addition or subtraction of information, misinterpretation of the metaphorical meaning, or inaccurate deletion due to the translator's incompetence. For this inappropriateness, the translator suggests his own translation in order to fix the problem. The following are some examples.

- (1) ... as he allowed to be swept out of his office, leaving them alone with Prof McGonagall.  
(...sebelum dia keluar dari kantornya, meninggalkan mereka sendirian dengan Prof McGonagall.)

The interpretive meaning of the metaphor *to be swept out* in the original text is *to involuntarily leave, or to feel compelled to leave*. The metaphor is translated to a literal language *keluar* in Indonesian. The word *keluar* in Indonesian is not adequately representative to the interpretive meaning of the original metaphor *swept out*. Translated as such, not only the translation has given up the metaphorical aspect too easily, but also it has not been faithful to the original. It has not been successful to convey the interpretive meaning full in the Indonesian translation; it has subtracted the meaning inaccurately. Therefore, the researcher marks this translation as inappropriate. The researcher suggests that it be translated to *sebelum dia harus terusir keluar dari kantornya* in order to make an appropriate translation.

- (2) Riddle watched him out of sight, and then, moving quickly, headed straight down the stone steps to the dungeons with Harry in hot pursuit.  
(Riddle menunggunya lenyap dari pandangan, dan kemudian bergerak

*cepat menuruni tangga batu menuju jeruang bawah tanah. Harry mengejanya.)*

The English metaphor *in hot pursuit* in the original text has the interpretive meaning 'to follow curiously or eagerly.' It is translated to Indonesian to *mengejar*. The translator has given up the metaphorical element *hot* in the translation. This metaphor actually has important meaning, i.e. to

describe how Harry, the subject, has run to follow Riddle. Hence, the deletion has corrupted the complete interpretive meaning of the metaphor. Therefore, the researcher marks this metaphor translation inappropriate. To make it appropriate, the researcher suggests that it be translated to *Harry mengejanya bersemangat*. (See Table 2 for translation evaluation result)

Table 1: Metaphor translation strategies applied in the translation of English metaphors in *Harry Potter and the chamber of secrets* to Indonesian

Translator's Strategies	Total	Percentage
Metaphor Reproduced	69	31%
Metaphor Replaced with TL Metaphor	18	8%
Metaphor Changed to Simile	9	4%
Metaphor Changed to Simile plus Sense	1	0.4%
Metaphor Reproduced plus Sense	3	1%
Metaphor Converted to Sense	118	53%
Metaphor Deleted	6	2.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 2: Percentage of evaluation result of English metaphor translation in *Harry Potter and the chamber of secrets* to Indonesian

Evaluation	Total	Percentage
Appropriate Metaphor Translation	194	85%
Less Appropriate Metaphor Translation	25	12%
Inappropriate Metaphor Translation	5	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>100%</b>

## CONCLUSIONS

From the data analysis and discussion, the research has reached some conclusions. The writer's intention for writing the novel is the realization of her self-expression, creative thinking, and imagination. The novel bears more saliently the expressive, emotive, creative and aesthetic functions of language, which takes serious imaginative literature text type. In such a text type, metaphor plays much a part to make strong expressive and aesthetic impression of the language. Therefore, the translator should strive to transfer

the metaphorical expressions to TL text for preserving the expressive and aesthetic component of the English metaphors in the original text.

The metaphorical expressions in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* are translated to Indonesian through various metaphor translation strategies: (1) English metaphor is adopted or reproduced when it is also a common or popular metaphor in Indonesian language or culture. (2) The English metaphor is adapted or replaced with Indonesian metaphor if the metaphor cannot be appropriately reproduced,

and if the Indonesian metaphor is not defiant or corruptive to the meaning of the SL metaphor. (3) The English metaphor is changed to simile in the Indonesian translation to retain the metaphorical image of the original. (4) The English metaphor is reproduced and combined with sense or the interpretive meaning of the metaphor. (5) The English metaphor is also changed to simile and combined with sense or the interpretive meaning of the metaphor in its original text; in the specific English-Indonesian metaphor translation case, the sense may come first before the simile. (6) The metaphor is converted to sense or translated to literal language. (7) The English metaphor is deleted when the metaphorical meaning is redundant.

The translation of English metaphors in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* to Indonesian has been done relatively successfully. This conclusion is inferred from the evaluation results which show that 85 % of the English metaphors are marked appropriate metaphor translation. Only 12% and 3% are marked respectively less appropriate and inappropriate metaphor translation.

These findings give hint that the translator is familiar with the metaphor translation strategies commonly found or written in translation textbooks or other translation references. Familiarity or knowledge of the metaphor translation strategies has proven to help solve problems of metaphor translation from English to Indonesian.

Although there are several word-for-word translation when the metaphor is a simple or one-word metaphor, for most metaphor translation, word order or syntactical structures seem to be least considered when priority is focused on balancing referential or semantic and

contextual or pragmatic accuracies of metaphor translation from English to Indonesian.

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