



## Techniques of translating “*The Old Man and The Sea*” from English into Bahasa Indonesia

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### Abstract

Each translation must involve at least two languages, that is, the source language and the target language. The two generally differ from each other linguistically, extralinguistically, structurally, semantically, or socio-culturally. Translation is not just a linguistic transfer but also a cultural one. It was concluded that *The Old Man and The Sea* consists of 86 cultural terms. In the translation process there is a combination of two different translation techniques by three translators, for example, translator A found 3 couplets, translator B 6, and translator C 12 so that the translation techniques applied by translator A are about 89 times, translator B 92, and translator C 98. Overall quality of the translation in case of cultural terms is fairly good. The average quality is that the accuracy is higher than the acceptability and legibility. This shows that the three translators prefer the accuracy of the meanings to be conveyed more important than the acceptability and legibility. Translator A has the highest value of translation quality of about 2.65, followed by Translator B 2.64 and Translator C 2.52.

**Keywords:** technique, translation, cultural terms, borrowing

### 1. Introduction

In actual translating activities, translation refers only to the transfer of a written text message and it differs from the term interpretation which relates to the process of transferring an oral text message<sup>[1]</sup>. Bell proposes three terms: 1) translating referring to activities that can be observed by the human eye, 2) translation as the mental processes or cognitive, a process which takes place in the brain of the translator where the process can not be observed by the human eye, and 3) a translation related to the product of translation and translation process, or commonly referred to as the work of translation<sup>[2]</sup>. Catford defines translation as the replacement of text material in one language (source language, or SL) with equivalent text material in another language (target language, or TL)<sup>[3]</sup>. This definition is generally rejected by a few translation experts because in the practice, a translator does not make substitutions for the material. What the translator does is to move or redirect the SL's text message into the TL's text. A more comprehensive definition of translation is proposed by Nida and Taber stating that translation is to reproduce in the language of the nearest natural equivalent target of the text of the SL, first in terms of meaning and second in terms of style<sup>[4]</sup>. In the Nida and Taber's proposal there are five keywords. The first is the equivalent, which is the essence of translation. Any attempt by an interpreter is intended to find the equivalent of the source language text in the target language. The second is natural, which is closely related to the degree of conformity of the grammatical translation, norms and culture prevailing in the target language. The third is the nearest, indicating that a precise translation can not always be fully attained as a result of linguistic and cultural differences between the LS and the TL. Bassnett-McGuire says that the equivalent in translation should not be understood as a search for similarity because no

similarity exists between the two target texts and the source text. The fourth key term is the meaning, which describes how the meaning of the source language text is faithfully preserved in the target text. The fifth is the style, indicating that although the equivalence of the micro-level is often difficult to achieve, the LS' text style needs to be retained within the target text and it can be realized at the macro or textual level<sup>[5]</sup>.

Since the target text will never be commensurate with the source language text at all levels, the researchers distinguish the diverse type of equivalent (Lauscher)<sup>[6]</sup>. Nida suggests a formal equivalent and a dynamic equivalent<sup>[7]</sup>. The formal equivalent is identical to the literal equivalent, which is strongly bound to the meaning contained in the source text. The dynamic equivalent is functional because the equivalent of a man takes into consideration the linguistic context, the situation and the cultural context. Newmark proposes a similar dichotomy of equivalents, namely semantic translation and communicative translation<sup>[8]</sup>. Humboldt offers an aesthetic, formal, textual, connotative, denotative, and pragmatic equivalent<sup>[9]</sup>.

### 2. A glance at translation techniques

Translation techniques are the procedures for analyzing and classifying the means of matching meaning (Molina and Albir) and have five characteristics: (i) translation techniques affect translation outcomes; (ii) translation techniques can be classified by comparing the LS' text with the TL's text; (iii) translation techniques affect the micro text unit; (iv) translation techniques are discursive and contextual; and (v) the translation technique is functional<sup>[10]</sup>.

The translating techniques applied by translators will affect the results of translation. If there are any words or phrases in the SL that are omitted in the translation, for example,

whereas the word or phrase contains significant meaning or information, it can be said that the technique applied has influenced the accuracy of the translation. Identification of the techniques applied by the translator can be done well only if the researcher compares the SL's text and TL's text. If in the SL's text there is, for example, the *dalihan na tolu* phrase, and the phrase is retained in the translated text, it is certain that the translator applies pure lending techniques. Translation techniques occur at the micro level (morphemes, words, phrases, clauses and sentences) and their application can not be separated from translators' attempts to preserve the integrity of the text. Therefore, its use should not be separated from the context, either the linguistic context, the context of the situation or the cultural context. The application of the techniques is intended to produce quality holistic translations. In the context of this study, the authors discuss only translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002) [11].

### 1. Adaptation

A translation is said to apply the adaptation technique if it replaces the cultural elements of the LS with the cultural elements contained in the TL. Therefore, this technique is also known as cultural adaptation technique, cultural substitutions, or cultural equivalents. In America there is a sports game called cricket which then the translator B adapts to *kasti* and so is Thanksgiving Day adapted with *Pesta Gotilon* in Batak Toba language.

### 2. Amplification

Amplification is intended to introduce details that are not formulated in the ST: information, explicative paraphrasing, e.g., when translating from Arabic (to Spanish) to add the Muslim month of fasting to the noun of Ramadan. This includes SCFA's explicitation, Delisle's addition, Margot's legitimate and illustrative paraphrase, Newmark's explicative paraphrase and Delisle's periphrasis and paraphrase. Footnotes are a type of amplification. Amplification is in opposition to reduction".

### 3. Borrowing

With this technique, a translator applies the source word or phrase directly or he maintains the term or phrase in the SL in translation. There are two types of borrowing, namely pure borrowing and naturalized borrowing. With the first type, the translator does not make any changes to the borrowed word or phrase (for example, mixer → mixer). With the second one, the translator directly applies the source word but he changes the word pronunciation to fit the pronunciation rules in the TL (e.g. mixer → mikser).

### 4. Calque

Calque is a technique of borrowing a word or phrase, which can be lexical or structural, such as *Sekretaris Jenderal* which is translated as Secretary General.

### 5. Compensation

By this technique, a translator introduces information elements or stylistic effects of source text elsewhere in the target text because the elements in question can not be

manifested in the same place as in the source text. For example, the position of the word "however" 'tetapi' is placed at the end of the English sentence but it might be moved to the beginning of the sentence translation in Bahasa Indonesia, such as, *tetapi, dia tidak setuju dengan usulan itu.*

### 6. Description

When using this technique a translator replaces the term or phrase with a description of the form and /or function of that term or phrase. For example, the "unfurnished room" is translated to 'kamar kost yang tidak ada isinya sama sekali'. Another example is the "Penotte" which is translated to 'Kue tradisional dari Italia yang dimakan pada Tahun Baru.' Unlike the *addition* technique, the description does not include the source word.

### 7. Discursive Creation

Discursive creation technique is the one that uses a match that is temporary and out of context. This technique is usually applied in translating the title of the story, novel or film and aims to attract the attention of the reader or audience.

### 8. Established Equivalent

A well-established technique is used to match meaning by applying a term or phrase that has already been applied in a dictionary or has already been applied by a linguist. It should be noted that matching meaning with this technique is always bound by context, both linguistic context and situation as well as cultural context (compare with literal technique).

### 9. Generalization

Generalization is a technique of matching meaning by applying a more neutral or more general term or word. This technique is applied when the TL does not have a specific word or term. The English words "hail" or "snowflake" does not have a specific equivalent in the Bahasa Indonesia. Indonesian translators generally apply the equivalent or more general word from the English word "snow."

### 10. Linguistic Amplification

The technique of linguistic amplification is a technique of adding linguistic elements and is commonly applied in consecutive or voice-over interpretation. For example, the "Yes, I did" can be translated as 'Iya, saya sudah memahaminya dengan baik.'

### 11. Linguistic compression

This technique is the one that matches meaning by synthesizing linguistic elements and is usually applied in simultaneous translation or subtitling, for example, the sentence "Iya, saya sudah memahaminya dengan baik" in Bahasa Indonesia is well translated to 'Yes, I did' in English.

### 12. Literal translation

The embodiment of the literal techniques is to translate a word or a phrase by word by word. This does not mean that the word is preserved according to the word in the source language. In other words, the word is adapted to the word in the TL. In addition, the literal technique does not consider the context at all.

### 13. Modulation

This is a technique of matching meaning by changing the point of view or cognitive category. The alteration may be lexical or structural. The word “come” in the sentence *She will come to Medan next week* might be translated as ‘pergi.’ The sentence “You are going to have a child” can be translated as ‘Kamu akan menjadi seorang bapak’.

### 14. Particularization

Particularisation is the opposite of generalization technique. This technique is used for more specific words or terms if the LS does not choose common words or terms. For example, the phrase “air transportation” is particularized as ‘helikopter’ (from superordinate to subordinate).

### 15. Reduction

Reduction means to reduce the information of the source text from the target text. This technique is the same as loss, deletion or omission techniques.

### 16. Substitution

This technique converts the linguistic elements into paralinguistic elements, such as, tones and gestures or linguistic or paralinguistic. The greeting “Thank you” is translated into a gesture by putting hands on the chest.

### 17. Transposition

Transposition is applied by changing the structural adjustment or by shifting the word category and lingual unit. The word structure adjustment must be done if the word structure in the SL and TL is different. The category shift refers to a change in the word class of the SL in the TL, for instance, “the objective of this study is to examine the impact of translation techniques on translation quality” is translated into Bahasa Indonesia as ‘Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji dampak teknik penerjemahan pada kualitas terjemahan’. In that example, the word “objective” as noun shifts into the verb ‘bertujuan.’ In addition, lingual units may be shifted, for example, from the word “observable” into ‘yang dapat diamati’ in Bahasa Indonesia. The shift from one complex sentence into two or three simple sentences is a manifestation of the application of the transposition techniques.

### 18. Variation

Variation technique is applied to match meaning by altering linguistic or paralinguistic elements (intonation, gestures) that affect linguistic variation: tone, style or social dialect or geography. For example, the word “You” is translated as ‘elu’ or ‘kamu’ and “papa” as ‘ayah’.

### 3. Research Method

This research uses descriptive-qualitative approach by taking data which is described according to the nature of the data. Sutopo argues that in qualitative research, data is collected in the form of words, sentences or images that have meaning, meaningful and able to trigger the emergence of a more real than just serving the numbers or frequency.<sup>[12]</sup> Viewed from

the products, this research is classified as research and development because the final goal of this research is to develop and produce prototype model of translation techniques for terms or expressions of cultural contexts from English into Bahasa Indonesia.

This study consists of two stages. The first is focused on the study of translation techniques in matching the contextual terms or cultural expressions in *The Old Man and The Sea* novel into Bahasa Indonesia and in examining the impact of the application of translation techniques on the quality of terms translation or cultural expression, especially regarding its accuracy, acceptability and legibility. The second is to analyze the similarities and differences of the findings of this study with the results of previous studies, particularly those involving cultural contextual meaning. Then, the prototype model of translation techniques is listed from English into Bahasa Indonesia. Making such list becomes the main focus.

The researchers used the primary data from *The Old Man and The Sea* novel and involve three famous translators’ versions. In addition, the primary data were also obtained from the questionnaires. The secondary data were related to reviews or opinions about the novel from the internet and from some previous researches. There are two data classifications, both linguistic and translation data. The first is connected to the terms or cultural expressions and their translation in Bahasa Indonesia. The second is applied in matching the term or cultural expression in the Indonesian versions by three translators.

### 4. Discussion

There are three translations produced by Indonesian translators, namely, Yuni Kristianingsih P. (here is called Translator A or TA), Dian Vita Elliyati (Translator B or TB), and Sapardi Djoko Damono (Translator C or TC). A review of their translations shows that in general each translator applies a similar type of translation technique in cultural terms even though the frequency of use differs from one another. The TA applies twelve translation techniques, namely: lending, steady equivalent, generalization, explicit, paraphrase, additions, disappearances, particularization, adaptation and literal. The TB applies 12 different types of translation techniques, namely: lending, established equivalent, generalization, explicit, paraphrase, disappearance, particularisation, adaptation, literal and variation. Meanwhile, the TC also applies 12 different translation techniques: lending, steady state, generalization, explicit, paraphrase, additions, disappearances, particularization, adaptation, literal, variation and reduction.

The frequency of use for each translation technique is different and so is the total number of translation techniques. Overall, the TA applies 89 translation techniques, the TB applies 92, and the TC applies 98. These differences occur because there are times when the translators apply more than one translation technique. The type and frequency of translation techniques performed by them are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Recapitulation of translation techniques by translators A, B, and C.

No	Translation Techniques	Translators		
		A	B	C
1	Borrowing	38	34	40
2	Steady equivalent	29	35	29
3	Generalization	8	8	11
4	Explicit	6	7	4
5	Paraphrase	3	1	2
6	Addition	1	-	4
7	Deletion	1	1	3
8	Particularization	1	2	1
9	Adaptation	1	2	1
10	Literal	1	1	1
11	Variation	-	1	1
12	Reduction	-	-	1
	Total	89	92	98

Table 1 shows that the TA and TC used the borrowing as their first choices amounting to 38 times (42.69%) by TA and 40 times (40.81%) by TC. However, the TB implements steady equivalent as his most commonly-used technique reaching 35 times (38.04%) although it is used as the second technique by TA and TC amounting to 29 times (32.58%) and 29.59% respectively. This frequency is different from the TB whose second most commonly-used technique is of borrowing reaching 34 times (36.96%).

The next technique is a generalization applied by the TA and TB appearing equally 8 times (8.98%) and (8.69%), and the TC only uses 11 times (11.22%). The percentage of explicit is 7.14% by TB, 6.72% by TA, and 5.10% by TC. Furthermore, the paraphrase is amounting to the percentage of 3.36% by TA, 1.02% by TB, and 4.08% by TC. The addition technique is noted to sit in the 4.08% by TC and 1.12% by TA. The deletion is recorded to be in the 1.12% by TA and 1.08% by TB. Meanwhile, the particularization is noted to have 1.125% by TA and 1.02% by TC. The adaptation technique is applied by TB by 2.16%, by TA by 1.12% and by TC by 1.02% respectively. The literal technique has reached 1.12%, 1.08% and 1.02%. The variation technique is noted to be in the 1.08% by TB and in the 1.02% by TC. Only TC uses reduction (1.02%) and compared to other two translators, he successfully applied a more diverse translation techniques.

By applying natural borrowing technique, the TA retains to use the words or cultural terms from the SL but their pronunciations or spellings are adjusted with the TL as shown by the following examples:

**Data 1**

**SL:** "Can I offer you a beer on the Terrace and then we'll take the stuff home?"

**TL:** "Maukah kau minum bir di Teras dan kemudian kita membawa pulang peralatan?"

The word 'Terrace' is paired with the word 'Teras' in Bahasa Indonesia. This means that the word 'teras' is actually a loan word from the English language, but the word has been adapted to Indonesian spelling. In Bahasa Indonesia, the word 'teras' refers to 'front part of a restaurant or house having chairs for sitting'. The meaning in the TL is acceptable because the word is normally used by Indonesians as it is used

in the SL. In addition to the word 'Terrace' in SL, the TA also performs natural borrowing techniques when matching the word 'baseball' to 'bisbol' in TL as it is in the following example.

**Data 2**

**TSu:** "No. Go and play baseball.

**TSa:** "Tidak. Pergilah bermain bisbol."

The word "baseball" is translated by Indonesians as 'bisbol.' The next data also shows an example of how the TA also performs natural borrowing technique using the word 'periskop' in TL to refer to the same concept of "periscope" in LS.

**Data 3**

**SL:** They were wider than a man's hand with his fingers spread and the fish's eye looked as detached as the mirrors in a periscope or as a saint in a procession.

**TL:** Garis-garis itu lebih lebar dari tangan seorang lelaki dengan jari-jari terbentang dan mata ikan itu tampak tak acuh seperti cermin-cermin sebuah periskop atau seperti orang suci dalam sebuah upacara.

In Bahasa Indonesia the word *pe.ri.skop* / *périskop* / is a noun having meaning 'teropong yang dilengkapi cermin dan lensa, seperti yang dipasang pada kapal selam' (binoculars with mirrors and lenses, such as those mounted on a submarine) and it has existed in the Great Indonesian Dictionary (or KBBI) and since it is always used in Indonesian texts, so this word undergoes the natural borrowing. The TB also occupies the natural borrowing technique in the text as well as the TA; however, the frequency of its application by TB is much less than the TA. In this study there is found one cultural term that the TB translated by natural borrowing technique, as shown in Data 4.

**Data 4**

**SL:** I will have lost two hundred fathoms of good Catalan cardel and the hooks and leaders.

**TL:** Aku akan kehilangan dua ratus depa tali Catalonia yang bagus, juga kait, dan ujung tali pancing.

In the KBBI the phrase "good Catalan cardel" is translated as 'kait Catalan yang baik'. A crosscheck by using google transtool is found that the meaning of the phrase has been there and it means that the readers of the novel can understand the phrase. Next, the TC also applies the natural borrowing technique. There are five terms or cultural expressions in the novel translated with this technique by TC. He translates "terrace" into 'teras', "palm" into 'pohon palma', "periscope" into 'periskop', and "pound" into 'pon', as exemplified by Data 5 below.

**Data 5**

**SL:** "He took about forty pounds," the old man said aloud

**TL:** "Kira-kira empat puluh pon telah dimakannya," kata lelaki tua itu keras-keras.

In Data 5, the TC has used the natural borrowing technique by

matching the word “pounds” in SL with the word 'pon' in TL; the word 'pon' is a loan element that has been adapted to the Indonesian spelling word. Thus, the word has become natural in the TL.

## 5. Conclusions

It can be concluded that the research found 86 cultural terms appearing in single performance. In the translation process, a combination of two different translation techniques is applied by the three translators, for instance, the TA applies 3 couplets, the TB 6 and the TC 12; as a result, the translation techniques adopted by TA amount to 89 times, 92 times by TB, and 98 times by TC. Overall, the translation quality to cultural terms is fairly good. The average quality shows that the average of accuracy is higher than the average of acceptability and legibility. All this means that the three translators prefer the accuracy of meanings of the terms than the acceptability and legibility. The TA has the highest translation quality of 2.65 in value, followed by the TB 2.64 and the TC 2.52. The high value of the translation quality with regard to cultural terms can not be separated from the various translation techniques. Based on the frequency and percentage, these techniques produce quality with varying levels. Overall, the techniques that produce accurate translations are pure borrowing, common equivalent, generalization, amplification /explicit, and paraphrase. From the perspectives of acceptance, the steady equivalent as well as borrowing and generalization give positive impacts, while the unacceptable results are found from the fixed borrowing technique. High readability is generated by the application of established matching techniques, borrowing, and amplification/explicitization, and generalization. Unreadability is due to the selection of pure borrowing technique.

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