

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Translation is commonly understood as an activity of transferring source language (SL) texts into equivalent target language (TL) texts. It aims to reproduce texts in the same or in different languages. It has been an important study at the present time. We can see the essential roles of translation in the daily life. The need of information which comes from different places with different languages now can be accessed in a very short time by translation.

The way of communication has been varied in many ways. The media of communications are also diverging in many forms. Radio, recorded music, newspaper, magazine, and movie are some of examples of communication media. From the examples that have been mentioned before, movie is one of the most popular media of communication. It allows viewers to depict kind of society life and even civilization of one society. In other words, movie is a method of understanding an event which happened in different time and place.

Almost every country in the world has its own movie industry. In order to spread the movie worldwide, it is inevitable that the movie maker should transfer the language of the movie into the language of the country which becomes the target of their expansion.

Subtitle is a common method of giving understanding about the movie content into another language used by the viewer. Subtitle can be defined as caption. Caption is transcription of movie or TV dialogue that presented simultaneously on the screen. Subtitles usually consist of one or two lines of average maximum length of 35 characters. As a rule, subtitles are placed on the bottom of the picture and are either centred or left-aligned. Therefore, it can be concluded that subtitling is words that translate what is said in a movie into a different language and usually appears at the center bottom of the screen. Since the researcher uses a movie as the subject of analysis, there will be subtitle as the part of investigation in conducting this research. In this research the term subtitle refers to the movie texts.

A subtitle translator should pay attention in transferring the meaning from the source language into the target language. The information which is intended to deliver has to be comprehensible to a target audience. It is because most of the time, problems arise when translating texts with different background in culture. One of the problems is the matter of perspective. That is why the translator should understand well about the contexts of both of the texts.

Concerning with the explanation above, it is interesting to analyze and conduct a research related to the perspective change contained in the movie texts. The writer chooses the movie entitled *Gie* and its Bahasa Indonesia movie texts as the subject of the research. The movie is directed by Riri Riza. It was released on

July, 14th 2005. This movie is about Soe Hok Gie who is known as an activist and nature lover from University of Indonesia. The story of the movie is based on the diary *Catatan Seorang Demonstran* written by Soe himself. This movie has been awarded as the best movie at the 2005 Indonesian Movie Festival.

The way the translator made the subtitle is quite unpredictable. Some of the form is changed and some other are preserved. These phenomena occurred due to the difference of perspective between both languages. However, the changes are often unbearable in order to keep the messages of the movie well accepted by the target viewers. For example, when Gie's teacher answers Gie's protest by saying "Kamu yang tukang becak!", in the subtitle, the expression is translated into "And you are no better than one!". The significant difference in both sentences is when the comparison of Gie with pedicab driver turns into a new perspective change since perhaps the sense of comparing people in Indonesia is not the same as in the other places. There are a lot of changes of perspective which are done by the translator in this movie. The researcher thinks that the changes are made solely because of the cultural differences.

B. Focus of the Research

This movie is selected by the writer because of the historical value and the diversity of the language used in the setting. It becomes interesting since the writer finds that there are some problems in the subtitles which are worth to be analyzed.

However, this research only focuses on Bahasa Indonesia translated into English in order to prevent problem expansion in this research.

Actually, there are many translation techniques which are used by the translator in *Gie*'s Bahasa Indonesia-English movie texts. The technique which is closely related to modulation is transposition. While transposition requires the change in form of expression, modulation requires the change in both of form and perspective. The researcher assumed that modulation is more complicated yet challenging.

A translator will be faced by many kind of obstacles if they just translate a text based on the literal meaning. It is because the way to see a phenomenon in one culture and the other varies in many ways. For example, the expression 'Apa yang lebih puitis selain berbicara tentang kebenaran?' as found in the subtitle, is translated into 'What could be more poetic than die defending the truth?' The word 'berbicara' here is translated into 'die defending' which has the sense of emphasizing the meaning of the source language that is also more common in the target language.

The researcher wants to figure out the types of modulation technique found in *Gie*'s Bahasa Indonesia-English movie texts. After it has been figured out, the result is assessed based on the degrees of meaning equivalence. Finally, below is the formulation of the problems.

1. What are the type of modulation techniques employed in *Gie's* Bahasa Indonesia-English movie texts?
2. What are the degrees of meaning equivalence of Bahasa Indonesia-English expressions using modulation techniques in *Gie's* Bahasa Indonesia-English movie texts?

C. Objectives of the Research

With the reference to the research problems, the objectives of the research are:

1. To describe the type of modulation techniques employed in *Gie's* Bahasa Indonesia-English movie texts, and
2. to describe the degrees of meaning equivalence of Bahasa Indonesia-English expressions using modulation techniques in *Gie's* Bahasa Indonesia-English movie texts.

D. Significance of the Research

Based on the background and the objectives, this study is expected to provide theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich and give additional information in the field of translation studies.

Practically, this research is expected to give benefits to the English Language and Literature students who want to elevate their knowledge of translation studies especially on modulation techniques and the degrees of meaning

equivalence. Besides, this research is also expected to give an alternative idea and additional reference in conducting a similar research with different subject.