

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language plays a significant role in human life. Language is a way of organizing sounds and words to communicate information and ideas. Language helps people describe our feeling, talk to other people, and learn about them. People can also make sense of the world by finding words for objects and ideas. The languages used today have taken so many years to develop, and they are still changing so that we can describe new ideas, inventions and discoveries. Language is changing according to context and situation.

As the world develops and moves forward, the need of interaction and communication among people is increasing and undeniable. People all around the world have their own languages and their languages are different to each other. In such condition, language is sometimes as a barrier among the ones who speak different language. Communication will face problems if people who speak different languages have no bridge to solve the language differences. The communication may not run smoothly.

Since language diversity becomes the barrier, people need something as a bridge to make the communication occurs, which is called translation. The process of translation has been playing an important role as a useful bridge that links people from different cultures and backgrounds. Translation has helped people share the

perspective of the world. By the existence of translation, people are able to share knowledge, ideas, and all the things that modern societies share each other.

It is easy to deliver the idea when others can understand the language that is used. The most popular language that is used in this world is English. Evenmore, English as an international language has been spoken widely in international communication among countries in the world, for example, the use of English language in various fields like politics, education, science, and social and cultural issues.

Translation is also used in printed media and in electronic media. Translation occurs in printed media, such books, novels, and magazines. Translating books or novels is important because there are so many people interested in reading. By reading scientific books, people can get information, knowledge from other countries. By reading non-scientific books, people can see how people in other countries behave. In addition, reading non-scientific books sometimes gives more fun.

So far, non-scientific books and literary works have been translated. Many literary works, especially novels, have been translated from other languages into English or from English into other languages, including Bahasa Indonesia.

In the translation process, the translator should focus in terms of meaning and style. It means that the natural translation is more acceptable for the reader because the best translation should not sound like a translation. When the meaning in the source language can be transferred accurately into the target language, the problem is not ended because the translator should also care to the form. Therefore, the

translators should not only master both languages, but also know the other elements (contextual elements) of the two texts such as society, culture, religion, etc. To keep the accurate meaning between the source language and the target language, the translator may change form.

In translating a novel from the source text to the target text, some problems will be faced by the translator. Some problems in translating a novel can be found in the novel that is used in this research, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. For example, the problem that can be found in translating “He had suddenly lost all desire to go into the Maryland Private Hospital for Ladies and Gentlemen”. That clause is translated into “Tiba-tiba hilang semua keinginannya untuk pergi ke rumah sakit Maryland.”

In bilingual translation, transferring of meaning from one language to other must be persistent. It means meaning equivalence is the goal of the translating process. From the example above, the translator gets the goal of the translating process. The translators can transform the meaning equivalently from the source language text into the target language text.

The sentences in the example above are equivalent. It can be analyzed by using meaning breadth variation point of view. From interpersonal meaning point of view, both sentences are equivalent because they use the same speech function, statement and declarative. However, from textual meaning point of view, they are not equivalent. In the English clause, the theme of clause is ‘he’, in the Indonesia clause, the theme is ‘suddenly’.

In the process of translation, the message should be kept the same in both the source and the target languages. However, each country may have its own languages and each language has its own grammar. Therefore, in the process of translation the differences of the structure between the source and the target language must be noticed. The difference of the grammatical structure of those languages may result in some changes in the information content of the messages.

The different structure between the source text and the target text can be seen in the example above. Although the two clauses have the same Interpersonal Meaning, they have different Textual Meaning. The English version is used unmarked topical theme, and the Indonesian version is used marked topical theme. One of the problems is related to Textual Meaning. The structural configurations of the clause are organized as a message. Here, Textual Meaning is used to analyze a clause as a message.

Considering the importance of the message and structure in the process of translation, the textual meaning analysis is important in analyzing a clause as a message. The different realizations of meaning based on textual side between English and Bahasa Indonesia cause problems in delivering the information or message in both languages.

Some English novels have been translated into Bahasa Indonesia. One of the famous novels is *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* which is written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. This best seller novel contains clauses or sentences and it is important for the readers to know the content of the novel. In translation from English into Bahasa Indonesia of the novel, some variations may occur. Those can be in style, meaning,

grammar and linguistic features such as thematic variation. Therefore, this phenomenon has been inspired to conduct a research on the thematic variation of this novel.

B. Research Focus

In doing a translation, meaning must become the priority because the most important part of a message is its content. In addition, meaning is the essential part that must be transferred and must be held, while the form can be changed. Although the source language and the target language have different forms, they should have the same meaning.

Every text has three kinds of meaning that are embodied in human language as a whole, forming the basis of the semantic organization of all natural languages; they are the ideational meaning, the interpersonal meaning, and the textual meaning. Ideational meaning is the representation of experience; people's experience of the world and the world of people's imagination. It is meaning in the sense of 'content' (Halliday, 1985:53). The ideational function of a clause is that which represents in the broadest sense. It can also be called the process; actions, events, process of consciousness, and relations. It is divided into two meanings; they are the experiential meaning and logical meaning.

Interpersonal meaning is meaning as a form of action, the speaker or writer does something to the listener or reader by means of language (Halliday, 1985:53). The interpersonal function of the clause is that which exchange roles in the

rhetorical interaction; statements, questions, offer, and commands together with accompanying modalities.

Textual meaning is relevant to the context, both the preceding (and the following) text, and context of situation (Halliday, 1985:53). The textual function of a clause is the one which constructs a message. Textual meaning is realized by the major textual system that is theme. A clause consists of two elements, theme and rheme. Thematic distribution is a way to search the thematic structure and thematic progression of a text.

Meanwhile, it is important to consider meaning attributes in order to do meaning analysis of a text. There are three attributes of meaning in semiotic system, i.e. breadth, depth, and height (Tou in Sinar, 2008:77). Breadth is characterized by semiotic degree of stratification. Depth is characterized by semiotic degree of stratification. Height is characterized by semiotic degree of weakness. To do meaning analysis of realization of text, those attributes build meaning characters. It is meaning breadth which is related with variety of meaning in semantic levels. Therefore, this research applies meaning breadth as it reaches the scope of analyzing meaning variation.

In brief this research analyzes an English novel compared to its Bahasa Indonesia version. It focuses on analyzing the textual meaning breadth which is realized on the thematic variation of two texts. The novel that is analyzed is an English novel entitled *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* written by F. S. Fitzgerald which later be called as Text 1 (T1). Meanwhile, since the novel has been

translated into Bahasa Indonesia as *Kisah Aneh Benjamin Button* by F. Chotimah, the translated novel is called as Text 2 (T2). This research examines both T1 and T2 by the topic according to textual meaning breadth variation.

In accordance with the limitation of the research above, the formulation of the problems can be formulated as follows.

1. To what extent is the textual meaning breadth variation represented in F. S. Fitzgerald's *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* and F. Chotimah's *Kisah Aneh Benjamin Button* and what is the most prominent category of textual meaning breadth variation?
2. Which text is in a higher degree in its textual meaning breadth?
3. What are the contextual factors that motivate the occurrence of the textual meaning breadth?

C. Research Objectives

Based on the formulation of the problems, the objectives of the research are:

1. to describe the textual meaning breadth variation represented in F. S. Fitzgerald's *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* and F. Chotimah's *Kisah Aneh Benjamin Button* and to describe the most prominent category of textual meaning breadth variation,
2. to describe which text is in a higher degree in its textual meaning breadth, and
3. to explain the contextual factors that motivate the occurrence of textual meaning breadth.

D. Research Significance

Theoretically, this research is aimed at giving some additional references to other researchers in the field of translation since this research uses the English and Bahasa Indonesia novels. Practically, this research is expected to be useful for some parties as follows.

1. For the academic society, the result of this study will provide information about the bilingual translation of English as the original novel and *Bahasa Indonesia* as translation novels in terms of textual meaning breadth. Therefore, this research will be a valuable source and a reference to those who take the relevant research study.
2. For the reader of this textual meaning breadth variation research, the result of this study is expected to help people in understanding bilingual translation and to give some insight in the field of translation.