

THE TRANSLATION OF METAPHORS IN “EYES OF A BLUE DOG” INTO “SEPASANG MATA ANJING BIRU”

Rizaldi Sardani¹, Silvia Indriani²

¹ Logistics Management in Agro-Industry of Polytechnic ATI Padang

² Language Education Section, Master Program, Padang State University

Jl. Prof. Dr. Hamka, Air Tawar Padang, Padang-West Sumatera,

Phone: (+62751) 7053902, Fax: +62 751 7055628, Indonesia

e-mail: rizaldi.sardani@gmail.com, silviaindriani2404@gmail.com

Abstract: *This study was aimed to describe metaphors translated from English to Bahasa Indonesia in the short story entitled Sepasang Mata Anjing Biru that was translated from Eyes of a Blue Dog by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. It was also aimed to describe the translation strategies in translating the metaphors. This study applied descriptive qualitative research. The data of this study were all clauses that contained metaphors, and they were obtained from the short story entitled Sepasang Mata Anjing Biru that was translated from Eyes of a Blue Dog. The data were collected by using observational method which was supported by note-taking techniques. The data analysis was conducted by using translational identity method, because English was used in this study. The results of analysis were presented by using an informal method. The results showed that in translating the metaphors, most of the metaphor in source language were translated into metaphors in target language, and only 1 metaphor were translated into simile.*

Keywords: *metaphor, translation strategies*

INTRODUCTION

Translating activities is not something new for human because it has been implemented for a long time. Along with the development of the times and science, more and more translation is done. Translation is needed for the process of exchanging information and the development of science and technology. It is a process of transferring language from the source language to the target language

while maintaining the existing meaning.

Translation process is not simple. It is not just interpreting words, phrases or sentences from one language to another. There are different cultural contents and experiences in each language. Widyamartaya (1989) states translation is not a problem of learning a second language or a foreign language, but rather a communication

problem. He further states that someone who is able to speak Indonesian and English does not mean he is good at translating.

In translating a text there are several things that affect the results of the translation, one of them are the use of metaphor. Larson (1998) says that metaphor will be difficult to understand if it is translated literally. Correspondingly, Newmark (1988) also states that metaphor is one of the obstacles that often found in translation. Metaphor is one of the most figures of speech frequently used by human in everyday life. Knowles and Moon (2006) reveal that there are two factors that cause metaphors to be used frequently in everyday life. First, metaphor is the basic process of word formation and word meaning. Concepts and meanings are expressed in words through metaphor, for example: *She has published extensively in the field of psychology, that failure has hurt her*. The names of objects and new concepts are metaphorical expressions, such as viruses, web and sites in the field of computers. Idioms and proverbs are often metaphors; *don't put all your eggs in one basketball*. The second

factor, the metaphor is important because of its function, explaining, clarifying, expressing, evaluating and entertaining. For example, in speaking or writing. Metaphors are used to convey feelings or special things to be more attractive. The importance of the metaphor also explained by Glucksberg (2001). He states that people can communicate by using metaphorical expressions without realizing that they are actually metaphors.

Metaphor is seen as a figure of speech between two things or things that are considered to have similar characteristics. Keraf (2010) defines the metaphor as a kind of analogy that compares two things directly, but in the short form. The use of metaphors in communication raises the risk of misunderstanding. This also becomes a challenge for translators to be able to communicate meanings and messages in the source language to the target language.

Metaphors can be found in poems, novels, short stories, newspapers and magazines. The use of metaphors in writing is the way the author describes things without having to explain them in lengthy

descriptions. In addition, the use of metaphors is able to make writing more beautiful and attract the readers' attention. The writings in short stories often contain metaphors. One of them is found in *Sepasang Mata Anjing Biru*, a short story that was translated from *Eyes of a Blue Dog*.

Based on the above phenomena it can be concluded that understanding metaphors translated from one language to another is an interesting thing, especially the translation of English into Indonesian. Therefore, this study was conducted to describe metaphor and explaining the metaphor translation strategies in the short story entitled *Sepasang Mata Anjing Biru* that was translated from *Eyes of a Blue Dog* by *Gabriel Garcia Marquez*.

There were several studies discussed about the metaphor. First, a study was carried out by Sangadji (2013). The aim of the study was to investigate the conceptual metaphor in the *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel and the ways of its translation and analyze the translation of the metaphor using the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) theory. The conceptual metaphor data in Sangadji's

research includes words and phrases that contain expressions of conceptual metaphor. The results of this study indicate that there are eleven conceptual metaphors originating from the source domain and five conceptual metaphors originating from the target domain. Sangadji found that translators applied the five methods of translating metaphors based on Larson's theory in translating these metaphors. In analyzing the metaphor using the Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory, there are two major classifications; that is, a metaphor which is translated into metaphors and metaphors which are translated not into metaphorical form.

Next, Karnedi (2011) conducted research on the translation of metaphors from English to Indonesian. The data used in the study is a conceptual metaphor in economic textbooks. In his research, Karnedi applied a cognitive approach, a corpus-based approach, a comparative model and a theory of translation strategies. The findings in the study were 19 types of metaphors which included three classifications of conceptual metaphors, namely structural metaphor, ontological

metaphor and orientational metaphor. Then the other findings are translators applying literal translation methods, semantic translation and faithful translation to translate conceptual metaphors. These findings indicate that source text writers tend to use structural metaphors to describe concepts, theories and arguments in the economic field. Karnedi concluded that the translator applied *foreignisation* ideology in translating conceptual metaphors for economics from English into Indonesian. The advantage of this research is that the author has used various approaches and methods to analyze the translation of metaphors.

Finally, research conducted by Hasan (2008). Hasan examined the translation of metaphors in three novels into Indonesian. The theories used in this study are metaphorical theories by Beekman and Callow, Larson, Miller, Fraser and Moelino. The analysis applied is analysis of translation and semantic analysis. The results of this study indicate, first there are a hidden collocation mismatch and an incomplete type of comparison. Second, the metaphor of the translation results is classified into,

metaphor, simile and non-figurative expressions. Third, translations are grouped into equivalent and not equivalent translations. Fourth, the cause of achieving comparability is the use of a familiar image, the interpretation of the similarity points is obtained through its image, and the point of similarity revealed clearly, and the context that supports it.

The studies mentioned above have several similarities with this study in terms of approaches and theories applied. But this study has a difference in the object of research, namely metaphor in English which is translated into Indonesian in *Sepasang Mata Anjing Biru* short story. Therefore, this research attempts to describe the metaphors and the strategy of translating metaphors. Besides that, this research is expected to provide beneficial contribution to the reader about the metaphors and strategy of translating metaphors in the study of translation.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES

Metaphor

Metaphor is a figure of speech that compares two objects or things directly by expressing an object or a

thing as an object or another thing. Knowles and Moon (2006) define metaphor as the use of language to refer to something as something other than the original meaning, to make a comparison or relationship between two objects. Lakoff and Johnson (1998) argue that metaphor is a way of conveying something in another form and its main function is to make concepts more understandable. In line with the opinion above, Wright (2002) states that metaphor is the use of an idea to represent another idea. For example, time is money (*waktu adalah uang*). When the idea comes to mind, other phrases such as save time, and run out of time will be born.

Based on the opinions above, it can be concluded that the metaphor is a comparison between two things in the form of words or combinations of words that are not in the real sense but as depictions based on direct similarities.

There are three parts in metaphor (Beekman and Callow, in Hasan: 2008).

1. Topic: objects or things discussed.
2. Image: a metaphorical part of the phrase used to describe the

topic in the context of comparison.

3. The point of similarity: the part that shows the similarity between the topic and the image.

The following example explains the relationship between the three parts of the metaphor according to Beekman and Callow.

The tongue is a fire (*Lidah adalah api*).

In the sentence above there are two things that are compared, namely tongue as a topic with fire as an image. In the sentence the tongue is compared to the fire based on its similarity in nature. The similarity between the tongue and fire is in the form of the heat produced. Tongue can produce painful words that feel hot to the listener. Tongue can produce words that can destroy like fire which can also destroy objects passed through it.

Based on the explanation above, this study used the terms parts of the metaphor, namely, topic, image and point of similarity. According to Beekman and Callow (in Hasan, 2008), the three parts can appear simultaneously or only the image is clearly stated.

Metaphor Translation Strategies

Translating is not easy, because there is an element of culture and experience in the metaphor. Therefore, the right translation strategy is needed so that meaning can be well received. Translation strategies are ways in which translators express source language messages into the target language.

Larson (1998) argues that metaphors can be translated with one of the following strategies:

1. Metaphor is maintained in the target language if possible. This can be done if the metaphor seems natural and can be understood by the reader.
2. The metaphor is translated as a simile with the addition of words; like, as.
3. Metaphor is translated as another metaphor in the target language with the same meaning.
4. The metaphor of the source language is maintained, and its meaning is explained in other words.
5. The meaning of metaphor is translated into the target language without maintaining a form of metaphor.

Based on the explanation above, the strategy proposed by Larson is seen as more representative of the metaphor translation phenomenon found in this study.

METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

This study applied a qualitative approach in accordance with the purpose of this study, which is to understand the linguistic phenomena that are emerging. On the other hand, this research is descriptive because the data are in the form of English metaphors and the translations are in Indonesian. The data are described as they are without any reduction or addition and then analyzed to obtain conclusions in general. This is related to Sudaryanto (1992), he argues that descriptive research is carried out based on existing facts by not considering the correct or incorrect use of language used by the speakers.

The data of this study are all clauses in which contain metaphors. The metaphor was taken from *Sepasang Mata Anjing Biru*, a short story by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, published in *Suara Merdeka* (April 10, 2011) which was translated from *Eyes of a Blue Dog* (published in *The New*

Yorker on April 30, 1978). There are 18 metaphors that are inventoried.

Data sources can be differentiated into substantive and locational data sources (Sudaryanto, 1993). Sources of substantive data are data sources that are similar with data. The sources of substantive data in this study are texts that contain metaphors in a short story entitled *Sepasang Mata Anjing Biru*. While locational sources are the place of origin of the data in the form of the producer or creator of the language. In this study, locational sources are speakers who speak metaphorical phrases in *Sepasang Mata Anjing Biru* short story.

This study began by carefully reading and studying the metaphor in English short story *Eyes of a Blue Dog* and finding its equivalent in the Indonesian translation text in *Sepasang Mata Anjing Biru*. Furthermore the note-taking technique was applied to collect the data needed in the study.

This is a descriptive qualitative study. It is called qualitative because it aims to understand the phenomena of language that occur and are not related

to the calculation of numbers as the final result (Mahsun, 2005). At the data analysis stage, a translational equivalent method was also used. According to Sudaryanto (1993), the equivalent method is a method that determines the outside, regardless, and does not become part of the language concerned. The type of equivalent method used was the translational equivalent method because of other language defining tools.

As the final stage of this method was the presentation of the results of data analysis. According to Sudaryanto (1993) the presentation of the results of data analysis can be in the form of formal and informal methods. In this study the results of data analysis were presented in an informal method of using ordinary words. The presentation of the results of the data analysis began with the presentation of the type of metaphor in the data source and the translation results found in *Sepasang Mata Anjing Biru*. Furthermore, it was followed by an explanation of the source and target domains. The next step was to present the translation strategies of the metaphor.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The analysis in this study used the metaphor translation strategies proposed by Larson (1998) to identify the metaphor translation strategies in the short story entitled *Sepasang Mata Anjing Biru* that was translated from *Eyes of a Blue Dog* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Data 1

SL : ... *I kept feeling her slippery and oily look in the back of me*

TL : ... *masih kurasakan wajahnya yang licin dan berminyak di belakangku*

The expression ‘slippery and oil look’ is a metaphor, due to it compares ‘slippery and oily’ with the condition of human face. ‘Slippery and oily’ are usually the situation that occur on some surfaces. Here in the aforementioned data, the image of slippery and oily is transferred into human face. The metaphor in the data above was translated into metaphor in the target language because it also has the same image and meaning in the target language. As Larson (1998) stated, the translator may translate a metaphor into metaphor with the same image in the target language, as long

as it can be understood by the reader. Thus, the translation of the metaphor was understandable by the reader in the target language.

Data 2

SL : *I watched her keep on looking at me with her great hot-coal eyes.*

TL : *dia menatap ku dengan matanya yang hitam batu bara.*

The expression of ‘her great hot-coal eyes’ is a metaphor. It compares the eyes of a human to coal. The image of coal is conveyed in the metaphor. The metaphor in target language consists expression ‘hitam’, which is taken from the color of coal. In the data, metaphor from source language is translated also as a metaphor in the target language. Moreover, the translator kept the same image from the source language. However, the expression ‘hot’ is not fully translated into target language. The message is considered to be already expressed in the translated metaphor.

Data 3

SL : *This must be a city of ice*

TL : *Ini pasti lah kota es*

The sentence in Data 3 consists a metaphor that is ‘a city of ice’. This expression compares a city to ice. The situation of a city that brings cold sensation to its people is considered as cold as ice. The characteristics of ice are applied to illustrate the condition of the city. Moreover, the metaphor is translated literally. In Data 3, the metaphor from source language is translated into also a metaphor in the target language with the same image. The translator kept the same image because it also occurs in the target language. In other words, the image of ice is easily understood by the reader of target language.

Data 4

SL : *the flame licking her long copper skin*

TL : *lidah-lidah api menerangi kulitnya yang merah tembaga*

The expression ‘the flame licking’ is considered as a metaphor. It is illustrated the fire as a tongue that can lick something. In this sentence, the fire portrayed as a tongue that licked human skin. The image of fire, with its motion and its characteristics, is applied into the word ‘tongue’. In this data, the metaphor from source

language is translated into a metaphor with the same image in target language. It is applicable because the image of fire as a tongue also occurs in target language. It makes the translation more understandable by the reader.

Data 5

SL : *I’ve thought you were only a little bronze statue in the corner of some museum.*

TL : *Aku mengira kau adalah patung perunggu kecil di sudut sebuah museum.*

The sentence in Data 5 contains a metaphor that is ‘you were only a little bronze statue’. This expression is considered as metaphor because it is noticeably compared a human to a statue. It is illustrated the situation and condition of a human when standing still like a statue. The image and characteristics of an unmoved statue, is transferred into a human condition. The metaphor from the source language is translated into also a metaphor in target language. It is possible because the image of a statue also takes place in target language.

Data 6

SL : *I looked her up and down
and she was still copper;
no longer hard and cold
metal*

TL : *Ku amati dari atas
sampai bawah dan dia
masih saja kulihat seperti
logam, tapi tidak lagi
keras dan dingin.*

The expression 'she was still copper' is a metaphor. It is compare a human to copper. The condition of copper is transferred to the situation of a human. The metaphor in source language is translated as a simile in target language. Larson (1998) stated that metaphors can be translated into simile with the addition of words; like, as. Here in the target language, the metaphor is translated into 'dia masih saja kulihat seperti logam'. It is considered as a simile because it contains the word 'seperti'. This translation strategy is applied to make the meaning of the expression more understandable to the reader.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Based on an analysis of the metaphors in the source language and

their translation in the target language as described above, conclusions are drawn based on the metaphorical translation strategy. The most commonly metaphorical translation strategy used in translating the metaphor is a metaphor that is translated into a metaphor also in the target language. There is only one metaphor which translates to simile in the target language. It is applied to make the messages from the source language can be more understandable by the reader in the target language.

This research is significant because it provides information to the reader about the metaphors in a short story and the strategy used in translating the metaphors.

Suggestion

Translating a metaphor is not an easy task. Therefore, the translator is recommended to keep the metaphorical expression in his translation by finding out the equivalent metaphorical expression in the target language. However, if he wants to translate the meaning without maintaining the metaphorical expression in the source language, it is suggested to consider the appropriate vocabulary that are going to use in

translating the word, so that the words can be translated into a proper word in the target language.

REFERENCES

- Gluksberg, S. (2001). *Understanding Figurative Language*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Hasan, D. C. (2008). *Penerjemahan Metafora Bahasa Inggris Ke Bahasa Indonesia*. Padang: Bung Hatta University Press.
- Karnedi. (2011). *Penerjemahan Metafora Konseptual Dari Bahasa Inggris ke Bahasa Indonesia Studi Kasus Penerjemahan Buku Teks Bidang Ekonomi*. Unpublished Dissertation. Depok: Universitas Indonesia.
- Keraf, G. (2010). *Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa*. Jakarta: PT. Gramedia.
- Knowles, M., & Moon, R. (2006). *Introducing Metaphor*. New York: Routledge.
- Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. (2003). *Metaphors We Live By*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Larson, M. L. (1998). *Meaning Based Translation*. New York: University Press of America, Inc.
- Mahsun, M.S. (2005). *Metode Penelitian Bahasa: Tahapan Strategi, Metode dan Tekniknya*. Jakarta: Raja Grafindo Persada.
- Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. New York: Prentice Hall.
- Sangadji, A. E. (2013). *Translation of Conceptual Metaphors in a Thousand Splendid Suns: A Natural Semantic Metalanguage Approach*. Unpublished Thesis. Denpasar: Universitas Udayana.
- Sudaryanto. (1992). *Metode Linguistik*. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press.
- , (1993). *Metode dan Aneka Teknik Analisis Bahasa*. Yogyakarta: Duta Wacana University Press.
- Widyamartaya, A. (1989). *Seni Menerjemahkan*. Yogyakarta: Kanisius.
- Wright, J. (2002). *Idioms Organizer*. Boston: Heinle.