



Cultural Terms and Their Translation in A Thousand Splendid Suns Novel

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ABSTRACT

The study concerns on the translation of cultural terms in A Thousand Splendid Suns novel. It aims analyzing the types of cultural terms and translation technique found in A Thousand Splendid Suns novel. This qualitative research was done through a descriptive analysis based on Newmark's theory and Molina and Albir theory to analyze the data. It was found that there are five categories cultural terms in this data that are social organization which has forty seven (47) data or 48,959%. Then, it followed by the material culture which has thirty two (32) data or 33,333%. The other that is ecological has eleven (11) data or 11,458%. The lowest were social culture which has three (3) data or 3,125% and gestures and habits has three (3) data or 3,125%. It can be concluded that social organization is the highest occurrence of the data the translation of cultural terms found in A Thousand Splendid Suns novel.

1. INTRODUCTION

Translation according to Hoed (2006) is an activity to transfer in writing messages from the text of a source into the text of the target language. According to

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Nida, translation is to produce the closest natural equivalent of the source language message into the recipient's language, first in terms of meaning and second in terms of style. (Nida and Taber, 1969:12). Catford (1980:20) states that translation is an activity of replacing textual material in a language as a source language (SL) with equivalent textual material in the target language (TL). Translation according Peter Newmark is a skill that includes replacing a written message or statement in one language with the same message or statement in another language. Lawrence Venuti. Venuti understands translation as an attempt to produce a transparent text so that the text does not appear as a translation. (Venuti, 1991:1).

Literary works such as novels, poetry, and films frequently use cultural words in their text. The authors should research and learn about local cultural aspects as well as the novel's primary themes. Authors usually use cultural terms in their writing by using a specific language that denotes the expression of a notion or concepts. The reader, on the other hand, may not always be conversant with the cultural terms. Literary works are creations that can create a beautiful feeling for people who read or feel it, both in terms of language and content (Suprpto, 1993). One of the most popular forms of literature is the novel. According to Teeuw (in Rahayu, 2014) the novel is a prose genre that displays the most complete story elements, has a wide media, besides that the novel also presents the most extensive social problems. In general, a novel tells about the characters and their behavior in everyday life. Therefore, the novel is said to be the most sociological and responsive genre, because it is very sensitive to socio historical fluctuations (Ratna, 2004).

According Horby (2000) Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, Culture is custom, belief, art, and way of life, etch of a particular country or group. Because of the disparity between the source and destination languages, this problem frequently causes problems for translators. Furthermore, many source languages lack equivalents in target languages. The term "cultural terms" refers to words that have cultural overlap in both the source and target languages. It is difficult for readers to comprehend. Newmark divides cultural from universal and personal language (Wahyudi, 2016). Die, live, star, swim, and even almost universal artefacts like mirrors and tables are universal - there is typically no problem with translation. Cultural terms include monsoon, steppe, dacha, and tagliatelle. Cultural is anything that humans create and do at regular intervals. As part of their identity, culture creates new terms. The distinction of culture resulted in a linguistic divide. The problem for translators is to connect the message in the source language with the message in the language to be used.

This study used a novel with entitled *A thousand splendid Suns* as the data source. With this research, readers will also gain insight to understand the phenomenon of translation related to words or cultural terms found in novels. Reading this description makes for an interesting topic for research. Therefore, researchers conducted "Analysis of the Translation of Cultural Terms Found in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*."

2. METHODS

The data source in this study were taken in the novel entitled *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. This novel was published in 2007. It was chosen as the data source in the study because there were problems with the equivalent of cultural terms also found in the novel. The data were collected using observation, documentation, and note taking method in collecting the data, there are: (1) The researcher discovered the untranslatable cultural phrases by reading the English and Indonesian versions of the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* several times. (2) During the reading process, the researcher appraised the book and looked for untranslatable cultural phrases that may be used in this study. (3) The researcher then gathered the information and put notes on the text to show that the information was useful. In order descriptive qualitative approach has been used to analyze the data in this study. In order to analyze these data, the researcher performs various steps. First the novel was written in English and then translated into Indonesian. Second, the researcher examined statements that contained cultural references. Third, the researcher looked at sentences with cultural terminology that were difficult to translate. Four, the Newmark theory of cultural words was used to categorize these untranslatable cultural terms. Finally, the researcher examined the data using Molina and Albir translation techniques. The result was presented by formal and informal methods. In formal method showed the percentage of the types of cultural terms and translation technique and in informal method has been used to presented data descriptively and clear explanation was made by organized sentences in paragraph.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

According to the research in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini that was translated from English to Indonesian by Berliani M. Nugrahani. The writer only focused on cultural terms found in novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Based on Newmark theory of translation, there were five types of culture terms namely ecology, Material Culture, Social Culture, Organizations, Customs, Activities, Procedures, Concepts, Gestures and Habits. However, in the analysis the writer only found five translation techniques namely Amplification, Borrowing, Calque, Literal Translation, Reduction. The finding of the research was analyzed deeply by using table and sentence. The following table were presented the total and percentage translation of cultural terms and translation techniques that found in *A Thousand Splendid Sun* novel.

Table 1.1 The Cultural Terms Found in Novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

No.	Types of Culture Terms	Data	Percentage (%)
1	Ecological Culture	11	11,458%
2	Material Culture	32	33,333%
3	Social Culture	3	3,125%
4	Social Organization	47	48,959%
5	Gestures & Habits	3	3,125%
Total		96	100%

Table 1.2 The Quantities of Translation Techniques Found in Novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

No.	Technique of Translation	Data	Percentage (%)
1	Amplification	10	10,416%
2	Borrowing	70	72,918%
3	Calque	3	3,125%
4	Literal	9	9,375%
5	Reduction	4	4,166%
Total		96	100%

Based on to the table above there is a total 96 data of cultural terms occurred in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel. Those cultural terms are ecology, material culture, social culture, social organization, gesture and habit. Furthermore, the translation techniques in this research were five translation techniques there are amplification, borrowing, calque, literal, and reduction.

Discussion

The analysis was done by explaining the data descriptively. According to the theory proposed by Newmark (1988) to identified cultural terms and to analyze the translation techniques was used theory proposed by Molina and Albir. Below are the cultural terms and it explanation found in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel.

Ecology

Ecology: flora, fauna, local winds, mountains, etc. It may relate to flora, fauna, local winds, mountains, etc. Different culture will have different terms of them. Many countries have local words, and these words would be translated based on their importance in the source language.

Data 1

SL	TL
He showed her how to cast her line, how to reel in the <i>trout</i>.	Jalil menunjukkan kepada Mariam cara melemparkan umpan dan menarik ikan <i>trout</i> .

Trout belong to the category of ecology, especially fauna. According to Robert (2022). *Trout* is the name for a number of species of freshwater fish of the genus *Oncorhynchus*, *Salmo* and *Salvelinus*, all subfamily *Salmoninae* of the family *Salmonidae*. The name of fish is also used as part of the names of some non-salmonid fish such as *Cynoscion nebulosus*, such as the spotted trout. Trout is closely related to Salmon and char (or charr): species called salmon and char occur in the same genera as do trout (*Oncorhynchus* - Pacific salmon and trout, *Salmo* - Atlantic salmon and various fish, *Salvelinus* - char and trout). Most trout such as the Lake Trout live in freshwater lakes and/or rivers exclusively, while there are other fish such as the Rainbow Trout which can live their lives in fresh water, or spend two or three years at sea before returning to freshwater to spawn, a habit more typical salmon. The Rainbow Trout that spends its time at sea is called the Steelhead Trout.

The translation technique used by translator is borrowing it can be seen that the word '*trout*' in the source language is still translated '*trout*' in the target language. This is done because in the target language there is no general term that can be used to replace the word '*trout*', the word is still used in the target language. Therefore the translator uses a pure borrowing technique.

Data 2

SL	TL
Two hundred yards upstream, toward the mountains, there was a circular grove of <i>weeping willow trees</i>	Dua ratus meter melawan arus sungai, kea rah pegunungan, terdapat sekelompok pohon <i>weeping willow</i> yang berdiri melingkar

Weeping Willow belongs to the category of ecology, especially flora. According to Meikle (1984). *Weeping Willow* is a plant with the species name *Salix babylonica* L originating from North China. This plant was first officially named in 1736 by someone named Carolus Linnaeus. Although originating from Northern China, the Weeping Willow is cultivated for many years in various parts of the world, such as Asia and Europe. Now, the tree, also known as the trinil tree, is spread almost all over the world, especially in areas with moderate climatic conditions and sufficient rainfall and sunlight. Weeping willow is a large tree with short trunks and branches and leaves that hang towards the ground. It grows well with sufficient sunlight and moist soil. The water requirement is high enough so that this tree will grow optimally if it lives on the edge of a pond or lake. This also makes it have a bad effect if it is in a densely populated residential location, the roots of the Crying Willow will attack the gaps in the pipes and hinder the distribution of water for the surrounding community. Weeping willows can grow up to 25 meters. Its growth is also quite fast. Unfortunately, this tree does not have a long life, which only ranges from 40-75 years in the wild. This plant has a light green leaf shape with fine serrations surrounding it in a neat arrangement with a length of about 5-15 cm and a width of 1-2 cm. In autumn, the leaves of this tree will turn golden yellow.

The translation technique used by translator is amplification that can be seen from the translation in the source language and the the target language. Where the translator is in the target language and adds information without changing the meaning of the source language. In the source language '**Two hundred yards upstream, toward the mountains, there was a circular grove of weeping willow trees**'. Seen in the target

language '**Dua ratus meter melawan arus sungai, ke arah pegunungan, terdapat sekelompok pohon weeping willow yang berdiri melingkar**'. Where the translator in the target language add the additional information '**yang berdiri melingkar**' without changing the meaning of the source language.

Material Culture

Material Culture (artifacts): food, clothes, housing, transport, and communications. Newmark divides the material culture (artifacts) into food; food is, for many, the most and important expression of a national culture. The function of the generic cloth term is approximately constant, indicating the part of the body that is covered, but the description varies depending on climates and materials used, houses and towns, and etc.

Data 3

SL	TL
Even after Mariam serving the rice and the lamb and okra <i>qurma</i> in front of him, he wouldn't touch it.	Bahkan setelah Mariam menghidangkan nasi serta <i>qurma</i> domba dan okra di hadapannya, dia tidak mau menyentuhnya.

Qurma belong to the category of material culture, especially food. According to Helen (1997). *Qurma* is a stew or casserole based on onions and tomatoes, usually served with white rice. First, the onions are caramelized, for a rich, colorful soup. Then tomatoes are added, along with various fruits, spices, and vegetables, depending on the recipe. The main ingredient, which can be meat or other vegetables, is added last.

The translation technique used by translator is literal it can be seen that the translator translates word for word from the source language and target language using literal techniques, so that the translation results do not change, both structurally and in terms of meaning.

Data 4

SL	TL
He added a <i>tandoor</i> outside for making bread and chicken coop with a fence around it.	Di luar, Jalil juga meletakkan sebuah <i>tandoor</i> , oven lempung, untuk membuat roti, dan kandang ayam dengan pagar di sekelilingnya.

Tandoor belongs to the category of material culture, especially clay oven. According to Monier (1872). *Tandoor* refers to a variety of ovens. The most commonly known are cylindrical clay or metal ovens used for cooking and baking in the North Indian subcontinent. The tandoor is used for cooking in South, Central and West Asia, as well as in the South Caucasus. The heat for a tandoor is traditionally generated by a charcoal or wood fire, burning within the tandoor itself, thereby exposing food to live fires, hot cooking, and hot air, and convection cooking. Temperatures in tandoors can approach 480°C (900°F), and usually tandoor ovens stay on for a long time to maintain a high cooking temperature. The tandoor design is something of a transitional form between a makeshift earth oven and a horizontal plan stone oven

The translation technique used by translator is borrowing it seen that the word '*tandoor*' in the source language is still translated as '*tandoor*' in the target language. This is done because in the target language there is no general term that can be used to replace the word '*tandoor*', the word is still used in the target language. Thus the translator uses the pure borrowing technique

Social Organization

Newmark divides the organizations into five categories; they are political and administrative terms, historical terms, international terms, religious terms, and artistic terms (the translation of artistic terms referring to movements, processes and organizations generally depend on the putative knowledge of the readership).

Data 5

SL	TL
That I'm some kind of hotelkeeper? Well, it...Oh. Oh. <i>La illah u ilillah.</i>	Bahwa aku semacam pemilik hotel? Yah, kau...Oh. Oh. <i>La illah u ilillah.</i>

La illah u ilillah belong to the category of social organization, especially words or terms related to religion. Based on Wiktionary (2019). *La illah u ilillah* if translated simply to "There is no God but Allah". Many scholars have commented on the naming of the lafadz "La ilaha Illallah". There is the term Tawhid. The reason for this naming is that in this dhikr it introduces that there is no god but Allah. This meaning contains an explicit message about the Oneness of Allah SWT. There is only one God, namely Allah SWT and other gods who are not worthy of worship.

The translation technique used by translator is borrowing and it can be seen that the word '*La illah u ilillah*' in the source language is still translated as in the target language '*La illah u ilillah*'. This is done because in the target language there is no general term that can be used to replace the word. '*La illah u ilillah*' means "There is no God but Allah". The word '*La illah u ilillah*' is still used in the target language. Thus the translator uses the pure borrowing technique.

Data 6

SL	TL
She was awakened every dawn for prayer by the distant cry of <i>azan</i>, after which she crawled back into bed.	Dia terbangun oleh suara <i>azan</i> dan kembali merangkak ke tempat tidur setelah menunaikan shalat.

Azan belongs to the category of social organization, especially words related to religion for Muslim call to prayer. According to Sahih (2014). *Azan* or adzan is a call to worship for Muslims to perform the fardu prayer. The call to prayer is echoed by a muezzin from the mosque every five prayer times. The word *azan* itself comes from the word *adzina* which means "to announce the call to prayer". The second call after the call to prayer, called *iqamah*, is used to inform the congregation that the prayer service is about to begin.

The translation technique used by translator is borrowing it is seen that the word '*azan*' in the source language is still translated as in the target language '*azan*'. This is done because in the target language there is no general term that can be used to replace the word. The word '*azan*' is still used in the target language. Thus the translator uses the pure borrowing technique.

4. CONCLUSION

As conclusion of this research, social organization is frequently used on the novel entitled *A Thousand Splendid Suns* followed by ecology, material culture, social culture, and the last gestures and habits. By using the theory stated by Newmark (1988) and Molina and Albir, the study found that social organization is the most dominant applied in this research. Meanwhile, the translation techniques found in this research are, amplification, borrowing, calque, literal, reduction. Borrowing is the most dominant applied in this research, because *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel was used a lot of cultural words or terms, therefore the translator does not find the words or terms to be translated, and the translator uses borrowing techniques to take words or terms directly from the source language, the translator tries translate in the same meaning without adding, subtracting the meaning and not even changing the sentence structure, thus the reader can be understand both in the words of the translation and readable to the novel.

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