

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Translation is within the domain of Applied Linguistics. This activity has been used around the world in many fields such as art, science, music, poetry, business and so on. It happens because there are various kinds of languages depending on their regions and cultures in every country. As a result, people always adjust foreign languages to their languages. Indonesia also applies this adjustment.

That can be seen from the increasing number of translation such as books, magazines, novels, journals, even music (song lyrics). However, sometimes the translation is not fully correct. This is the beginning of a translation problem and most people do not have awareness or recognize about it. Translation problems can be caused by two points, source texts and languages. Problems of source texts consist of difficult source texts to translate, wrong spelling, unfinished text, badly written text. While language problems consist of idiom terms and neologisms, unsolved acronyms and abbreviations, proper name of (people, organizations, and places), slang is difficult to understand, respect to punctuation conventions (Translation school Org, 2011, April 30th, ¶ 1).

Translation is a process to change one language to another language. Newmark (1988, p.7) defines the translation as a craft consisting an attempt to replace a written message and / or statement in one language by the same message

and / or statement in another language. This provokes that translating one language to another language contains a continuous tension, dialectic, an argument based on the claims of each language.

The translation involves in many activities or fields, including translation for song lyrics. A song lyric is a part of poetry which is sung in rhythm. Poetry is poems in general as a form of literature and also a very beautiful or emotional quality (Walter, 2008, pp.1091-1092). There is no formula for understanding all poetry and it is not possible to give one definition which classifies every poem, because it has its sense. Another opinion comes from John Dryden (as cited in Abrams 2009, p.271) who states that most poets believe in something called 'poetic license'. The meaning of poetic license is:

"The liberty which poets have assumed to themselves in all ages, of speaking things in verse which beyond the severity of prose"

The quotation means that poetry can represent feeling, tell story, share happiness and show sadness in its own way without considering the strict rule in language. Therefore, poetry has the same function like song. A song represents the singer's feeling. This is because someone who writes lyrics wants to share or tell something through those lyrics. Sometimes the word is difficult to understand, even if we translate it in our own language. Nevertheless, not of all lyrics can be translated correctly. Maybe some of them can, but the rest cannot be translated well.

In brief, lyrics are the same as poetry. So lyrics may entail strategies to translate from one language to other languages. Lefevere (as cited in Bassnett, 1996, p. 81) distinguishes seven strategies to translate poetry: phonemic

translation, literal translation, metrical translation, poetry into prose, rhymed translation, blank verse translation, and interpretation. To prove whether or not those translation strategies may be applicable in song lyrics above, then this study is necessary to be conducted.

Actually, there are some genres of songs such as humanities, religion, environment, politics, love, etc. The writer is interested in love genre because the genre is metanarrative theme of everlasting human being. It means that love is an abstract idea that is thought to be a comprehensive explanation of historical experience or knowledge.

According to Brooks (2010, p.66), a love song can reveal songwriter's feeling. Then, there are some matters that become attentions to song lyrics. They are counting syllables, rhythms and meters.

This research uses comparison of song lyrics between English and Indonesian version in love genre. After browsing through internet, the writer found three singers who sing their songs in two versions (English-Indonesian), Christian Bautista, Anggun C. Sasmi, and J-Rocks. They are very well-known in Indonesia.

Those song lyrics are material for this research. The writers identify what strategies of translation and what kind of lyric aspects which are applicable in song lyrics under study the writer conduct. Based on the explanation before, the writer is interested in conducting research entitled **“The Analysis of Some of Christian Bautista's, Anggun C. Sasmi's and J – Rocks' Love Song Lyrics Translation: English and Indonesian Versions”**.

1.2 Field of the Study

This study belongs to Linguistics within the domain of Applied Linguistics because this research deals with translation theories.

1.3 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on Applied Linguistics concentrating on translating and interpreting material (Davies, 2007, p.16). In this research, the writer explores poetry and translation. Poetry is represented by song lyrics (English and Indonesian). Then, those are analyzed by translation theories which consist of strategies for translation from Lefevere's theories. In addition, this study is analyzed with lyric aspects such as counting syllables, rhyme, rhythms and meters.

1.4 Problem Formulation

Based on the translation theories for this study, the writer formulated two problems for this research:

1. What kinds of translation strategies in Lefevere's theories are applied in love song lyrics translation under study?
2. What kinds of song lyric aspects are usually giving influence on this love song lyrics translation under study?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

By doing this research, the writer wants to achieve two objectives as follow:

1. To analyze translation strategies from Lefevere's theories which are applied in love song lyrics under study.
2. To analyze song lyric aspects which influence in love song lyrics translation under study.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this study will give real proofs for translation theories in poetry translation which is represented through song lyrics, especially English - Indonesian translation. This study explored about kinds of strategies for translation and lyric aspects. By doing that, the readers can understand that every translation has its own nature. The writer also hopes that the readers or learners can use right theories or strategies when they also try to translate or understand the translated text.

Furthermore, the writer hopes that the result of this study could give contribution and add something useful for both lecturers and students in the English Department, Faculty of Letters, Soegijapranata Catholic University. For students, the writer hopes that this study can be references for those intending to who conduct thesis on translation field. Then, for the lecturers, this study can be an additional material for teaching translation.

1.7 Definition of Terms

There are several terms that will be frequently used in this study:

1. **Translation:** the transfer of meaning contained in one set of language signs into another set of language signs through competent use of the dictionary and grammar (Bassnett, 1996, p.13).
2. **Romanticism:** the ideal of great shaping spirit that transcends the everyday world and emphasis on rediscovery of great individuals who share a common sense of creativity (Schlegel, 1813 as cited in Bassnett, 1996, p.65).
3. **Source Language (SL):** a language from which words have been taken into another language (Richard & Platt, 1992, p.341).
4. **Target Language (TL):** the language which a person is learning, in contrast to a first language or mother tongue (Richard & Platt, 1992, p.373).