

## THE USE OF TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES IN SUBTITLING THE *DHAUP AGENG* DOCUMENTARY MOVIE

Agnes Arum Budiana<sup>✉</sup>, Djoko Sutopo, Dwi Rukmini

English Language Education Postgraduate Semarang State University, Indonesia

### Article Info

*Article History:*

Received 15 January 2017

Accepted 26 April 2017

Published 17 June 2017

*Keywords:*

Movie, Subtitle, Translation  
Techniques

### Abstract

*Translation plays an important role in learning foreign language. Translating, however, is not an easy task because each language has its own rules in phonetic, structure and word. In order to achieve the equivalence, there are some techniques involved in translation process. This study was to analyze the use of translation techniques in subtitling the Dhaup Ageng documentary movie, to find out which translation techniques were mostly used and to investigate the ways in which the translation techniques were used. This study used descriptive-qualitative approach to describe the results of the analysis of translation techniques. The object of the study was the subtitle of Dhaup Ageng documentary movie which consist of 77 utterances of Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X. The findings indicated that literal translation was applied in 19 excerpts, compression was in 13 excerpts, borrowing was in 9 excerpts, transposition was in 8 excerpts, linguistic amplification was in 7 excerpts, amplification was in 4 excerpts, compensation was in 3 excerpts, calque, established equivalent and reduction were applied in 2 excerpts, while adaptation, description, discursive creation, generalization, modulation, substitution, particularization and variation were applied in 1 excerpt. Based on the results, literal translation was the most dominant technique used in subtitling process. It might be used properly if the context required the use of such technique.*

© 2017 Semarang State University

<sup>✉</sup>Correspondence Address:

Kampus Pascasarjana Unnes, Jalan Kelud Utara III Semarang 50237

E-mail: [agnesarumb@gmail.com](mailto:agnesarumb@gmail.com)

p-ISSN 2087-0108

e-ISSN 2502-4566

## INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important role in human's life. It impacts on the necessity of translation caused by the difference of language human use to communicate. According to Newmark (1988:7), as a mean of communication, translation is used for multilingual notices, which have at last appeared increasingly in public places for reports, papers, articles, correspondence, textbooks, advice and recommendations for every branch of knowledge. The description stated by Newmark insists us the reality of how important translation is. Translating, however, is not an easy task because each language has its own rules in phonetic, structure and word. In translating sometimes the translator also finds some problems dealing with the equivalence that he/she could not find in the target language.

According to Barzegar (2010), during the twentieth century, new translation genre was created. This genre was the result of the arrival of film industry and the invention of sound films in 1927. At that time translation was used to transfer the spoken dialogue of the source language (SL) film into the target language (TL) of the audience. This new translation genre was referred to as Audio-Visual Translation (AVT). AVT is conventionally taxonomized into "subtitling" and "dubbing" which are the main forms of language transfer in film and television. The first one which is the focus of this paper is defined as "supplementing the original voice soundtrack by adding written text on the screen" and the second one is "replacing the original voice soundtrack with another in another language" (O'Connell, 2000, p. 169).

Due to different aspects of the source language and the target language, there are some strategies and techniques involved in the translation process in order to achieve the equivalence of the translated works. This study focuses on the use of translation techniques in subtitling the Dhaup Ageng documentary movie.

The study is aiming at explaining the use of translation techniques in subtitling the

Indonesian source text into the English target text. The translation techniques applied are to be analyzed. The results of the study are, then, to give description related to the translation techniques used and the ways in which the techniques are applied. It is to give additional point of view for the lecture of translation class to make a reflection and future development in arranging a better teaching method. Also, in line with the mission of Semarang State University as the conservation university, this study can be one of the culture conservation efforts in this new millennium era.

## METHODS

This study used descriptive qualitative approach. The object of the study was the subtitle of Dhaup Ageng Documentary Movie which consists of 77 utterances of Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X as the main character. The source language is Indonesian, while the target language is English as the data to be analyzed. The instrument of this study was the translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002). There are 18 translation techniques. In collecting the data, the subtitle of Dhaup Ageng documentary movie was observed. The source text is in the form of Indonesian script while the target text is English. The data were collected by using documentation in the form of movie that is taken directly from the movie director and observing the movie subtitle. To collect the data, the writer used some steps i.e. selecting the movie, watching the movie, writing both source and target language script to find the utterances by Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X as the main character, and tabulating the script which is set with the source language on the left and the target language on the right. The investigation of how the translation techniques are used in subtitling the Dhaup Ageng documentary movie was done as follows: identifying, categorizing, interpreting and drawing conclusion.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The aim of this study is to find the translation techniques used in subtitling the Dhaup Ageng documentary movie. The result shows that there are 18 translation techniques which were applied by the translator. After collecting the data, the writer then identified the techniques that were used in subtitling. Each

clause of the dialogue was classified based on the types of translation technique proposed by Molina & Albir (2002).

The result of the study shows the frequency and percentages of the techniques used in subtitling the Dhaup Ageng documentary movie as described in the following table.

**Table 1.** Frequency of the Translation Techniques Used

No	Translation Techniques	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	Literal Translation	19	25
2.	Linguistic Compression	13	17
3.	Borrowing	9	12
4.	Transposition	8	11
5.	Linguistic Amplification	7	9
6.	Amplification	4	5
7.	Compensation	3	4
8.	Calque	2	3
9.	Established Equivalent	2	2
10.	Reduction	2	3
11.	Adaptation	1	1
12.	Description	1	1
13.	Discursive Creation	1	1
14.	Generalization	1	1
15.	Modulation	1	1
16.	Substitution	1	1
17.	Particularization	1	1
18.	Variation	1	1
	Total	76	100

According to the table 1, there are 18 translation techniques used in subtitling the Dhaup Ageng documentary movie. They are literal translation, linguistic compression, borrowing, transposition, linguistic amplification, amplification, compensation, calque, established equivalent, reduction, adaptation, description, discursive creation, generalization, modulation, substitution, particularization and variation.

Based on the findings, Literal Translation is the mostly used technique in subtitling the

Dhaup Ageng documentary movie. It is used in 19 numbers out of 77 total excerpts. The literal translation can be used properly if the context requires the use of such technique especially the sentence which implies the meaning explicitly. Indeed, the use of literal translation would impact on the incorrect translation as the implicit meaning could not be reach by the application of literal translation. Consequently, the target sentence is out of order in the grammatical construction or beyond the intended meaning.

The 2nd most dominant technique used by the translator is Linguistic Compression. It is used in 13 excerpts out of 77 total excerpts. Linguistic Compression technique is applied since the certain linguistic elements in the source language are needed to be synthesized. This is due to the translator tries to provide the subtitle that happens simultaneously on the movie without changing the meaning significantly.

Borrowing technique, the third, is used in 9 excerpts out of 77 total excerpts or it shares 12%. It is applied since the certain terms found in the source language are difficult to be translated and they have no equivalence in the target language. It is sometimes a kind of borrowed or loan word on the target language so that Borrowing is used as the way in translating the source sentence.

The fourth mostly used technique is Transposition which is applied in 8 excerpts out of 77 total excerpts. This technique is used in which some sentences are needed to be changed in grammatical category from SL to TL. Then it is undergone by adapting the SL grammatical construction into the TL grammatical construction. The construction becomes slight or absolutely different but the meaning is relatively the same. This technique shares the same idea with another definition, which involves replacing one word class with another without changing the meaning of the message.

The fifth mostly used technique belongs to Linguistic Amplification. It is used in 7 excerpts out of 77 excerpts. This technique adds some linguistic elements into certain words or expressions in the target language. So the TL sentence might be longer than the SL sentence but the meaning of both sentences is relatively the same.

The sixth position belongs to Amplification which is applied in 4 excerpts out of 77 excerpts. This technique is applied since some sentences are needed to be paraphrased and given additional detail of information in order to cope with the equivalent and to meet the acceptable subtitle by the use of such technique.

Placing the 7th position, Compensation technique is applied in 3 out of 77 excerpts. It is used as the translator needs to introduce an SL element of information or stylistic effect in another place in the TL because it cannot be reflected in the same place as in the SL. It means that compensation technique is applied to introduce informative features and the styles of SL into TL due to those features could not be replaced by another equivalence of the TL.

The 8th position is placed by Calque, Established Equivalent and Reduction. Those three techniques are used in 2 excerpts out of 77 total excerpts. Calque technique is almost similar to structurally or lexically literal translation of a foreign word or phrase. Established equivalent is applied by the use of a term or expression recognized by dictionaries or language in use as an equivalent in the target. Reduction technique is applied as it occurs a redundancy of the SL text or due to the lack knowledge of the translator of a particular word or phrase so that it is omitted or suppressed.

The last position belongs Adaptation, Description, Discursive Creation, Generalization, Modulation, Substitution, Particularization and Variation are used only once in total 77 excerpts. Adaptation is used as it replaces the unit of the SL with one which has the same situation or condition to the TL, then there is a new term in the TL to adjust the SL term. Description is to replace a term by giving description since the SL text has no equal meaning on the TL text or to make a clear understanding related to a certain term. Next, Discursive Creation is to establish a temporary equivalence that is totally unpredictable out of context. This technique is applied for the lack understanding of a certain term or is to cope with the acceptable target text by the translator. Generalization in using more general or neutral term is applied in condition the SL term is changed into the more neutral term on the TL. It is in opposition to Particularization which is to use more precise or concrete term by specifying to be fitted into the target sentence. Modulation technique is applied when the translator attempts to change the point of view or focus of

the source text in relation to make an equivalent in the target one. Substitution technique is applied to change linguistic elements for paralinguistic elements, such as intonation, gestures, or vice versa. In this study, the translator changes the gesture of Sultan Hamengkubuwono X who nods his head into the linguistic elements "Accepted". Variation technique is applied since there is a change of linguistic element that affects the aspect of linguistic variation.

## CONCLUSION

The aim of this study is to investigate the use of translation techniques in subtitling the Dhaup Ageng documentary movie and their influences on the translation product. After analyzing the data consisting of 77 utterances of Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X as the main character, some conclusions can be drawn as follows.

The result shows that there are 18 translation techniques applied by the translator. They are literal translation, linguistic compression, borrowing, transposition, linguistic amplification, amplification, compensation, calque, established equivalent, reduction, adaptation, description, discursive creation, generalization, modulation, substitution, particularization and variation. From the 77 total utterances of Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X as the data of this study, literal translation shares 25%, meaning that it is used in 19 excerpts out of 77 excerpts. The rest of the techniques are linguistic compression (13 of 77 excerpts), borrowing (9 of 77 excerpts), transposition (8 of 77 excerpts), linguistic amplification (7 of 77 excerpts), amplification (4 of 77 excerpts), compensation (3 of 77 excerpts), calque, established equivalent and reduction (2 of 77 excerpts), adaptation, description, discursive creation, generalization, modulation, substitution, particularization and variation (1 of 77 excerpts).

Based on the findings, Literal Translation is the technique that is mostly used in subtitling the Dhaup Ageng documentary movie. The

result of this study also explains the ways in which the translation techniques used by the translator in subtitling process. By using Literal Translation, every single word of the source language is translated directly word for word by the translator. It might be used properly if the context requires the use of such technique. Or else, the use of Literal Translation raises problems dealing with the equivalent. According to the writer's observation, it might be caused by the lack of the translator's knowledge and understanding related with both the translation technique and the meaning of the context.

In order to transfer the message clearly from the source language to the target language, the result of the study shows that translation techniques are needed to translate one language into another language. The translator can use not only one of the technique to translate each sentence but also more than one technique in one sentence.

## REFERENCES

- Barzegar, H. 2007. "English into Persian Translation of Colloquial Expressions in Subtitled Films." Available on line at <http://chiron.valdosta.edu/whuitt/col/cogsys/construct.html> [accessed on 24/12/2014]
- Hatim, B. and I. Mason. 1990. *Discourse and the Translator*. London : Longman.
- Larson, M.L. 1984. *Meaning-Based Translation: A Guide to Cross-languagae Equivalence*. Lanham: University Press of America, Inc.
- Lestyanawati, Rochyani. 2014. *The Translation Techniques Used in Translating an English News Item Text at University of Science and Koran (UNSIQ) Wonosobo*. Unpublished Thesis of Semarang State University.
- Merriam, S.B. 1988. *Case Study Research in Education: A Qualitative Approach*. London : Jossey Bass Publisher.
- Molina, L. nd Hurtado Albir, A. 2002. "Translation Technique Revisited: A Dynamic and Functional Approach." *Meta*, XLVII, 4. Spain, Barcelona: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.
- Newmark. 1988. *A Textbook of Translation*. United Kingdom: Prentice Hall International (UK) Ltd