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The Naturalness of Figurative Language from 'The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle' Novel

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Abstract Article Info The concept of equivalent refers to how closely a language's source and target Article History: Accepted 09 May 2022 work in a certain situation. By rating or evaluating a translation's quality, the Approved 04 July 2022 translator can decide whether it is natural. This study aimed at explaining the Published 23 naturalness of the Indonesian translation of the figurative language contained in December 2022 the novel 'The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle.' In order to collect data, the researchers obtained words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that contained figurative language from the novel. Leech's (1969) classification of figurative Keywords: language and Larson's (1998) assessment of the naturalness of translation were Naturalness of used to analyze the data, which was done using the content analysis technique. Translation, Figurative This study measures the naturalness of translation in order to enhance Language, Translation Analysis translation rather than criticize the translator. This study identified four levels of naturalness for figurative translation: highly natural level, natural level, less natural level, and unnatural level. It was revealed that the translator offered a highly natural figurative translation. It indicates that the translator succeeded in making the content understandable and making it clear to the reader, preventing readers from realizing the text is a translation. The quality of the natural translation must be evaluated in order to deliver a better translation that will aid the target audience in comprehending the book's content.

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INTRODUCTION

Communication and language use are two linked concepts. According to Sirbu (2015), the importance of interpersonal communication is equivalent to the importance of language. Being social beings, we must connect with one another since without it, nothing can be accomplished. Without communication, individuals will not be able to comprehend one another. There is a chance that we will misunderstand each other if we don't communicate well (Reddy, 2016). Communication through language plays a crucial part in human contact. As our primary mode of communication, language enables us to interact, work together, and get along so that we may complete our tasks and meet our needs. Without language, it is impossible to communicate with others.

Language barriers can often be overcome through translation. The translation is a very useful tool for communication, exchanging cultures, and transferring knowledge because of the diversity of languages, the need for communication in human life, and the need for communication in the world (Abbasi et al., 2012). According to Sukmawati (2021), in a multilingual environment, translation has emerged as a crucial tool for interpersonal communication. People are able to build relationships with other nations by translating information from one language to another. According to Larson (1998), translation is the process of conveying the source message into the target language. Translation, he continues, is a process that involves not just one meaning but also two or more.

Translation involves at least two languages, referred to as the source language and target language, according to Siregar (2016). The source language is the one in which the text to be translated is written, whereas the target language is the one into which the meaning is conveyed. Translation challenges may result from the disparities between the source language system and the target language system.

The translation is a form transfer. According to Wijayanti (2021), it is difficult to translate a novel since it needs to be as

comprehensive as the original. The translator should convey the atmosphere of the source text (ST) to the target text (TT). A translator needs to be careful when translating a message since the reader will find it easier to grasp if the content is translated accurately, naturally, and communicatively. As a result, it is clear that translating a text is not a simple process. In order for the meaning between the source language (SL) and the target language (TL) to be equivalent and for the text to be read naturally, the translator must have a thorough understanding of all components of the translation process.

Along with accuracy and clarity, the translator must also take the naturalness of the language into account. The reader will find it challenging to understand the text's material if the translator has already translated the SL precisely and clearly yet the TL phrase sounds weird and unnatural. In that situation, the translator needs to be able to select the word that corresponds most closely in meaning to the original text.

The translation is quite difficult, according to Chotimah (2022). A lot of people disregard how crucial it is to become proficient in translation methods before translating content. Last but not least, a lot of translation output is careless and the meaning in the target language cannot be translated appropriately into the source language.

According to House (2015), the translation should be able to convert a text from the source language into the target language using an equivalent one in both semantics and pragmatics. The study also reveals the perspective that the translators, whether the translation is overt or covert, adhere to. This suggests that in order to provide target readers with an equal translation, a text's translation should be evaluated from both a semantic and pragmatic aspect (Zainudin and Awal, 2012; Yuliasri and Hartono, 2014).

The biggest challenge in performing translation, according to Hartono (2017), is discovering the equivalent meanings. The main challenges in the translation are identifying the right words to use and translating expressions' meanings from the source language to the target language. Finding the equivalents in the target language is a difficulty for translators since they have to deal with two separate languages during the translation process, each of which has a unique structure. Finding the equivalent meanings is difficult, according to Soemarno (2003) and Fienso (2005), because there are sometimes idioms in the source language that are difficult or even impossible to translate. To locate terms from the source language that are equal to and fit the context, purpose, and culture of the speakers of the target language, translators must have a special skill and methodology.

Many literary masterpieces are currently being translated by professionals. A novel is among them. Figurative language is frequently used in novels. Because it basically always appears in different kinds of literary works, figurative language is an important topic for semantics research. Figurative language is a linguistic style used to make writing more interesting and imaginative so that readers experience a stronger emotional response (Perrine, 1997).

There are close connections between vocabulary and figure of speech. Because words' meanings, including connotative meanings, cannot be understood without knowledge of semantics, there is a significant correlation between semantics and figure of speech. Figurative language can be challenging to understand, and occasionally readers of news articles, magazines, newspapers, or books will ignore non-literal phrasing. Naturally, if you take the phrase's literal meaning, it becomes weird or unclear. According to Wales (2001), the purpose of using figurative language is to catch the reader's attention by making comparisons between two or more objects. Figurative language can take many different forms. Leech (1969) divided figurative language into ten categories Some examples include synecdoche, metaphor, metonymy, simile, personification, symbolism, allegory, irony, hyperbole, and litotes. Figurative language can be used to convey concepts and information in a more beautiful manner. The text's meaning should be communicated to the reader in a way that is not only aesthetically pleasing but also clear and legible. To accurately

translate figurative language, translators need to have a solid command of the original language.

Researchers are studying naturalness: first, Aisyah & Harjanti (2020) investigated how accurately the Indonesian version of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince was translated from its original language by J. K. Rowling. According to the study's findings, the translator gave the entire translation a high level of naturalness. This indicates that the translator was successful in making the text intelligible, knew the audience the original author had in mind while writing, succeeded in hiding the fact that the text was translated entirely, being and employed communicative translation rather than semantic translation. Second, Dewi et al. (2015) examined the naturalness of the English translation of the Indonesian short story Drupadi. According to the study, Tom Hunter's translation of the story from Indonesian into English is "highly natural" level. Thus, senior high school teachers can use the short novel "Drupadi" as lesson material. However, that short narrative must be improved before being utilized as a teaching tool because it contains multiple phrases with grammatical mechanical irregularities, errors (spelling, punctuation, and repetition), and improper word choices when translating the target language (TL). Third, Safei and Salija (2018) examined the accuracy and naturalness of the translation of English short stories into Indonesian. According to the study, the pupils' translation of the short narrative The Proud Lion earned them a score of 7-8. The rating of 'almost completely successful' comes from 30 pupils. Most students were successful in their translations; they were able to convey their ideas clearly in the target language, and their readers were able to understand what they had written. However, a few students performed poorly on the translation test; their interviews revealed that they had issues with vocabulary, the use of word-for-word translation, and their ability to choose the indicated meaning. They used the wrong terms, and readers may find their translations odd and awkward.

Based on the underlying purpose of this study, the present study tends to gain a deeper understanding of The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle's source language as compared to the target language. Using Leech's (1969) theory, the researchers categorized figurative language in this study. Then, we assessed how naturally the figurative language was translated.

METHOD

This study was descriptive qualitative because the researchers interpreted, clarified, and described every procedure used to pinpoint the issue. The purpose of the study was to provide an explanation of the naturalness of the English-Indonesian translation of the figurative language contained in the novel 'The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle. This study was descriptive in nature and did not describe the numerical analysis.

Researchers' roles included data collection, analysis, and reporting. Moreover, figurative language words, phrases, clauses, and sentences comprised the analyses' unit of analysis. A tablelike observation checklist was the research tool. The criteria of the checklist employed in this study were based on Larson's theory, particularly the criteria of the naturalness of translation.

The researchers collected the data from a variety of sources, including books, journals, the internet, and other materials. Information that was relevant to the study's goals was provided. The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle was downloaded by the researchers once they had expanded their knowledge. It took a lot of reading to collect the different sorts of figurative language words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. Finally, in order to assess the naturalness of figurative language translation, the respondents were gathered and given the task of rating the data on the naturalness of translation. In this study, English teachers with at least five years of teaching experience were the respondents, and purposive random sampling was employed to select the sample size.

The researchers took several procedures after collecting the data in order to do additional analysis. The first phase is classification. The researchers divided the information into figurative language categories according to Leech (1969) and categorize the naturalness of translation according to Larson (1998). Analyzing is done in the next phase. The data obtained from a number of earlier phases were substantially integrated into the analytical process. Interpreting is the third phase. It indicates that the findings described in the preceding section were interpreted by the researchers. The researchers included the information and also provided the context. Making conclusions was the final phase. To enhance the findings via this procedure, the researchers used triangulation. The researchers used this to convey validators' perceptions so that they come at the same conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

There are 588 data that the author utilized that came from the literature. According to this research, there are four categories for how natural the translation is: highly natural (423 data) natural (159 data), less natural (5 data), and unnatural (1 data). If the translation makes sense, reads naturally, or is written in everyday language, common grammar, and appropriate idioms and terms, it is said to have a highly natural level. If a translation uses the proper idioms and phrases and has the correct meaning, it is considered natural; yet, there are some mistake constructions. If a translation uses few, if any, non-native vocabulary, grammar structures, expressions, or idioms, it is said to be less natural. Meanwhile, a translation is deemed unnatural if it has an odd language style, an improper grammatical structure, or the wrong terms. Here are some data explanations:

1. Unnatural Level

If a translation has odd language, an improper grammatical structure, or the wrong terms, it is unnatural. The analysis revealed that there is 1 data unnatural figurative language translation in the text. The list is as follows:

SL: "Flames streamed off my body."

TL: "Lidah api berloncatan dari tubuhku." According to Larson's definition of the

naturalness of translation, a translation follows

this quality if it is written using ordinary language, common grammar, and appropriate idioms and phrases. Additionally, a natural translation must convey the same meaning in both the TL and SL. It is clear from those requirements that the example fits the definition of the unnatural category. The translation of the TL, which is not equivalent to the SL, indicates the inaccuracy committed by the translator. The translator did not use the appropriate word when translating the figurative language. As a result, it causes a gap in meaning between the SL and TL and makes them sound strange. In this data, the translation is hard to understand. The sentence seems unnatural since its meaning is unclear. The target sentence and the original sentence's meaning were not translated in the same way. As a result, when that statement is read, it sounds uncomfortable and unnatural. In this case, the translator should use the proper phrase when translating 'streamed off' to make the SL and TL have an equivalent meaning. It can be translated as 'mengalir' instead of 'berloncatan'.

Tytler (1907 in Rogers, 1999) and Nida (1964: 164 in ibid) both make the case for the naturalness of translation, emphasizing that it should have a natural and simple structure so that it reads like the original text and not like a translation. The above translation still sounds like a translation and employs strange wording. When translating naturally, a translator is allowed to add or paraphrase the original content as necessary to make it more understandable (Tytler, 1779 in Fadaee, 2011). This translation has not been changed in any way to make it more natural or understandable.

2. Less Natural Level

Less naturally occurring data could be the result of the target language's grammatical structures. The less natural language may also have been caused by the addition of a few words that were not suited for translating the source language. If a translation employs as few odd words, phrases, or idioms as possible, it is less natural. There are 5 data that fall under the category. Here are a few examples:

- **SL:** "I tried to change into a cloud or teleport across the world or do a hundred other things that should have been easy for me, but I just kept falling."
- TL: "Kucoba untuk berubah menjadi awan atau berteleportasi ke seberang dunia atau mengerjakan ratusan hal lain yang semestinya mudah untukku, namun aku terus saja terjun bebas."

According to Larson's definition of the naturalness of translation, a translation goes into the less natural category if it conveys the intended meaning but uses terms that are inappropriate for the context and/or an ungrammatical structure.

Although the target language's meaning already came closest to the source language's, the translator made an error. The mistake was translator did not use the appropriate word in translating the source language into the target language. The translation of "I just kept falling" is "Aku terus saja terjun bebas," yet it is also possible to translate it as "Aku terus saja gagal." In this context, Apollo has landed in a dumpster literally because his father, the god Zeus, dropped him from Mount Olympus. However, because he thought he was still a god instead of a mortal, Apollo tried to turn into a cloud or teleport across the world or do 100 other things that should be easy for him, but he couldn't do any of them because he was now just a mortal, not god. That is why the translation "I kept on freefalling" does not appropriate because Apollo has already landed in a dumpster.

- **SL:** "My stepmother, Hera, regularly drove mortals mad so that they would hack each other to pieces."
- TL: "Ibu tiriku, Hera, rutin menjerumuskan manusia fana ke kegilaan sampai mereka saling cacah."

Due to the translation's usage of uncommon terms, it belongs under the less natural category. This translation is less natural since the source language "...drove mortals mad so that they would hack each other to bits" is rendered using awkward words. The translation "...membuat manusia gila sampai mereka akan membacok satu sama lain hingga potonganpotongan" would be preferable.

3. Natural Level

The translation is considered natural if it uses the appropriate idioms and phrases and has the right meaning, even if there is some mistake's structure. There are 159 data that are classified as having figurative language translation in their natural form. The equivalent meaning, applicable idioms, and commonly used vocabulary can help you determine the natural translation. There is, however, a small mistake in the sentence structure, for instance:

- **SL:** "Imagine the ice-cold water filling your mouth and lungs, the pressure bruising your skin, turning your joints to putty."
- TL: "Bayangkan air sedingin es itu memenuhi paru-paru kalian, menjadikan sendi-sendi kalian seperti plester."

Since almost all the words are common terms, this translation can be described as having a natural level. In this data, the meanings of the source language and the target language are most similar, although the two texts' structures differ. The words "mouth" and "the pressure bruising your skin" are omitted in the target language translation of the source text. Meanwhile, the translation that comes closest to conveying the message of "turning your joints to putty" is used. Even though this translation is easy to comprehend and can be described as natural, there is a different structure between the two sentences.

- **SL:** "It should have been enough to vaporize Mikey and leave a thug-shaped impression on the asphalt."
- TL: "Pukulanku semestinya mampu menguapkan Mikey dan meninggalkan bekas berbentuk preman di aspal."

This translation can be said as having a natural level because almost all the words are common words. The meaning of the translation is closest to the original text, however, there is one phrase that makes it strange, the phrase of "leave a thug-shaped impression on the asphalt." is translated into "meninggalkan bekas berbentuk preman di aspal", which needs more than once to read in order to get the meaning. It is challenging to comprehend this meaning. How is it that a punch mark can take the form of a thug on the asphalt? The term "meninggalkan bekas berbentuk preman di aspal" should be changed to "meninggalkan kesan preman di aspal" in order to make this easier to understand. It is only a small mistake related to the structure of the sentence.

4. Highly Natural Level

If the translation makes sense, reads naturally, and is written using common grammatical, appropriate idioms, and words, it is said to have a highly natural quality. 423 data of the total, are highly natural translations. Highly natural data may be a result of the sentence's structure, the target language and source language's interpretations being the same, and the sentence's natural sound. It will be simple for people to read and comprehend, just like the original text. Here are a few examples:

SL: "Her eyes glinted darkly like a crow's." **TL:** "Matanya berkilat-kilat kelam seperti gagak."

According to Larson's principles for the naturalness of translation, a natural translation is one that is written using ordinary language, common grammar, and appropriate idioms and terms. Additionally, a natural translation should convey the same meaning in the target and source languages. According to those standards, the sentence above was at a highly natural level. That sentence was appropriately translated due to the translator's use of proper grammar, sentence structure, and collocation. Additionally, the target language accurately conveyed the meaning of the source language, which prevented the statement from sounding odd and strong.

SL: "I went out to face the world."

TL: "Aku keluar untuk menghadapi dunia."

The data above demonstrate that the translations use a common language. According to the respondents, the meanings of those two cases are the most similar between the source

language and the target language, and they also read naturally. They are simple to understand. Additionally, they use proper grammar, capitalization, and punctuation. The language is not weird. These translations fall under the category of being highly natural.

The respondent and raters came to the conclusion that the translation's naturalness was regarded as being at a highly natural level, according to the current findings. The research identified four categories for the translation's naturalness: highly natural (423 data), natural (159 data), less natural (5 data), and unnatural (1 data). The translator's use of figurative language translations was appropriate. The translation can keep the SL's message or meaning unchanged. Certain messages are successfully communicated to the target language, according to the respondents and raters.

A highly natural level dominated the naturalness of the translation of figurative language. This meant that the majority of the translation's meaning was amply conveyed in the target language. Most of the terminologies used in the translation did not have any unclear meanings for the intended users. The grammatical arrangement demonstrated solid organization since it successfully translated the meaning of the source language into the target language.

Compared to the previous studies, this one is different. The emphasis being studied and the topic is different. The naturalness of the figurative translation of the book "The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle" is the main topic of this study. The issue to be examined is the naturalness of the novel "The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle's" figurative language translation into English and Indonesian. It is expected that this research will provide a reference for other researchers who are interested in translation and its advancement. It can serve as an example of how a literary work should be translated by assessing how natural the translation output is to make the readers grasp it readily.

In accordance with this, Nida (1964) noted that the lexical and grammatical components of a sentence had a significant impact on the naturalness of translation. It was also discovered that some of the translation of the figurative language was perceived by the target readers as being less natural and unnatural. This suggested that the target readers' responses to certain of the words and sentences translated from the source text varied. According to Putranti (2018), even when the right words and sentences are used to translate the message from the source language into the target language, the message may not be received exactly as the source language readers did.

A crucial component of every translation project is that the end product sound as natural as possible. Before going into the features of the product, outstanding translation authorities suggest that translations be as natural as possible describing the different sorts before of translations. Natural language, everyday language, and basic language must be distinguished from unnatural translations. Natural language is a formal language that can be read by anyone, according to Newmark (1988). It is easily understandable and composed of the languages that are spoken by the majority of people.

Belloc (1931) asserted that a natural and good translation must purposefully seek to original preserve the meaning while compromising the language. This is comparable to saying that the translator must be a creative individual with a unique talent. Instead of only translating one-to-one to one, he must own his own strength. According to Bates (1943), if you want to translate a book naturally, you should be aware that the translator's work is not just to translate one sentence into a comparable sentence in the target language; rather, he or she is also expected to look for deviations between the two languages, resolve them, and improve his or her own language's deficiencies is based on the specific features found in the source language.

According to the research, figurative language has a significant role in the book because it serves both stylistic and cognitive purposes. To make the text more beautiful, clearer, and more refined, the authors used figurative language. Learning figurative language from many languages can aid people in understanding communication practices outside of their daily routines. They will gain a deeper knowledge of how other social circles communicate. The highly natural level translation, according to this research, implies that the translator was successful in making the material clear and understandable for the reader, preventing them from the fact that the text is a translation. In order to provide a better translation that would help the target audience understand the book's content, the quality of the natural translation must be assessed. Students must also be mindful of the sensations implied by expressions using figurative language.

The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle, a book by Rick Riordan, was finally translated into Indonesian, and it revealed that the translator offered a highly natural figurative translation from chapter 1 to chapter 5. It means that the translator was successful in making the text readable and making it clear whom the original author intended his or her work to reach (Nida, 1943), in making readers not even notice that the text was a translation (Rahimi, 2004).

CONCLUSION

The transfer of messages from a source language to their equivalents in a target text is referred to as translation. To achieve an acceptable outcome and quality, translation is done through a procedure. A translator's method during the translation process will have an impact on a better translation. A study can include some evaluation to determine the quality of the translation. This research is conducted to assess how well the novel "The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle" was translated from English into Indonesian by using the naturalness of the figurative language. There were 588 total data points in this investigation. In order to evaluate the naturalness of the figurative language translation from Indonesian into English in the book "The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle," the researcher in this study refers to Larson's theory. It was discovered that the translator provided a figurative translation that was

highly natural level. It shows that the translator was successful in making the language accessible and clear to the reader, attempting to conceal that the text is a translation from the readers. In addition, it is intended that this study would serve as a useful resource for other researchers conducting translation-related research. It necessitates a certain level of translation quality to examine things like accuracy, readability, and acceptability.

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