



## The Choice of Larson's Translation Strategies and the Resulted Quality of Indonesian Translation of Hyperboles in *The Shrunken Head* Novel

Ratih Oktaviani<sup>✉</sup>, Yan Mujiyanto, Mursid Saleh

Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia

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### Abstract

In translating hyperboles, the effect of exaggerating something from the source text when translated literally into the target text can cause a strange meaning and less acceptable because the terms are not in accordance with the rules of the target language. This study aimed to analyze the translation strategies used by the translator in translating type of hyperboles and its translation quality in *The Shrunken Head* Novel. The descriptive qualitative research approach is used as a research design. The results of the study showed that there are two types of hyperboles found in this novel, namely overstatement of numbers and quantity and impossible description. Then, there are three strategies that used by translator to translated types of hyperbole in this novel, namely the sense of the word may be translated non-figuratively, retaining the word in the original but to add the sense of the word and substituting a figurative expression from SL to TL. The analysis on translation quality showed that 212 data of hyperboles (88%) considered as accurate, 207 data (86%) belongs to acceptable and 164 data (68%) are considered as high readability.

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<sup>✉</sup>Correspondence Address:

Kampus Pascasarjana UNNES, Jl Kelud Utara III, Semarang 50237

E-mail: [oktaviani.ratih@yahoo.co.id](mailto:oktaviani.ratih@yahoo.co.id)

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## INTRODUCTION

Generally speaking, translation is a process of transferring the meaning from the source language to another language by considering the culture within it. As Kuncoro & Sutopo (2015, p. 9) explained translation is not just a process of changing words into a different language, it has to do with culture since language is an integral part of the culture and it is a tool for cultural mediation. In addition, a translator must be skilled in translating the SL into TL without changing the purpose or the message in TL.

Newmark (1988, p. 94) said that culture as a way of life that is typical of a community by using particular language as a means of expression. It can conclude that each language group has its own culturally specific features. In the process of translating books from the SL into the TL, there are some obstacles that will always be found by translators, such as language and cultural differences. Therefore, a good translator must be able to master the source language and the target language to understand the cultural and linguistic backgrounds so that translators can overcome the obstacles of language and cultural differences in translating certain texts. Likewise, in the translation of hyperbole, translators often find some difficulties in translating into the target language. Hyperbole is used by the author to give the effect of exaggerating a situation so that it can create dramatic literary works, while at the same time increasing the beauty of his/her work. The effect of exaggerating something from the source text when translated literally into the target language can lead to oddities and less acceptable because the sentences are not in accordance with the rules of the target language. Therefore, it is necessary to choose the equivalent words and special attention to translate hyperbole, so the message to be conveyed and the effects to highlight by the author of the source text can be maintained after being translated into the target language.

Basically, hyperbole is part of figurative language. According to Henkemans (2013, p.1), hyperbole is a rhetorical trope by means of which statements are made that are obviously exaggerated and thus untrue or unwarranted. Furthermore, Altikriti (2016, p. 126) explained that hyperbole is one of the most widely used figurative of speech that often uses in daily communication or literature that reflects over-exaggerates the speaker's meaning through his/her intense feeling and sincere attitude towards the listener.

Christodoulidou (2011, p. 145) describes two types of hyperbole as follows overstatements of number and quantity; the speaker tends to overstate numbers of times and years, such as hundreds, thousand and impossible description; the speaker makes a hyperbolic description of a situation which serves as an impossible description.

Larson (1998, p. 124) proposed three strategies in translating figurative language, they are the sense of the word may be translated non-figuratively, retaining the word in the original, but to add the sense of the word and substituting a figurative expression of the target language for the figurative expression of the source language. Dealing with it, the translation strategies of hyperboles used by translator can affect the translation quality. According to Larson (1998, p. 529) and Nababan, Nuraeni and Sumardiono (2012, p. 50-52), the translation quality covers accuracy, acceptability and readability.

There are some previous studies related to this study. Amelia & Firdaus (2016) and Qomariah & Thahara (2015) focused on personification and metaphors translation. Their studies revealed that literal technique of translation is one of the most frequently used techniques used by the translator of the novel. Yolanda & Yuliasri (2016) and Cahyaningrum (2009) found that good characteristics of translation were achieved due to accuracy, acceptability and readability of the target language.

This study is different from previous studies because the researcher offered a new

topic that focuses on the translation of hyperbole and choose the different source. The researcher also used translation strategies that focus on translating figurative language from Larson (1998, p. 124). Therefore, this study aimed to analyze the translation strategies used by the translator in translating type of hyperboles and its translation quality in terms of accuracy, acceptability and readability in *The Shrunken Head* Novel.

## METHODS

This study used descriptive qualitative research approach. The sources of data used in this study are original novel *Curiosity House* series entitled “*The Shrunken Head*” by bestselling author Lauren Oliver and H.C. Chester and Indonesian translation translated by Lulu Fitri Rahman, published in 2016 and the respondents. The respondents are divided into two, they are expert raters and target readers.

In collecting data, the researcher used document and questionnaire. The document was used to collect the data of hyperboles. Meanwhile, the questionnaire was used to assess the translation quality. The researcher used accuracy, acceptability and readability rating instruments to determine the degree of hyperbole translation quality. In this study, the data collected are analyzed by classifying type of hyperbole as well as translation strategies applied in translating hyperbole in *The Shrunken Head* novel, reducing the data which is not suitable. Interpreting the data is also a part of data analysis, drawing an inference from the results of the analysis based on statement of the problems and provide the suggestion.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, we present the results and discussion of the strategies in translating types of hyperbole and the quality of hyperboles translation.

### Strategies in Translating Types of Hyperboles

Based on the types of hyperbole from Christodoulidou (2011, p. 145), there are two types of hyperboles, namely overstatement of numbers and quantity and impossible description. The table below shows the distribution of each kind.

**Table 1.** Types of Hyperbole

Types of Hyperbole	Frequency of Usage	Percentage (%)
Overstatement of numbers and quantity	29 data	12.03
Impossible description	212 data	87.97
Total	241 data	100

From Table 1, it can be seen that impossible description dominates in 87.97 % with 212 data. Then, it is followed by overstatement of numbers and quantity 12.03% with 29 data.

Meanwhile, in analyzing the translation strategy of hyperbole, the researcher used translation strategy proposed by Larson (1998, p. 124). The detail about the use of translator strategies is pointed in the table below:

**Table 2.** Strategies for Translating Hyperbole

No.	Translation Strategies	Frequency of Usage	Percentage (%)
1	The sense of the word may be translated non-figuratively.	31	12.86
2	Retaining the word in the original, but to add the sense of the word.	191	79.25
3	Substituting a figurative expression from SL to TL.	19	7.89
Total		241	100

From Table 2, it showed that 191 times (79.25%) retaining the word in the original, but to add the sense of the word become the

most strategies that used by the translator in translating hyperbole. The second rank is the sense of the word may be translated non-figuratively used 31 times (12.86%). Last, the researcher found that substituting a figurative expression from SL to TL was used 19 times (7.89%).

**The sense of the word may be translated non-figuratively.**

**Example 1**

ST: He sat up, **his heart rocketing into his throat.**

TT: *Dia langsung duduk, jantungnya berdebar kencang.* (Datum 030)

According to Christodoulidou (2011, p. 145), there are two types of hyperbole, namely overstatement of numbers and quantity and impossible description. The above datum shows that the author used impossible description. Impossible description can be seen from the following sentence “**his heart rocketing into his throat**”. The word “he” refers to Thomas. Thomas was awakened on Tuesday morning. He was very surprised when he heard shouts from outside the museum. The author tried to explain this condition of the character’s feeling by exaggerating it. Then, the translator used strategy in translating this type of hyperbole using strategy proposed by Larson (1998, p. 124), namely the sense of the word translated non-figuratively. The change of meaning of English language is the sentence “**his heart rocketing into his throat**” which is translated into “*jantungnya berdebar kencang*” (LT: **his heart is beating fast**) in Indonesian language. In here, the translator changed the hyperbole in English language into non-figurative in Indonesian language. The translator may find difficulty in finding equivalent meaning for the target language. The meaning of source text cannot be understood by the target readers. Additionally, if the translator translated the sentence literally it does not give the same effects as the original text. That is why the

translator chose to transfer hyperbole to non-figurative by using daily language.

**Retain the word in the original, but to add the sense of the word.**

**Example 2**

ST: Thomas stood and turned the radio up a few notches, even though he’d heard the ad **a million times** at least.

TT: *Thomas berdiri dan hanya supaya Philippa jengkel, mengeraskan volume suara radio meskipun sudah **ribuan kali** dia mendengar iklan itu.* (Datum 004)

From the datum, we can conclude that the author used type of hyperbole, namely, overstatement of numbers and quantity. The author used “**a million times**” to overstate numbers of times. From that sentence, Thomas has listened to the advertisement on the radio repeatedly and the author tried to exaggerate it. In translating this type of hyperbole, the translator tends to retain the word in the original language. Retaining the word in the original text can be seen from the following phrase “**a million times**” was translated into “*ribuan kali*” (LT: **a thousand times**). Translator changed it to “**a thousand times**” because this is often used by Indonesian people instead of “**a million times**”. Although there is the difference in number, the hyperbole shows the same meaning in the Indonesian hyperbole. Translator tried to maintain hyperbole in the English language when translating it into the Indonesian language. It means the translator in translating hyperbole from the source language into target language without changing the purpose or the message in the source language. The translator tried to give a dramatic impression of a sentence and also aims to attract the attention of readers.

### Substitute a figurative expression from SL to TL.

#### Example 3

ST: **Thomas's heart dove into his shoes.**

TT: *Jantung Thomas seketika memerosot.*  
(Datum 062)

From the datum above, from the sentence "**Thomas's heart dove into his shoes**", the author tried to put impossible description as types of hyperbole. Thomas was outside even before the sun broke free of the horizon, his mind was turning over everything that had happened in the museum lately. He was very worried about Mr. Dumfrey. The author tried to explain Thomas's feeling about the fear of something going on against Mr. Dumfrey. Then, the translator used the strategy in translating this type of hyperbole using the last strategy proposed by Larson (1998, p. 124), namely substituting a figurative expression from SL to TL. Translator used this strategy when they do not find an equivalent meaning in Indonesian language. The sentence "**Thomas's heart dove into his shoes**" translated into "*Jantung Thomas seketika memerosot*" (LT: **Thomas's heart immediately slumped**). The meaning of "*memerosot*" in Indonesia is slide down. The effect of exaggerating something from the English text when translated literally into the Indonesian text can cause a strange meaning and less acceptable because the terms are not in accordance with the rules of the Indonesian language. That is why the translator substitutes the hyperbole expression in the English language into the hyperbole in Indonesian language.

#### Translation Quality Accuracy

Accuracy is related to how the text of the source language can be conveyed correctly into the target language by the translator without any addition or reduction. The percentage of accuracy in hyperboles data can be seen in the table below:

**Table 3.** Percentage of Accuracy

Category	Frequency of Data	Percentage (%)
Accurate	212	88
Less Accurate	27	11
Inaccurate	2	1
Total	241	100

As seen from Table 3, there are 212 data of hyperboles (88%) which are categorized into accurate translation, 27 data (11%) that classified into less accurate translation and 2 data (1%) belongs in inaccurate translation

#### Acceptability

Acceptability refers to a translation in accordance with the rules, norms and cultures prevailing in the target language. A translation of hyperbole is said to be acceptable if the hyperbole translation sounds natural and familiar. The percentage of acceptability in hyperboles data can be seen in the table below:

**Table 4.** Percentage of Acceptability

Category	Frequency of Data	Percentage (%)
Acceptable	207	86
Less Acceptable	29	12
Inacceptable	5	2
Total	241	100

Based on the translation quality analysis, the translator noticed that 207 hyperboles translation (86%) are categorized as acceptable. 29 data (12%) are categorized as less acceptable and 5 data (2%) categorized as unacceptable.

#### Readability

The readability of hyperbole translation deals with how easily the translation can be read and understood by the target readers.

Moreover, the following table shows the percentage of hyperbole translation for readability level:

**Table 5.** Percentage of Readability

Category	Frequency of	Percentage
	Data	(%)
High Readability	164	68
Sufficient Readability	51	21
Low Readability	27	11
Total	241	100

From 241 data, the researcher found 164 hyperboles are considered as high readability (68%), 51 data (21%) of hyperboles are considered as sufficient readability and 27 data (11%) are considered as low readability.

Although the researcher still found some hyperboles translation that is not appropriate, the researcher concluded that the translation of hyperbole in *The Shrunken Head* Novel is accurate, acceptable and high readability. The translation hyperboles in *The Shrunken Head* Novel have good quality. The translator uses the appropriate strategies to translate hyperboles, so it can produce good translation.

Based on the findings, the appropriate strategies to translate language can produce good translation. The result supports the findings of another research done by Muchtar & Kembaren (2018), they found that the quality of text translation is pretty good, but there were some cultural terms that have no equivalence in the target text, and they caused the target readers confused and influenced the translation quality of the text. Yolanda & Yuliasri (2016) found that Pun to Non Pun technique dominates in 46.2%. The analysis on translation quality shows 18 (77%) translation are considered as less accurate, 127 (52.3%) translations are belong to less acceptable and readability level shows that 133

(54.7%) translation are categorized as high readability.

## CONCLUSION

From the research findings and discussion, the researcher is able to draw the conclusion. First, the analysis of strategies in translating types of hyperboles in *The Shrunken Head* Novel shows that the translator used two types of hyperbole in this study. They are impossible description and overstatement of numbers and quantity. The researcher has found that impossible description appeared very often that overstatement of numbers and quantity. Impossible description dominates in 87.97 % with 212 data. Then, it is followed by overstatement of numbers and quantity 12.03% with 29 data. Then, there are three strategies that used by translator to translated types of hyperbole in this novel, namely the sense of the word may be translated non-figuratively, retaining the word in the original but to add the sense of the word and substituting a figurative expression from SL to TL. Retaining the word in the original, but to add the sense of the word become the most strategies that used by the translator in translating hyperboles in this novel. In this research, the researcher found this strategy was used 191 times (79.25%) by the translator. The translator applied this strategy much more than the other strategies. The second rank is the sense of the word may be translated non-figuratively. This strategy was used 31 times (12.86%). The last strategy is substituting a figurative expression from SL to TL. In this research, this strategy was used 19 times (7.89%).

The second, the analysis of the level of accuracy in translating hyperbole in *The Shrunken Head* Novel showed that 212 data of hyperboles (88%) which are categorized into accurate translation. It means the message of hyperboles of the source language is successfully conveyed to the target language. Then, there are 27 data (11%) that classified into less accurate translation. It means that not

the whole of hyperboles from the source language is transferred to the target language. The last, only 2 data (1%) belongs in inaccurate translation. It means that messages from source text are not delivered successfully into the target text.

The third, the analysis of the level of acceptability in translating hyperbole in *The Shrunken Head* Novel showed that 207 hyperboles translation (86%) are categorized as acceptable. It means the translated hyperbole is natural, familiar to the target reader and it does not sound strange. It is followed by less acceptable, there are 29 data (12%). The translation of hyperboles are the translation feels less natural, it sounds strange and the aesthetic point cannot be felt as well in the target language. The last category is unacceptable that has 5 data (2%). It means translation of hyperbole is unnatural, not familiar to the reader and it sounds very strange.

The fourth, the analysis of the level of readability in translating hyperbole in *The Shrunken Head* Novel showed that 164 data (68%) are considered as high readability. It is because the translation is easy to read and understand by target readers. Next, the researcher found 51 data (21%) of hyperboles are considered sufficient readability. The data of hyperbole are categorized as sufficient readability if the translation of hyperbole can be understood but there is a certain part that should be read more than once to understand. The last category is low readability which has 27 data (11%) of hyperboles. Translated hyperbole has low readability because the translation is difficult to understand or it cannot be understood at all by the target readers.

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