

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

As a bridge of two languages, translation takes important role in solving the communication gap between people in different countries and helps them to exchange their cultures and knowledge. Sometimes it is difficult to get the message from a text since it is presented in a language that the readers do not understand. In this situation, translation is employed to engage the readers who are not familiar with the language of the source text, so they can gather the information that is originally intended. Translation allows them to access various forms of information from other languages and cultures, such as literatures, newspapers, advertisements, and movies. Ultimately, it can be said that translation appears to elevate the life quality of people since it enables them to share their cultures, knowledge, commercial, economic, political and cultural relations.

Translation is basically a process of transferring the meaning from source language into the target language (Newmark, 1988: 5). In line with that, Nida and Taber (1982: 12) see translation as a reproduction in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. In this case, reproduction the meaning is the main priority, and the style should be applied afterward. The closest natural equivalent means that the translation should be comprehensible, clear, and

acceptable for the readers. To this extent, equivalence can be regarded as a necessary condition for translations.

Since each language has its own unique characteristics, discovering the closest equivalence that can represent the message of the source text is not an easy process. In fact, translation is a highly complicated process requiring rapid multilayered analyses of semantic fields, syntactic structures, the sociology and psychology of reader or listener response, and cultural difference (Robinson, 2004: 50). Based on the notion above, translators are obliged to not only master the source language and the target language well, but they also must have a thorough understanding of the field of knowledge that is transferred into the target language. In another words, a good translator must be able to choose the proper words, phrases, or clauses which has the closest equivalence in semantic level with source language.

The clause is organized as a message by having two parts, namely theme and rheme. Theme and rheme are described as a method for structuring information. The theme is the element that serves as the point of departure of the message and rheme is the remainder of the message, the part in which the theme is developed (Halliday, 2014: 88, 89). In other words, a clause starts with the realization of a theme and it is then followed by rheme, that may be called the rest of the message in the clause. Further, theme has two main functions, firstly, it acts as a point of orientation by connecting back to previous stretches of discourse and thereby maintaining a coherent point of view, and secondly, it acts as a point of departure by connecting forward and contributing to the development of later

stretches (Baker, 1992:121). Theme is the element that has effect on audiences and readers. It can be understood by the first element and the remaining is rheme which gives additional information. Theme is chosen as the point of departure to guide the addressee in developing an interpretation of the message; by making part of the message prominent as theme, the addressee is enabled to process the message.

Theme and rheme are two terms that represent the way in which the information is distributed in a message. Translators have to consider thematic structures of the original text to keep the intentions and implications of the text producers. Thematic structure helps translators to make a text coherent and lead the text around a central theme. It plays a significant role in reproducing equivalence in translation. Theme equivalence in this case, is the equivalence occurring in the theme position of a clause, where the theme of source text clause is transformed into the same theme type and grammatical function in the target text. As Vinay and Dalbernet (1995:34) state that equivalence refers to cases where languages describe the same situation by the different stylistic or structural means. Baker (1998:77) extends the concept of equivalence to cover similarity in source text and target information and in the cohesive roles, source text and target text devices and calls these two factors combined textual equivalence.

However, in reality translators have to deal with some challenges in keeping the thematic structure and finding theme equivalence. As none of languages are identical, interference form of the source language cannot be avoided. It is not always possible to maintain the original structure of the source

text. Any translation involves some adjustments in order to make the translation sounds as natural as possible. One of the adjustments is rearranging the structure form of the source language to target language, which is known as shift.

The term of shift was first introduced by Catford. His definition of this concept relies on his distinction between formal correspondence and textual equivalence: formal correspondence is a relationship that holds between two linguistic categories that occupy approximately the same place in the organization of their respective languages, while textual equivalence holds between two portions of text that are actual translations of each other. When a textual equivalent is not formally correspondent with its source, this is called a translation shift.

Based on the concept above, we can come up with the idea of theme shift. Theme shift occurs when the theme in source text is translated into different type of theme and grammatical functions in the target text. This assumption is also supported by Farrokh (2011:74) who argues that shift occurred when the form in the source language has a new form or different form from the target language. Shift could minimize the inevitable loss of meaning when rendering a text from one language into another language. The phenomenon can be illustrated on the example below.

(1a) SL: *Semalam-malaman itu Hanafi tidak tidur sekejap juga*

Semalam-malaman itu	Hanafi	tidak tidur	sekejap juga
Topical/Circ.temporal	behavior	Pr. behavioural	Circ. Manner
Theme	Rheme		

(1b) TL: Hanafi did not sleep that night

Hanafi	did not sleep	that night
Interpersonal/Behaver	Pr. behavioural	Circ.temporal
Theme	Rheme	

According to the example above, in clause (1a), the topical theme is filled by circumstantial adjunct *semalam-malaman itu* which is realized as marked theme. However in its translated clause (1b) the circumstantial adjunct is moved to the rheme position. In addition, the clause is preceded by participant which makes the theme is categorized as an unmarked theme. The processes in those two clauses remain the same. Hence, the phenomenon that has been explained recently can be referred as shift.

There are some previous related researchers who took Theme shift as their main topic. Sofyan (2009) discussed the topical theme-Indonesian shift in English translation on “Reconstruction of Sinabang Port Specifications”. The study describes the thematic shift to discover the topical theme shift on how the factual information is conveyed. He found that topical theme dominantly occurs in the target text due to the issue at different structure between both languages. Damayanti (2012) investigated the same issue which is the theme equivalence and theme shift in the Indonesian-English translation of the thesis abstracts. In details, even most of the theme translations are considered as non-shift or equivalent, there are also some shifts found in the targeted text. The shifts appear in the modification of grammatical structure from source language into target language. Furthermore, Sujono et al (2015) analysed the shifts of multiple Themes in the

“Rumi: A Spiritual Biography written by Leslie Wines and its translation Menari Menghampiri Tuhan: Sebuah Spiritual Rumi”. In multiple theme shift, this happens from multiple themes into multiple themes and into simple theme or even from clauses into phrases (down-ranked). He assumed that the translators should give a special attention, especially to the multiple themes in translating biography books.

Regarding to explanation above, the main focus of this research is shift of translation of theme found in Indonesian-English translated Novel *Salah Asuhan* written by Abdoel Moeis. The English version of this novel is titled “Never the Twain” which is translated by Robin Susanto. The novel is without a doubt among the most popular works of modern Indonesian fiction. Since 1988, the novel has been translated into various languages, such as Chinese, Japanese and English. The novel is very interesting to be analyzed since it was originally published in 1928 and translated into English in 2010. The fact that there is a quite long time interval between them makes a huge distinction regarding to the evolution both in lexical and grammatical system. Given this fact, this study focuses on analyzing the theme shifts found in the Indonesian-English translation novel *Salah Asuhan*.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

Based on the idea presented in the background of the study, the problems of this study are formulated into the following research questions:

1. What types of shift occur in the translation of theme found in Indonesian-English translated novel, *Salah Asuhan*?

2. How are the shifts linguistically realized in the translation of *Salah Asuhan*?
3. Why are the shifts realized in the way they are?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Associated to research problems above, this current research is conducted to meet the following objectives, namely

- (1) to identify types of shift which occur in the translation of theme found in Indonesian-English translated novel, *Salah Asuhan*,
- (2) to describe the realization of theme shifts from source language (SL) into the target language (TL), and
- (3) to describe the way shifts are realized in the process of translation theme from source language (SL) into the target language (TL).

1.4 The Scope of the Study

Due to the massiveness and complexity of the topic, the present study is limited and focused on the theme shifts which occur in the translation of Indonesian novel *Salah Asuhan* into English, “Never the Twain”. The specific investigation and discussion of this study are accordingly in line with the research problems under study which identify types of shift found in the translation of theme, describe the realization of theme shifts from source language to the target language, and the way those theme shifts are realized in translation of the novel. Before analysing the shifts, the general information about types of theme are

discussed. The identification includes textual, interpersonal and topical theme. Furthermore, the shifts are described based on those types of theme.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are highly expected to have indispensable significances both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the findings of the study are expected to be valuable contributions in the field of translation study since it is related to systemic functional grammar. In other words, the findings may spawn more ideas to incorporate two different fields of study which can enrich theory in linguistics.

Practically, the research findings are expected can be used as a reference for other researchers who are interested to deepen their knowledge in translation field, specifically in shifts. Since the topic is also incorporated with systemic functional grammar which is textual function, the results of this study can be added as reference for them who are interested in that particular topic. The findings exemplify that systemic functional grammar can assist the translator in explaining how the translations are.