

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Translation is the process of turning an original or source text into a target text which the purpose of translation is to produce a readable and comprehensible text for readerships. Newmark (1988: 5) states that translation is used as a means of communication. As a means of communication, translation is used for multilingual notices. For instance, translation is used for instructions issued by exporting companies; for tourist publicity; for official documents; for reports, papers, articles, textbooks to convey information. In brief, translation is used in every branch of knowledge.

Therefore, it is important for the students to master the translation particularly someone who are interested in working as a translator or interpreter. As a translator, someone has a responsibility to produce a good and comprehensible translation which could be understood well by the readerships. For producing a good or the best translation, there are three requirements which are required by a translator.

The first requirement is the use of the normal language forms of the target language in translation. The use of normal language forms in translation will make easier to readerships for understanding the translation. The second one is the communicative translation. A communicative translation is easy to understand by the readership due to the simple language used not monotone language. Then the last is the maintenance of the dynamic of the original of the Source Language text.

It means that the translation is presented in such a way that the translation will evoke the same response as the source text attempted to evoke.

Although the three requirements have been fulfilled, there is a situation where a translator has a difficulty to translate a text, particularly a text which contains some cultural expressions. This difficulty will become a serious problem for a translator. Moreover, if the aspects of target language are immensely different from the aspects of source language such semantics, phonology, morphology, syntax and pragmatics.

The difference aspects from the source language to a target language caused frequently by the translation equivalence. It is not rare that the translation equivalence will become the problems in the incomprehensible translations. The case occurs in translating cultural expressions from Indonesian as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia into English which has role as an international language. To translate the cultural expressions from Indonesian to English is not an easy work. Moreover, Indonesia is famous for its variety of ethnic groups which has many cultures. The cultures influence Indonesian people whether consciously or unconsciously and automatically also influence the process of cultural expressions translation from Indonesian into English.

One of Indonesian cultural expressions is proverbs. In Indonesia, proverbs are believed to contain the wisdom of the elders or ancestors in the society because proverbs often evolve from traditional lore, history and religion.

Ashipu (2007:521) views proverbs as a dominant means of communication in the unlettered culture and are quoted constantly when folks engage in a discourse. It means that proverbs are used as means of communication

in a discourse by folks who have unlettered culture. Meanwhile, the folks consider that the use of proverbs is the best way to express the feeling or the desire such as quipping someone.

Therefore, it can be concluded that proverbs are not only wise sayings, but also a medium which is considered to be able to express the feeling or the desire.

Though proverbs can be used as a medium to express the feeling or desire and constitutes cultural expressions and also taught at schools, but it is not an easy work to translate proverbs as the cultural expressions. Frequently, students fail to translate the proverbs from the source language to a target language. Based on the data obtained which comprises of ten proverbs translated, it was found that seven proverbs were not translated into to the English ones. Here are the proverbs which had been translated by the students:

1. Tak kenal maka tak sayang.
2. Ada udang dibalik batu.
3. Dimana langit dipijak, disitu langit dijunjung.
4. Habis gelap terbitlah terang.
5. Malas pangkal miskin.
6. Sekali mendayung dua tiga pulau terlampaui.
7. Nasi sudah menjadi bubur.
8. Air susu dibalas dengan air tuba.
9. Karena nila setitik rusak susu sebelanga.
10. Air cucuran atap jatuhnya ke pelimpahan juga.

The result of data shows that only three proverbs which were translated well.

The proverbs are:

- Tak kenal maka tak sayang. (unknown, unloved)
- Dimana langit dipijak, disitu langit dijunjung. (When you are in Rome, act like Roman)
- Nasi sudah menjadi bubur. (No use to cry over the split milk).

The rest, seven proverbs were not translated by the students. There is not a certain reason why the students can not translate the proverbs.

Meanwhile, Dweik and Suleiman (2013) conducted a research about “Problems Encountered in Translating Cultural Expressions from Arabic into English”. This research aimed at investigating the problems that Jordanian graduate students majoring in the English language faced when translating culture-bound expressions. The results of the research revealed that graduate students encounter different kinds of problems when translating cultural expressions. These problems are mostly related to: 1) unfamiliarity with cultural expressions 2) failure to achieve the equivalence in the second language, 3) ambiguity of some cultural expressions, 4) lack of knowledge of translation techniques and translation strategies.

Based on the previous study, researcher conducts a research to entitled “Problems Encountered in Translating Indonesian Proverbs into English”. This study aims to find out the problems that the students of English Applied Linguistics Program encounter in translating Indonesian proverbs into English.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

The problems of the study are formulated as the following:

1. What are the problems that students encounter in translating Indonesian proverbs into English?
2. How do students' problems occur in translating Indonesian proverbs into English?
3. Why do the problems occur in translating Indonesian proverbs into English?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

In accordance with the problems of the study, the objectives of the study are:

1. to find out the problems that students encounter in Indonesian proverbs into English.
2. to find out how the students' problems occur in translating Indonesian proverbs into English
3. to find out why the problems occur in translating Indonesian proverbs into English.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

The scope of the study focuses on the problems which are encountered by the Postgraduate students of State University of Medan who attend the course of Translation Studies 1 in translating appropriate proverbs of Indonesian and English. The researcher also wants to find out how the problems occur in translating Indonesian proverbs into English and also to find out why the problems occur in translating Indonesian proverbs into English. There are fifty

Indonesian proverbs are used as the data of the study which comprises ten of maxim, ten of sayings, ten of parable, ten of idioms and ten of slogans.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The findings of the study are expected to be relevant and significant theoretically and practically. The findings could give the contribution to all readers for those who are concerned with this field. In the following significances of the study are stated theoretically and practically.

a. Theoretically

Theoretically, the usefulness of the findings is described as the following.

1. The students can enrich their knowledge about translation particularly in translating Indonesian Proverb into English.
2. The study improves the implication of translation theories from source language to the target language

b. Practically

Practically the usefulness of the findings is the following.

1. By knowing the translation problems, it is expected for the translators will learn more about proverbs so that the translators will not find the problems in translating the Indonesian proverbs into English.
2. For the students, the study encourages and motivates them to be a good translator particularly in translating proverbs from the source language to a target language.

3. For the lecturers and teachers, the study can give contribution to the translation course, particularly at Postgraduate program of State University of Medan



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