

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

Translation was the process of changing text or speech from one language into another while keeping its meaning, style, and context. It had been an essential part of how people communicated across different languages and cultures. From ancient times to today, translation had helped people understand each other and share ideas. In the past, it enabled people who spoke different languages to understand each other. Today, translation was more important than ever. With globalization and technology, people from different cultures were constantly interacting. Translation helped businesses, governments, and individuals communicate across language barriers.

Translation itself was directly related to language, namely the change from one language into another, which meant transforming text from the source language to the target language, based on what the translator wanted to convey to the audience (Newmark, 1988). These changes had to follow the rules and conditions of both the source language (SL) and target language (TL). The message had to be delivered accurately without adding or subtracting words that did not pertain to the meaning of the translation to avoid misunderstanding.

Hatim and Munday (2004:6) defined translation as the process of transferring a written text from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL), conducted by a translator or translators in a specific socio-cultural context. The essence of this opinion was that translation involved language (source language and target

language), the translator (one or more people), and the socio-cultural context (culture). According to J.C. Catford (2000), translation shift was categorized into two main branches: level shift and category shift. Quoting Catford, level shift involved identifying differences between the source and target languages and finding appropriate ways to bridge those differences, emphasizing the importance of understanding the linguistic and cultural nuances of both the source and target languages in the translation process. Category shifts consisted of four types: structural, class, unit/rank, and intra-system.

A novel was a type of book-length fiction narrative that told a story through prose. It was a form of literary writing where authors created characters, plotlines, and settings to entertain, educate, or explore various themes. Novels could be about anything: romance, adventure, mystery, science fiction, historical events, or everyday life. They usually had a more complex structure and deeper characterization compared to shorter forms of fiction like short stories or novellas. Novels offered readers a chance to immerse themselves in different worlds, perspectives, and experiences, making them a popular and enduring form of literature. What often distinguished novels from other literary genres was their ability to delve deep into characters' lives, thoughts, and feelings, allowing readers to empathize and connect with them. Through vivid descriptions, relatable characters, and engaging plots, novels often provided readers with a window into different cultures, historical periods, and social issues. In addition to their entertainment value, novels also offered valuable insights into human nature, relationships, and society. By examining the themes, characters, and contexts of

novels, researchers gained a deeper understanding of the cultural and historical forces that shaped literature and influenced readers' perceptions. Thus, the study of novels not only enriched our literary knowledge but also provided valuable insights into human experiences.

This research focused on the translation shifts found in the English-to-Indonesian translation of the British novel "Equal Rites" from the Discworld series, written by Terry Pratchett in 1987. The Indonesian-translated version was published by Elex Media Komputindo in 2011. The research aimed to identify and categorize the translation shifts found in the novel based on the translation shift theory by J.C. Catford (2000).

## **B. The Problems of the Study**

- a. What types of translation shifts could be identified in the Indonesian translation of Terry Pratchett's "Equal Rites"?
- b. What impact did these translation shifts have on the overall reader's ability to understand the meaning behind the translated version?

## **C. The Objectives of the Study**

1. To point out the phenomenon of translation shift in the Indonesian translation of the novel "Equal Rites."
2. To clarify the occurrence of translation shifts and its impact in the translated novel.

#### **D. The Scope of the Study**

This study focused on finding the translation shifts that occurred in the Indonesian translation of "Equal Rites" related to the cultural context of the target language and dividing them into five different categories proposed by J.C. Catford. The data for this research used the first two chapters from both the source language and target language of the novel. These two chapters were analyzed using the aforementioned categories: level shift, structure shift, unit shift, class shift, and intra-system shift.

#### **E. The Significance of the Study**

Theoretically, this research helped readers understand the translation shifts that happened in fantasy novel translations. Additionally, the results provided insight into how to properly utilize these translation shifts to improve the quality of translation, both in meaning and intent. Practically, this paper could serve as a future reference for people with a similar interest in analyzing novel translation shifts, which would hopefully assist them in their research.