

Servitudes and Options in The Indonesian Translation of Terman's *By Balloon to The Sahara*

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ABSTRACT

In the realm of translation, balancing the preservation of meaning and style while adapting to the linguistic and cultural context of the target language is crucial. This study investigates the application of Vinay and Darbelnet's concepts of servitude and option, referred to as "procedures," in the Indonesian translation of Terman's children's book, *By Balloon to the Sahara*. This study examines instances of servitude, illustrating the obligatory changes the translator made due to inherent differences between the source and target languages. These changes, driven by grammatical correctness and naturalness, are necessary to create a coherent and accessible translation for Indonesian readers. The research also explores instances of option, showcasing the translator's non-obligatory choices, which reflect their personal style, preferences, or a shift in emphasis. The findings of this study highlight the importance of understanding and applying the concepts of servitude and option as translation procedures, particularly in children's literature, where comprehension and readability are of paramount importance. By employing these procedures, translators can produce engaging and accessible translations that preserve the original text's meaning and style while catering to the linguistic and cultural context of the target audience. This study contributes to the field of translation studies by demonstrating the effectiveness of servitude and option in the translation of children's literature, paving the way for future research in this area.

Keywords: *children's literature, option, servitude.*

INTRODUCTION

Children's literature has always played a vital role in supporting the development and growth of children. Despite the advent of modern technology and inventions, the significance of children's literature remains

irreplaceable. These literary works not only entertain young readers but also foster cognitive and emotional development. Network influences, as described by Cochran and Brassard (1979), encompass the variety of relationships and interactions children experience with people in their lives, which can either positively or negatively impact their development, depending on the characteristics of the participants and the nature of the interactions.

Children's literature serves as a crucial medium for building strong bonds between parents and their children, as well as between children and other individuals who directly interact with them. Reading together creates shared experiences and facilitates open communication, contributing to a nurturing and supportive environment. This research aims to delve into the translation of children's literature, specifically focusing on the Indonesian translation of Terman's *By Balloon to the Sahara*, and the application of Vinay and Darbelnet's concepts of servitude and option as translation procedures. By examining these procedures, this study seeks to emphasize the importance of maintaining the original meaning, style, and cultural context while ensuring comprehension and readability in translated children's literature, ultimately fostering connections and positively impacting the development of young readers.

By Balloon to the Sahara by Terman is one title in the game books series of Choose Your Own Adventure Books. The book series gained its popularity among children and young audiences in the 1990s and early 2000's. The books series featured many different possible endings and illustrations that made the books popular among children and young audiences. *By Balloon to the Sahara* feature 40 possible endings that are the few only of its kind that have more than 30 endings. The books are also the first three books of *Choose Your Own Adventure*, entitled *The Cave of Time* by Edward Packard, *Journey Under the Sea* by R. A. Montgomery, and *By Balloon to the Sahara* by D. Terman published in 1979 by Bantam Books. The books allow children to make choices and give them a sense of control within the confines of the story. This early experience of freedom can leave a lasting impression, with many adults looking back on it with fondness and longing for the ability to start over after every setback (Jamison, 2022). The Choose Your Own Adventure series is the most famous and widely recognized gamebook series in the world. It has been translated into 40 different languages and has sold 270 million copies globally (Chooseco LLC, n.d.). The Indonesian translation of *By Balloon to the Sahara* is "Dengan Balon ke Sahara" published by Gramedia. The Indonesia translated version published in 1985 by Djokolelono as the translator

The crucial thing to translate children's literature is to balance the meaning and style while adapting the linguistic and cultural context. Children are different from adults when it comes to receiving a term or word or meaning. A child initially interacts with meanings in the same way

they interact with physical objects. As they grow and develop, they become more aware of these meanings and begin to think consciously. This is similar to how a child can perform actions without being consciously aware of their knowledge or ability to do so. It is only later that they gain the ability to voluntarily control and understand their actions (Vygotsky, 1967, 13). The text should be clear and not complex to make it easier for children to understand the whole story. The TT version should achieve clearness as the ST attracts the children to read. The TT has a mission to balance the meaning and style. However, the translator also has an aim to adapt the linguist and cultural context.

Vinay and Darbelnet purpose servitude as the term used to describe the mandatory changes and adjustments that must be made when translating between two languages due to differences in their respective linguistic systems, Option refers to changes made during translation that are not required but are instead based on the translator's personal style and preferences or a desire to shift the focus of the text (Munday, 2012, 93-94). The difference between the two terms is how they are applied in the process of translation; servitude is obligatory and the option is non obligatory. The other difference between servitude and options can be understood in terms of internal and external stylistics. Internal stylistics, which focuses on the forms of expression, is primarily concerned with options. External stylistics, on the other hand, deals with both servitudes and options. Many of the features that define a language are considered servitudes (Darbelnet & Vinay, 1995, 17).

This study begins to analyze the procedure used in the Indonesian translation of *By Balloon to the Sahara*. It then distinguishes every servitude and option in the data. Subsequently, it explores the effect of servitude and option to preservation of meaning and style while adapting to the linguistic and cultural context. Servitude and option are an effective procedure to translate children's literature, this research paving the future research of this area of study.

METHOD

This study applied qualitative study to find out the translation procedure that applied in the Indonesian translation of *By Balloon to the Sahara*. Wray & Bloomer (2012) state that qualitative study focuses on analysis and description instead of employing calculations. Through the utilization of this qualitative study, the data will be presented in individual sentences. Within each sentence, the occurring procedure will be examined and determined for its application in the Indonesian translation.

This study uses the Indonesian translation of *By Balloon to the Sahara* by D. Terman. The book was published in 1984 by Gramedia Jakarta with Djokolelono as the translator; in 1985 the second print was published

by the same publisher. The Indonesian title of the book is *Dengan Balon Ke Sahara*.

To conduct data analysis, the researcher utilized samples sourced from 10 sentences from the book. Every sample will undergo thorough research and discussion to identify the translation procedure employed in the Indonesian translation of this book.

Initially, the researcher categorized the samples into a table, with distinct columns for the source text and target text, organized according to their data source. Subsequently, each lyric was thoroughly examined and evaluated based on Vinay and Darbelnet's servitude and option. Ultimately, conclusions were drawn regarding the most commonly employed procedures in the translation process of Indonesian translated versions of the book.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Servitude

The mandatory changes that should be changed to accommodate the translation to produce the same meaning and naturalness (Darbelnet & Vinay, 1995). It can be seen on datum no.3, no.5, no.8, and no.10.

Table 1: Servitude on Indonesian translation *By Balloon to the Sahara*

No. of Data	Source Text	No. of Data	Translation Text	Procedure
3/ST/ 1/3	Peter packs a picnic basket and Sarah buys a large jug of fresh milk.	3/TT /1/3	Peter menyiapkan sekoranjang makanan dan Sarah membeli satu guci besar susu murni	Servitude, Option
5/ST/ 1/5	At last, you lift off and start your adventure.	5/TT /1/6- 7	Akhirnya, balon lepas landas. Dan petualangan kalian pun mulailah.	Servitude
8/ST/ 1/8	Suddenly, you notice storm clouds approaching from the north.	8/TT /1/1 2	Tiba-tiba tampak olehmu awan badai mendatangi kalian dari arah utara.	Servitude, Option
10/S T/2/ 2	Nothing happens! The storm clouds are coming closer, and the gentle wind has now turned into a howling gale	10/T T/2/ 2	Tetapi tidak! Tak terjadi apa-apa Padahal badai itu semakin dekat. Angin yang tadi lembut kini mulai meraung-raung.	Servitude, Option

Example on datum no.3 "**large jug of fresh milk**", translated into "**guci**

besar susu murni". In English, the adjective located the noun behind the adjective. Sometimes adjectives can appear between determiners (Carnie, 2007, 41). But in the Indonesian linguist system the noun in front of the adjective or in Indonesia never established as an adjective but in Indonesia is more likely to be called "**kata sifat**" (KEMDIKBUD, 2016). If the "**large jug of fresh milk**" translates into literal without change to Indonesian syntax it translates to "**besar guci segar susu**". The literal translation could confuse the Indonesian reader because of how messed up the sentence is. The translator changed the adjective behind the noun to obey Indonesian syntax to create naturalness, from "**besar guci**" to "**guci besar**", and from "**segar susu**" to "**susu murni**" (later on Option the changes "**segar**" to "**murni**"). The TT obeying the Indonesian syntax law has a significant impact on how children read the TT easily. Children only can understand how sentences are composed in Indonesia; children can be confused if the sentence is composed in English compositions. The naturalness created by servitude procedure can produce the TT that can preserve the meaning with clear understanding. In datum no 5. "**start your adventure**" translated into "**petualangan kalian pun mulailah**". The word order changes heavily because of how the English and Indonesian linguist system different but the whole meaning never changes. The TT with the application of servitude can serve the preservation meaning with cultural context. Made the TT as the whole text can simply accommodate when children read it with their lack of understanding than adult people. The translator's profound comprehension of the cultures associated with both the source language and target language is imperative for effectively implementing the Vinay and Darbelnet model (Mahmood-ul-Hassan, 2015). In TT clearly the translator has a sufficient understanding of both languages. The translator often changes the word order to suit the Indonesian language system to be closer to contextual and culture in Indonesian language. In datum no no.5, no.8, and no.10, The ST were complex sentences but the TT the sentence split into two parts each sentence from ST with full stop not comma. The translator changes the complex sentences to simple sentences as an example of how the TT is clearly dedicated to children. This is identified as mandatory changes by the translator as the ST and TT is the children's literature. The TT should create a simple sentence environment to spark children's imagination. According to Vygotsky, the simplest thing can help children's imagination and creativity develop (1967). The TT has effectively served its purpose to be worthy children's literature that can be read easily by children.

2.Option

The option simply is translator preference to translate a text, this procedure commonly is not mandatory (Darbelnet & Vinay, 1995). It can range from word choice to what strategies are used when it comes to

translate a work. The political and social contexts in which different traditions operate can substantially affect their approach to translation of text. (Mishra, 2021). A word from English may have many translations in Indonesian language, the translator has full control to choose what word to be part of their work. The translator's decision-making process can significantly affect the final translation and its reception by target readers (Ünsal Ocak, 2023).

Table 2: Option on Indonesian translation *By Balloon to the Sahara*

No. of Data	Source Text	No. of Data	Translation Text	Procedure
2/ST/ 1/2	For a lark, you all rent a balloon.	2/TT /1/2	Iseng-iseng kalian bertiga menyewa sebuah balon udara.	Option

In datum no.2 **“For a lark”** translated into **“Iseng-iseng”**, this idiom has the meaning of for fun or as a joke (Idioms Dictionary, n.d.). Sometimes the translator may encounter difficulties when it comes to translating idioms (Mahmood-ul-Hassan, 2015). The translator has the option to choose the strategies that are most effective to translate word, sentence, idiom, metaphor etc. In this case the translator decided to choose Newmark’s strategy of converting the metaphor into sense (1988). How can this strategy be applied even though this is an idiom not a metaphor. This strategy is applicable to texts of any kind and is particularly useful when there is a significant divergence in meaning between the source language and target language in terms of imagery. However, it is important to note that the emotional aspect may be sacrificed (Manipuspika, 2018). The translator has full control to choose which strategies, even if those strategies are not meant to apply this kind of particular figurative language. The strategy meant for translation metaphor but the translator chose to apply this strategy to translate idioms. The result is acceptable because the word **“Iseng-iseng”** achieves the same sense and meaning as **“For a lark”**; **“Iseng-iseng”** has the meaning of *sekadar main-main saja (daripada mengganggu) untuk perintang-rintang waktu* or just for fun to spend time (KBBI KEMDIKBUD, n.d.). It is clear that idioms translate into sense even though they have lost some image and emotion. The translator chose **“Iseng-iseng”** is not random, the **“Iseng-iseng”** is a phrase that is commonly more suitable to describe ‘for fun’ in Indonesian children’s literature. The translator could translate the idiom to **“bercanda”** which has the same meaning as **“Iseng-iseng”** but the translator chose to approach the cultural context because **“Iseng-iseng”** is more common to use than **“Bercanda”**. The translator option to choose anything to finalize the TT work is the core of the option. The option can lead the translator to choose the most effective

way to translate and what approach that he/she applied in the TT. Especially when translated children's literature, many options can produce the TT that can preserve meaning while maintaining the style and cultural context.

CONCLUSION

The preservation of meaning while maintaining the style and the meaning is important to note to every translator should obey their TT work. Servitude as mandatory changes has influenced big changes on Indonesian translation *By Balloon to the Sahara* by Terman. Servitude helps how the TT shaped the text that made the children when read it can fully understand about the whole meaning. Servitude can bring naturalness as the text is shaped into Indonesian text with Indonesian linguist system while setting far from English linguist system but can preserve the style and meaning. The option brings many options to the translator to make decisions toward their TT work, many options how the ST should be translated and what word should be chosen to approach cultural context. The translator can apply any strategies that are most suitable and efficient. Furthermore, servitude and option are one effective way to translate the children's literature because the procedure can help to maintain style and meaning from ST to TT while still approaching cultural context. This study also helped to pave the way to further research of this area.

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