

PROPER NAMES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES' NOVEL 'THE SIGN OF FOUR' INTO ITS INDONESIAN TRANSLATION

Translation Techniques and Quality

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Abstract

The research focuses on the translation of proper names in the novel entitled "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four". The objectives of this research are to obtain the kinds of proper names, the way they are translated into Indonesian, and the impacts of the translation techniques on the quality of translation in terms of accuracy and acceptability. This research is a descriptive qualitative research with single embedded-case study. To collect the data, the researcher applied purposive sampling technique. The primary data were obtained by using content analysis and the secondary data were obtained through questionnaires. In content analysis, the researcher collected the data by listing and classifying proper names found in the novel and its translation. The researcher found 239 data in the novel.

This research finding shows that the kinds of proper names found are 66 personal names (consists of 48 gender specific names, 2 real person names, 11 nicknames and titles, 2 relationship noun, 1 title used without name and 2 pet names), 104 geographical terms (consisting of 97 names of continents, islands, countries, states, cities, towns, mountain and rivers and 7 names of institutions and departments), 46 names for things (consists of 19 names of nationality and tribe, 6 names of community, 7 religious names, 6 names of dates and 8 names of art works and literatures), 23 other names (unidentified names). Those are translated into Indonesian by using 7 techniques of translation: copy, rendition, transcription, calque, deletion, addition, substitution. Besides that, the translator also applies the combination technique of those single techniques into 6 combinations. From the 239 data of proper names, 233 data (97.48%) are accurate, a datum (0.41%) is less accurate, and 5 data (2.09%) are inaccurate. Meanwhile, from the acceptability level, there are 214 data (89.52%) are acceptable translation, three data (1.25%) are less acceptable, and 22 data (9.20%) are unacceptable.

Keywords: proper names, translation techniques, quality of translation

Introduction

Nowadays there are many foreign books that have been published in Indonesian, either fiction or nonfiction. Fiction includes novels and storybooks while nonfiction covers reference, biography, scientific books, et cetera. People can enjoy those foreign works although they do not have enough knowledge of the source language. They can understand the content of the books since they are written in their language.

Novel is a kind of literary works which is familiar and interesting to read. Not only because of the sequence of story, but also the worth of message or value of the story makes this kind of fiction

literatures is interesting to read. Meanwhile, novel is one of the translated books, which is very popular. It offers stories and tales that can entertain the readers. By reading foreign novel, people can get not only pleasures but also knowledge of foreign cultures. The cultures of the source language can be seen from, for instance the names of the characters and the events that happen in the story. Through translated novel, readers can imagine several places abroad like cities, towns and other places that they have never seen.

Novel translator has to make the translated text understandable for both the readers and the content involved. Each element of novel such as characters, setting,

tone and so on are related one to another. Translator cannot ignore the elements.

One of the problems faced by translator in translating novel is translating of proper name. Proper name is a word that initialized by capital letter. Proper names naturally appear in many literary works. Proper names refer to many kinds of names such as, names of person, city, place, event, art work, institution, etc. Kiviniemi (1975, p.2) in a journal by Samira Mizani states that the function of proper name is to identify whether the names inside the literary work refer to nationality, gender specific names, geographical location, object, human or animal, city or country, et cetera.

The common tendency concerning proper names is that they are left untranslated. For most translators, proper names are simply transferred, not translated. They are usually left unchanged from in target text. It can be seen from the name of the characters and the city names. To make the explanation clearer, the researcher will give examples from the novel entitled “Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four” and its translation “*Sherlock Holmes: Misteri Empat Tanda*” The examples are as follows:

Example 1:

ST: The discovery was first made by **Mr. Sherlock Holmes** and **Dr. Watson**, who had called at the house with **Mr. Thaddeus Sholto**, brother of the deceased. (p.183)

TT: *Penemuan ini pertama kali dibuat oleh Mr. Sherlock Holmes dan Dr. Watson, yang mengunjungi rumah itu bersama Mr. Thaddeus Sholto, kakak almarhum.* (p.302)

There are three proper names in the example above. All of them are personal names. All the names are untranslated from the ST even the titles (**Dr.**, **Mr.**) are purely borrowed. This technique can affect the acceptability level of the target text. The problem stands in the translation of the titles (**Dr.**, **Mr.**). The title ‘**Dr.**’ is common but the term ‘**Mr.**’ is unusual. It should be translated into ‘*Tuan*’.

Example 2:

ST: We did indeed get a fleeting view of a stretch of the **Thames**, with the lamps shining upon the broad, silent water; but our cab dashed on and was soon involved in labyrinth of streets upon **the other side**. (p.140)

TT: *Kami memang mendapatkan tampilan sekilas hamparan **sungai Thames**, dengan cahaya lampu menerangi jalan dan air sungai yang tenang; tetapi kereta kuda kami terus melaju kencang, dan segera kami memasuki labirin jalanan di sisi lain kota **London**.* (p.231)

The proper names above are geographical names. From the names, we can assume that the places are in England. The names are not translated but there are two important points. The first point, “**Thames**” is a name of river. **Thames** is translated into *sungai Thames* and **the other side** becomes *London*. Both are translated with addition. The second point, the translator adds clarification for both names. Thus, the TT can be easily understood by readers.

From the phenomena above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the translation of proper names because the translation of proper names is one of the most difficult areas that any translator usually faces while working on adult or children’s literature. Simply, proper names do not like other words translation of which can be easily found in dictionaries. It is because Proper names may mean something: be semantically, historically, geographically or culturally loaded (Jaleniauskiene and Čičelytė, 2009).

Methodology

This research is a descriptive qualitative research with single embedded-case study. To collect the data, the researcher applied purposive sampling technique. The primary data were obtained by using content analysis and the secondary data were obtained through questionnaires. In content analysis, the researcher collected the data by listing and classifying proper names found in the novel and its translation. The researcher found 239 data in the novel

entitled “Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four”. The questionnaires were distributed to three raters in the form of close and open-ended questionnaire.

In this research, the researcher uses procedures as follows:

1. Determining data sources.
2. Reading and comparing both the novels sources to find the proper names and its Indonesian translation.
3. Collecting the data.
 - a. Listing the sentences which contain proper names, to make questionnaires, both the source text and the target text
 - b. Delivering the questionnaires to the raters
4. Listing and classifying proper names based on the proper names criteria.
5. Giving codes to the data.
6. Collecting the scores from the raters.
7. Analyzing the data
 - a. Analyzing the techniques used by the translator
 - b. Calculating the scores from the raters to get the mean of the data
 - c. Analyzing the accuracy and acceptability of the translation
8. Drawing conclusion and proposing suggestions.

Findings and Discussion

Research Findings

In this subchapter, the researcher reveals the findings of the research dealing with the kinds of proper names, translation techniques of proper names and the impacts of the translation techniques on the quality of translation.

1. Types of Proper Name

In this research, there are 239 data found in the novel. Those data can be classified into 66 personal names (consist of 48 gender specific names, 2 real person names, 11 nicknames and titles, 2 relationship noun, 1 title used without name and 2 pet names), 104 geographical terms (consist of 97 names of continents, islands,

countries, states, cities, towns, mountain and rivers and 7 names of institutions and departments), 46 names for things (consist of 19 names of nationality and tribe, 6 names of community, 7 religious names, 6 names of dates and 8 names of art works and literatures), 23 other names (unidentified names).

2. Translation Techniques

In translating proper names, the translator applies 7 techniques of translation. They are copy, rendition, transcription, calque, deletion, addition, substitution. Besides, the translator also applies the combination technique of those single techniques such as the combination of copy and transcription, copy and addition, deletion and substitution, rendition and transcription, transcription and addition, rendition and addition. So, there are 13 techniques of translation in translating proper names found in the novel entitled “Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four” and its translation “*Sherlock Holmes: Misteri Empat Tanda*”.

3. Accuracy and Acceptability of Translation

Dealing with the quality of translation, it can be proven that the translation of proper names in the novel entitled “Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four” are accurate and acceptable. From the 239 data of proper names, 233 data (97.48%) are accurate, a datum (0.41%) is less accurate, and 5 data (2.09%) are inaccurate. Meanwhile, from the acceptability level, there are 214 data (89.52%) are acceptable translation, three data (1.25%) are less acceptable, and 22 (9.20%) data are unacceptable.

Discussion

Actually, the techniques used by the translator give influence to the quality of translation in terms of accuracy and acceptability. Accuracy is related to the message of Source Text. If there are not

any changes of the words of ST, the message will be totally transferred in Target Text. The techniques used by the translator that produces the translation that result to high level of accuracy is translation by using copy technique. It is because proper names are possible to be translated literally and borrowed or copied from the source text or the untranslated text. Meanwhile, the technique used by the translator that produce the translation that result to poor accuracy level is translation by deletion.

Furthermore, the technique used by the translator that produces translation result to high level of acceptability is translation by using copy and rendition technique. On the other hand, the technique used by the translator that produce the translation result to poor acceptability level is translation by copy, especially in translating geographical terms and titles.

Conclusion

Based on the data analysis that have been stated and explained in the previous chapter, it is found that there are 239 data found in the novel. Those data can be classified into 66 personal names, 104 geographical terms, 46 names for things, and 23 other names (unidentified names). In translating them, the translator applies 13 techniques of translation, they are; copy, rendition, transcription, calque, deletion, addition, substitution, and the combination of copy and transcription, copy and addition, deletion and substitution, rendition and transcription, transcription and addition, rendition and addition.

Furthermore, dealing with the quality of translation, it can be proven that the translation of proper names in the novel entitled "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four" is accurate and acceptable.

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