

THE ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES FROM ENGLISH TO INDONESIAN OF IMPERATIVE SENTENCES USED IN THE MOVIE *SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS* (2011)

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Abstract

This study examines the translation techniques of imperative sentences from English to Indonesian in the movie *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* (2011). The globalization of media has intensified the demand for effective audiovisual translation, particularly subtitling, to connect the linguistic and cultural gaps. The movie of *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*, a film with the rich and significant dialogue, presents unique challenges in translating imperative sentences. Applying Molina and Albir's (2002) translation theory, addressing how techniques balance fidelity, cultural relevance, and viewer comprehension. Using a qualitative approach, the researcher identifies six techniques: Literal Translation (45.28%), Modulation (18.86%), Established Equivalent (18.86%), Adaptation (10.37%), Reduction (4.71%), and Amplification (2.83%). The findings show that Literal Translation adjust cultural and contextual nuances. The translator's choices of techniques affect the clarity, cultural relevance, and communicative effectiveness. The study concludes that the selection of techniques is crucial for preserving the original tone and intent while ensuring naturalness in Indonesian. Recommendations include expanding research to other speech acts and other genres.

Keywords: Subtitling, English-Indonesian translation, Imperative Sentences, Molina and Albir's Theory

Introduction

Translation is widely used in the movie industries since the early days, allowing films and television shows to reach a global audience.

Following the expansion of the movie industry internationally, the need of translating into foreign languages also grew significantly, making translation an essential component of distributing media across different linguistic and cultural landscapes. Movies were often dubbed or subtitled to accommodate the various target audiences which has different languages and customs, and overtime, subtitling become the most popular method of translation due to the low cost of production and the ability to keep the original voice and tone of the actors of the movies (Díaz Cintas, 2012:273).

Subtitling is another way of translating literary works, unlike dubbing which could replace the original voices, subtitling includes displaying of the translated text on-screen during dialogues, making it an important method of audiovisual translation. Existing research has shown that subtitles allow to closure the connection between the various communities of viewer, also helps to keep the original emotions, cultural nuances, and humor that could possibly be lost in voiceover translation (Díaz Cintas & Remael, 2007:60)

Literary Review

Translation

Translation is the process of transferring meaning from one language to another while maintaining the true meaning of the original text. The translator must understand the linguistic language and the culture behind it. According to Bell (1991: 42), translation can be both a linguistic (Rofik, 2020) and a communicative process that ensures the preservation of meaning, style, and function from source language (SL) to the target language (TL). The challenges in translation appear due to differences in grammar, culture, idiomatic expressions, and societal norms, which require extra attention especially in the contextual and cultural nuances (Munday, 2016: 6-9.).

Translation must be able to keep the true meaning of the true intended messages in order to communicate the cultural or emotional meaning. Translation is not just a linguistic aspect that must be given attention for, but also the process of transferring messages across languages and at the same time keeping the originality of the source language.

Molina and Albir Translation Theory

Molina and Albir (2002: 509) state the translation techniques as procedures to analyse and classify how translation equivalence works. These have five basic characteristics:

1. They affect the result of the translation
2. They are classified by comparison with the original
3. They affect micro-units of text
4. They are by nature discursive and contextual
5. They are functional

Molina and Albir (2002: 509-5011) also state that they are 18 translation techniques, they are:

1. Adaptation, to replace a SL cultural element with one from the target culture. This technique can be used if the elements or cultural elements have an equivalent.
“Futbol” in Spanish is the result of Adaptation from the SL “Baseball” since the term “Futbol” is more familiar to the Spanish audiences.
2. Amplification, to introduce details that are not formulated in the SL. It encompasses various approaches such as explicative paraphrasing, additions, and periphrasis.
The word “Ramadhan” is translated into “the muslim month of fasting” for audiences unfamiliar with the term.
3. Borrowing involves directly taking a word or expression from the source language and incorporating it into the target language.
The English word “lobby” is used in Spanish.
4. Calque is a translation technique that involves a literal translation of a foreign word or phrase, which can be either lexical or structural in nature.
French: “École normale”
English: “Normal school”
5. Compensation is used when a specific element of meaning, nuance, or stylistic effect from the source text cannot be conveyed in the same position within the target text, prompting the translator to reintroduce it elsewhere to preserve the overall impact.
The uses of the French word “tu” (informal “you”) and “vous” (formal “you”) are both translated into “you” in English and eliminated the formal and informal aspect.

6. Description is used to convey the meaning of a culturally specific or unfamiliar term by replacing it with a descriptive explanation of its appearance, purpose, or cultural context.
Italian: "panettone"
English: "panettone," a traditional Italian cake eaten on New Year's Eve.
7. Discursive creation, to establish a temporary equivalence that is totally unpredictable out of context. This technique often appears in the translation of movie titles, books, and novels.
"Rumble Fish" into Spanish as "La ley de la calle" ("The Law of the Street")
8. Established equivalent is a translation technique that involves using a term of expression that is already widely recognized in the target language as having the same meaning as one in the source language. The technique is often found in dictionaries to convey the intended message naturally and idiomatically.
Translating the English phrase, "They are as like as two peas" as "Se parecen como dos gotas de agua" in Spanish captures the same meaning through a culturally familiar expression.
9. Generalization is a translation technique that involves replacing a specific term with a broader or more neutral one, often to ensure the message remains clear and accessible to a wider audience.
French: "guichet, fenêtre, devanture"
English: Window
10. Linguistic amplification involves adding extra linguistic elements to the target language to ensure clarity or preserve meaning.
English: No way
Spanish: De ninguna de las maneras instead of the more concise En absoluto demonstrates linguistic amplification.
11. Linguistic compression involves condensing linguistic elements in the target language to maintain brevity or fit within time constraints.
English: Yes, so what?
Spanish: ¿Y? instead of ¿Sí, y qué?
12. Literal translation is translating a word or expression directly, word for word, while maintaining the structure of the original sentence.
English: They are as like as two peas
Spanish: Se parecen como dos guisantes

13. Modulation involves altering the perspective, focus, or cognitive category of the source text to achieve a more natural or appropriate translation in the target language.
 14. Particularization using a more precise or concrete term in the target language compared to the source language.
English: Window
French: Guichet
Ensuring the translation is more specific and contextually appropriate for the target audience.
 15. Reduction involves omitting a source language information item in the target language.
English: The month of fasting.
Arabic: رمضان
 16. Substitution is used to replace linguistic elements with paralinguistic ones (such as intonation or gestures) or vice versa.
Arab gesture of placing a hand on the heart into the verbal expression "Thank you".
 17. Transposition involves altering a grammatical category from the source language to the target language.
Converting the adverb "soon" in "He will soon back" into the verb "tardar" in Spanish "No tardará en venir," rather than retaining the adverbial form "Estará de vuelta pronto".
This technique ensures the translation adheres to the target language's natural grammatical structures while preserving the original meaning.
 18. Variation involves modifying linguistic or paralinguistic elements, such as tone, style, or dialect to adapt the source language for different context or audiences.
SL: My mom give me a gift.
TL: Bundaku memberiku hadiah
- (Novitasari, Sukmaningrum, & Nugrahani, 2021: 83)

Imperative Sentences

Imperative sentence is a type of sentence that issues a command, request, suggestion, or instruction and usually designed to provoke action from the listener or reader (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 61).

Hostile Imperative sentences can be divided into five forms. They are imperative without a subject, imperative with a subject, imperative

with let, negative imperative, and imperative with do form (Quirk et al: 1985: 827).

1. Imperative without a subject
The imperative generally has no subject or which normally has no overt grammatical subject and whose verb is in the imperative.
"Stop!" (Celce-Murcia & Larsen-Freeman, 1999: 221)
2. Imperative with a subject
The Omitted subject is the second person pronoun "You".
"You be quiet!" (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 926)
3. Imperative with let
First person imperative can be formed by proposing the verb let followed by a subject in the objective case
"Let us reconsider the plan." (Biber et al., 1999: 220).
4. Negative Imperative
The form of negative simply adds an initial "don't" or "do not" to negative the first three classes of the structural types of imperative above replacing assertive by non-aggregative item where necessary.
"Don't touch that wire." (Greenbaum & Nelson: 39)
5. Imperative with do form
There is a form of do with positive. A positive imperative can be made persuasive or insistent by adding do before the verb. Do reinforce the positive sense of the imperative.
"Do have a seat." (Swan, 2005: 269).

Methods

To answer the translation techniques of imperative sentences used in the movie *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (2011)*, the researcher used qualitative research. The researcher uses Molina and Albir translation techniques theory since it has a more detailed and clearer theory than Newmark's translation theory. The researcher counts the frequency of the techniques using $\frac{\text{Frequency}}{\text{All techniques}} \times 100\%$ formula.

The object of the research is the movie *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (2011)*. The aspects analyzed contain the language in the subtitles and dialogue in this movie.

The data consist of types of sentences. However, when the data that have been identified has the same types and techniques, the data are collected and counted in percentages to answer the problem statements.

After the data are collected, the next step is analyzing data by following: Displaying the data, explaining data, and interpreting data

Findings and Discussions

The researcher analyzes the translation techniques from English to Indonesian of Imperative Sentences used in the movie *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* (2011)

1. Translation techniques of Imperative Sentences Mostly Used In the Movie

The analysis used various techniques in translating imperative sentences from English to Indonesian. There are 106 in total of imperative sentences in the movie. The analysis reveals strategies in translating imperative sentences from English to Indonesian with Literal Translation being the most frequent, followed by Modulation, Established Equivalent, Adaptation, Reduction, and Amplification.

No	Technique	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Literal Translation	48	45,28%
2	Adaptation	11	10,37%
3	Modulation	20	18,86%
4	Established Equivalent	20	18,86%
5	Amplification	3	2,83%
6	Reduction	5	4,71%
Total	All Techniques	106	100%

Literal Translation is the most used technique in the movie's subtitle, this technique has been used in 48 out of 106 cases (45,28%). The second most used techniques are Modulation and Established Equivalent with each have 20 cases (18,86%). The third is Adaptation with 11 cases (10,37%). The next is Reduction with 5 cases (4,71%) and Amplification with 3 cases (2,83%) as the least frequent technique.

2. Translation Techniques Applied Reflect The Translator's Strategy In Conveying The Tone, Urgency, or Intent of Imperative Sentences

The translator used various techniques to ensure that the imperative sentences retain their original tone, urgency, or intent while translating them into Indonesian. Below are the detailed explanation of how the translation techniques reflect the translator's strategy.

2.1 Literal Translation

In conveying of an urgent of the dialogue, the translator must prioritize clarity. To match the tense atmosphere of the scene, Literal Translation particularly effective where the scenarios is high on tense. By preserving the original structure and word choice, the translation ensures that the audience experiences are the same on intensity as the source language.

Example:

00:06:06,646 --> 00:06:08,814

English: Hold it, hold it. Please, don't move it.

Indonesian: Tahan, tahan. Tolong jangan digerakkan.

This line was spoken when the bomb is discovered, and must be handled immediately to prevent trigger the bomb. The literal translation maintains the direct and urgent tone needed in the situation, helps the viewer feel the critical nature without ambiguity.

2.2 Adaptation

When translating slang expressions or culturally specific phrases, translator must find the correct words in target language. In such case, Adaptation becomes necessary to find equivalent expressions in the target language that carry similar connotations, even if the exact words are different.

Example:

00:46:03,040 --> 00:46:05,834

English: Don't worry, old boy, she's as safe as houses.

Indonesian: Jangan khawatir, kawan. Dia aman.

The word has spoken by Sherlock, he's talking to Watson as he worried that his wife which has thrown out from the moving train into

the river. Sherlock initially said “old boy” to Watson since he keeps protesting and babbling about the situation.

2.3 Established Equivalent

The Established Equivalent is used when an expression in the source language has commonly used in the target language. This technique allows the translator to preserve both meaning and naturalness by using phrases that the imperative sentence carries a functional meaning in source language.

Example:

00:01:07,597 --> 00:01:10,600

English: Read all about it!

Indonesian: Baca beritanya!

In the movie, the newspaper vendor walked through the crowd in the market, he shouted “Read all about it!” while showing the newspapers on his hand. So, the translator rather than translating the sentence “Read all about it!” into “Baca semua tentang ini!” which lack of contextual purposes and would sound awkward, so the translator decided to translate the phrase as standardized Indonesian equivalent “Baca beritanya!”, this can maintain the tone and familiarity.

2.4 Modulation

Modulation appears in order to match the source language to target language so that the intents or purposes in the source language delivered with way more natural or appropriate.

Example:

00:47:46,184 --> 00:47:47,602

English: Make it count.

Indonesian: Pergunakan dengan baik.

The line was spoken when Sherlock asked Watson to use the opportunity to shoot more bullets when the enemy struggling and temporarily stopped showering them with gun shots. Rather than keeping the direct meaning, “Buatlah perhitungan” which sounds contextually irrelevant, the translator choose to modulates it “Pergunakan dengan baik.” so that it captured the intent and matched the contextual meaning of the source language.

2.5 Reduction

To maintain the flow and emotional intensity of a scene, the translator use the Reduction technique. When the source language redundant or less critical in the target language, the translator remove the sentence and not alter the core meaning or message. This technique is effective when translating imperative sentences, where preserving urgency and clarity is more important than the complete version of translation of the sentence.

Example:

01:04:32,280--> 01:04:50,916

English: Sim, I need you to take a deep breath... and follow us.

Indonesian: Sim, tarik napas dalam... dan ikuti kami.

Sim is worried and panicking towards her brother as she knows that her brother is a strong man, so that her brother was not possible to takes his own live. She's disbelief that she is knowing that it could that her brother might takes his own live, she is panicking, difficult to remains calm and hard to control her breath. In an urgent situation, the translator decided to remove "I need you to" to maintain the fluency or tone and urgency while keeping the instructions remain clear.

2.6 Amplification

To ensure the tone and urgency in the target language, translator need to add information that is implied but not appears in the source language. Amplification technique is applied when additional words are required to convey the full meaning of imperative sentences in Indonesian.

Example:

00:18:14,456 --> 00:18:15,832

English: You drive.

Indonesian: Kau yang kemudikan.

This line was spoken when Sherlock and Watson about to go to Watson's stag party. In context, Sherlock quickly hands over the driving responsibility to Watson. The Indonesian version expands "You drive." into "Kau yang kemudikan." or in English "You're the one driving". The translator used this technique when the words are required to make the

imperative sentence fully understandable in Indonesian and for better comprehension.

3. The Techniques Choices Affect the Clarity, Cultural Relevance, or Communicative Effectiveness of the Subtitles

3.1 Clarity

Clarity is the main requirement and it is influenced on how accurate and efficient the imperative sentences are rendered. Imperative sentences like “Go!” for “Pergi!” (01:27:26,938 --> 01:27:28,272) are easy to understand by Indonesian viewers without ambiguity. Another example is “Sit down.” (00:42:21,110 --> 00:42:22,736) and is rendered as “Duduk.” using Reduction technique.

3.2 Cultural Relevance

Cultural relevance is heavily addressed through Adaptation and Modulation. These techniques allow the translator to maintain the spirit and tone of the original while adjusting for Indonesian humor, idioms, emotional expressions or social norms.

Like in “Laugh them away, Watson.” for “Tertawakan mereka, Watson.” (00:53:48,880 --> 00:53:52,550) Remains the negative impact but modulates the tone to fit Indonesian conversational expectations.

3.3 Communicative Effectiveness

Communicative effectiveness refers on how well translated the imperative sentences in maintaining the original function in the Indonesian language and culture. Amplification in Indonesian to connect the meaning of each words in every sentences. Like in 01:01:34,762 --> 01:01:36,681 “Sit, Please.” for “Duduklah, tolong.”, the Amplification “-lah” help when context must be made explicit. Reduction maintains pacing in scenes with time pressure, avoiding visual-textual overload. For example in “Sit down. Drink this.” for “Duduk. Minum ini.” (01:35:17,629 --> 01:35:20,382) Eliminates the word “down”. Established Equivalents provide reliability and consistency, essential for viewer comfort. Like in the chess game, “Bishop takes bishop.” for “Menteri makan menteri.” (01:52:40,254 --> 01:52:42,631) It’s impossible to translated as “Bishop takes bishop” for “Uskup mengambil uskup” Since it’s not the same chess term in Indonesian. These techniques ensure that imperative sentences feel natural, contextually accurate, and emotionally resonant, especially in the movie Sherlock Holmes, when the dialogue is heavy and fast-paced

Conclusion

The findings of this research indicate that the translation techniques used of imperative sentences from English to Indonesian in the movie *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (2011)*. The findings reveal that Literal Translation is the most frequent technique (45.28%), followed by Modulation and Established Equivalent (each have 18.86%), Adaptation (10.37%), Reduction (4.71%), and Amplification (2.83%) as the less frequent technique. Clarity was maintained through direct translations, especially in urgent or straightforward commands. Cultural relevance was achieved through Adaptation and Modulation technique, adjusting idioms and slang to fit Indonesian norms. Communicative effectiveness relied on Amplification to adds clarity, Reduction to avoid redundancy, and Established Equivalents in using fixed expressions. Those can be concluded that the translator successfully translate the words from English into Indonesian and keeps the naturalness in Indonesian and balanced the fidelity from English, ensuring the tone, urgency, and intent of imperative sentences were preserved.

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