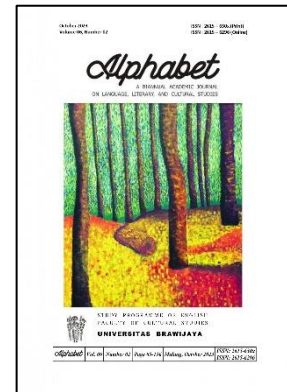


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The Alchemist: Figurative Language Translation Analysis

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The Alchemist: Figurative Language Translation Analysis

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Abstract

This study investigates the translation methods and analysis of figurative language in the novel "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho from English to Indonesian. The main theories used to help find the answer in the process was proposed by Peter Newmark (1988) and Chesterman (1997), along with other supporting journals. The research method applied is qualitative descriptive. The result showed the writer found 54 syntactic strategy (47 literal translations, 1 calque, 2 phrase structure changes, 1 cohesion change, 2 sentence structure changes, 1 transposition), 10 semantic strategy (10 synonymy), and 7 pragmatic strategy (7 explicitness change).

Keywords: figurative language; translation analysis; The Alchemist

Language is the human way of communicating. Interaction in social life creates meaning in linguistic aspects of our life. Language is used verbally through speaking or written found in novels, poems, and magazines. While translating is the activity of rendering one language to another, this complex translation process requires detail. As the researcher chose to analyze, the novel *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho contains many terms and sentences that may be difficult to comprehend. Thus, the researcher chose to analyze the translation of figurative language from Paulo Coelho's novel entitled "The Alchemist." The researcher is interested to find out what the accuracy of Indonesian translation of *The Alchemist* entitled *Sang Alkemis*.

Translating is the activity of rendering one language to another. The activity of translating the source language to the target language may be a challenging job. The literary translator takes experience. Peter Newmark (1988), in his book *A Textbook of Translation*, clarified that

translation is not merely rendering from a source language to a target language. However, there are many tensions, for example, between sound and sense, emphasis (word order) and naturalness (grammar), figurative and literal, neatness and comprehensiveness, and concision and accuracy. Thus, the complexity of the context makes the whole process of translation a significant one.

The researcher decided to use the English-translated novel *The Alchemist*, which was written by Paulo Coelho (2014), as the source to examine figurative language translated into Indonesian entitled *Sang Alkemis*. The novel is a modern classic, following a young boy named Santiago in his search for his Personal Legend. Originally written in Portuguese, the novel is translated into Indonesian by Tanti Lesmana. The book contains many terms that represent how complex the process of translating literary books is. In the book, many terms are supposedly translated to be readable and acceptable to the audience.

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In linguistics, the study of meaning is called semantics, divided into literal and non-literal meanings. Figurative language uses an expression with a meaning different from the literal interpretation. The book uses the reader's imagination to understand the author's meaning. The figurative language is usually found in some literary works such as, novel and short story. In writing a novel, a writer mostly uses figurative language (Harya, 2016). Such as in page eight, the sentence "Like everybody learns," he said, "in school". The sentence is referring to explain that he is the same as other kids within his age range, who go to school and learn to read. The use of figurative language expands the experience of reading the novel, giving the chance of our imagination to wander as it trying to grasp the context of what the writer is trying to convey. Thus, to transfer the meaning equivalently, translator must overcome the cultural differences between the source language and target language, especially when translating figurative language (Abdumaula & Hilman, 2022).

Figurative language is used to spark imagination and exercises the mind in grasping the context of the text. It is also supported by Hutauruk (2019) that "figurative language is not intended to be interpreted in a literal sense but it appeals on to the imagination". The usage of figurative language merely is the awareness of a language to convey its message of feelings, and perception without the existence of literal language. The researcher will focus only on four different types of figurative language found in the book, which are simile, personification, metaphor, and hyperbole.

METHOD

The method applied in this study is descriptive qualitative because this study will be carried out in formulating the problem, collecting the data, classifying, and explaining the result. The data source will be the novel *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho and the Indonesian version of *Sang Alkemis* by Tanti Lesmana. The samples were collected by reading the novel in the English version and

Indonesian versions. Fraenkel and Wallen (2009) states that qualitative is used to describe in detail all of what goes on in a particular activity or situation. Qualitative method describes and uses categories (word) through open ended interviews, naturalistic observation and document analysis. By conducting this research, the researcher hopes this study will be useful for the next researcher to conduct further studies in the translation focus. This article is about the practice of theories learned in the classroom by the researcher. For readers in general, this study will give new insights into how the researcher analyses figurative language and the translation process. This study aims to describe the figurative language of the writer and the translator as well as the use of figurative language represented in the source language (SL) and target language (TL) of the novel.

RESULTS

The researcher found 69 sentences that contain figurative language from all the chapters with four categories of simile, personification, metaphor and hyperbole. Out of 69 figurative languages found, simile makes up for 43% with 30 frequencies, personification for 39 with 27 frequencies, metaphor for 16% with 11 frequencies, and hyperbole for 1% with only one frequency.

DISCUSSION

Figurative Language

Below are the types of figurative language found along with its examples taken from excerpts in the novel.

Simile

The figurative language simile is used when comparing two essentially different things. The expression compares between one or more points that have something in common and can be recognized with the word "like" or "as". One of the examples found in the novel (2014) was:

SL: "And he knew that shepherds, like seamen, and like traveling salesmen, always found

where there was someone who could make them forget the joys of carefree wandering.” (page. 6)

that was translated as follows:

TL: *“Dia juga tahu bahwa gembala seperti halnya para pelaut dan pedagang keliling selalu menemukan tambatan hati di suatu kota, yang sanggup membuat mereka lupa akan kesenangan mengembara sesuka hati.”* (page. 19)

In the sentence above, the writer compares shepherds to seamen and traveling salesmen using the word “like”. Another example was taken from an excerpt in page 11, which reads:

SL: *“They’re the same as the people who live here.”*

and translated into

TL: *“Tapi pada dasarnya mereka sama dengan orang-orang yang tinggal di desa ini.”* (page. 22)

In this example, the writer used the word “as” to compare a certain group of people to another group of people. In another excerpt, simile was also used as follows:

SL: *“And if the book was irritating, as the old man had said, the boy still had the time to change it for another.”* (page. 20)

which was translated as:

TL: *“Kalau benar buku ini menjengkelkan seperti katanya, si anak masih bisa menukarnya dengan buku lain.”* (page. 33)

This time, the writer used the word “as” to compare the characteristic of a book being annoying to what the old man has said about the book. Another instance of the use of simile in the novel was illustrated through the excerpt below:

SL: *“He realized that he had to choose between thinking of himself as the poor victim of a thief and as an adventurer in quest of his treasure.”* (page. 45)

that later was translated into:

TL: *“Dia pun sadar bahwa dia mesti memilih: menganggap dirinya malang korban pencuri, atau petualang yang bendak mencari harta karun.”* (page. 64)

In this particular excerpt, the writer used the word “as” twice when comparing the person to a victim of theft and to an adventurer.

Personification

Personification is the transfer of human characteristics to an object or abstract idea. This expression is used to give a human character to a dead object by attributing human traits to it. An instance of personification can be seen in the sentence:

SL: *“He had always believed that the sheep were able to understand what he said.”* (page. 6)

which were translated into:

TL: *“Sejak dulu dia yakin sekali domba-domba ini memahami perkataannya.”* (page. 16)

As seen in the example above, the writer here attributed the human ability to understand to sheep—an animal. Another example of personification is included in the excerpt below:

SL: *“When you really want something, the universe always conspires in your favor.”* (page. 43)

and was translated as:

TL: *“Kalau kau menginginkan sesuatu, jagat raya pasti akan bersatu padu membantumu mendapatkannya.”* (page. 62)

In this particular excerpt, the writer attributed the human behavior to conspire to universe, which is an inanimate object. Other than these two examples, there are in total of 25 other instances of personification where the writer attributes human characteristics or behavior to objects.

Metaphor

The figurative language metaphor is used when comparing something to its implicit meaning. In other words, this expression is to

compare two different objects. Some metaphors found in the novel are as follows:

SL: "That butterflies were a good *omen*." (page. 33)

that was translated into:

TL: "Kupu-kupu merupakan pertanda yang bagus." (page. 48)

Here, the writer compared butterflies to omen, or more specifically, good omen.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is the exaggeration in the sentence. This expression creates a bigger illusion of the actual facts. In the novel, only one instance of hyperbole was found. The sentence reads:

SL: "Because a grain of sand is the moment of creation, and the universe has taken millions of years to create it." (page. 135)

and was translated as:

TL: "Sebab sebutir pasir merupakan bagian penciptaan, dan alam semesta ini memerlukan waktu jutaan tahun untuk menciptakannya." (page. 176)

As the excerpt illustrated, here, the writer was creating a bigger illusion of a grain of sand and its role within the whole concept of creation.

Translation Strategy

As for the translation strategy used in *Sang Alkemis*, a total of eight translation strategies were found in the novel. These eight strategies comprised of literal translation, calque, phrase structure change, cohesion change, sentence structure change, and transposition which made up of three main categories of translation strategies including the syntactic strategy, semantic strategy, as well as pragmatic strategy.

Literal Translation

The literal translation strategy is a syntactic strategy. This particular strategy refers to the act of translating by closely following the source text. In other words, the translator translates the source text to the target language

text as closely as possible without paying attention to the structure of the target language. Some of the examples found in the novel are as follows:

Datum No. 1.

SL: "And he knew that shepherds, like seamen, and like traveling salesmen, always found where there was someone who could make them forget the joys of carefree wandering."

TL: "Dia juga tahu bahwa gembala seperti halnya para pelaut dan pedagang keliling selalu menemukan tambatan hati di suatu kota, yang sanggup membuat mereka lupa akan kesenangan mengembara sesuka hati."

In sentence above, the strategy that used is literal translation. Literal translation is word for word translation and therefore, is ungrammatical. Looking at the target language text, the sentence above is translated literally and it is ungrammatical.

Datum No. 2.

SL: "I want to be like you, able to reach every corner of the world, cross the sea."

TL: "Aku ingin jadi seperti engkau, sanggup mencapai setiap sudut dunia, menyebrangi lautan."

In sentence above, the strategy that used is literal translation. Literal translation is word for word translation. As illustrated by the target language text, the sentence above is translated literally and is ungrammatical.

Datum No. 3.

SL: "The alchemist's words echoed out like a curse."

TL: "Kata-kata sang alkemis bergema bagai kutukan."

Similar to the previous sentences, the strategy that used in translating the sentence above is literal translation. Literal translation is word for word translation and as illustrated, the sentence above is also translated literally and is ungrammatical.

Datum No. 4.

SL: "They worked hard just to have food and water like the sheep."

TL: *"Mereka harus bekerja keras sekadar untuk bisa makan dan minum, sama seperti domba-domba itu."*

In sentence above, the strategy that used in translating the source text to target language is literal translation. This particular strategy is a part of syntactic strategy, which is also known as the word for word translation. Looking at the structure of the target language text, the sentence above is translated literally and is also ungrammatical.

Datum No. 5.

SL: *"I guess you don't believe that a king would talk to someone like me."*

TL: *"kurasa kau tak percaya seorang raja mau berbicara dengan gembala seperti aku,"*

In Datum number 5 above, the strategy used in translating the text is literal translation. Literal translation strategy is a part of syntactic strategy which strictly follows the structure of the source text. This strategy is also known word for word strategy and more often than not, produce an ungrammatical sentence. As observed in the example above, the text is translated literally and is grammatically incorrect.

Phrase Structure Change

The translation strategy of phrase structure change refers to a number of changes at the level of phrase including number, definiteness and modification in noun phrase, person, tense, and mood in the verb phrase. Similar to literal translation, phrase structure change strategy is also categorized as syntactic strategy. Phrase structure change strategy were found in the data below:

Datum No. 48.

SL: *"The shop was busy."*

TL: *"Toko itu sedang ramai."*

In Datum number 48, strategy that is used in translating is phrase structure change. Phrase structure change is a number of changes at the level of phrases. In sentence above, there is tense changing from source language to target

language. In the source language, the sentence reads, "the shop was busy." This means that the shop was busy and may already done. However, in target language translator uses continuous rather than past tense, meaning that the activity was still going on.

Datum No. 49

SL: *"Your money saved us for three days. It's not often that money saves a person's life."*

TL: *"Uangmu bisa memperpanjangkan hidup kita selama tiga hari. Jarang-jarang uang bisa menyelamatkan hidup manusia."*

In Datum number 49, the strategy that is used in translating is phrase structure change. Phrase structure change is a number of changes at the level of phrases. In sentence above, there is tense changing from source language to target language. In the source language, the original text used past tense. Yet, in target language translator used future tense.

Calque

Loan or Calque is the third syntactic strategy within this classification. Loan or Calque refers to the borrowing of single term and following the structure of the source text which is foreign to the target readers. An example of calque was found in the following excerpt:

Datum No. 50.

SL: *"They're called Urim and Tumim, and they can help you to read the omens."*

TL: *"Batu-batu ini disebut Urim dan Tumim, dan mereka bisa membantumu membaca pertanda-pertanda."*

In Datum number 50, the translation strategy used in sentence is calque. Calque is borrowing word of individual items. In the sentence above, there is the phrase "Urim and Tumim". Traditionally, it should have been translated as "lights and perfections" as written in Hebrew bible. It has its own meaning behind of that phrase. However, in the target language, the phrase was not translated to its real meaning and instead, it is translated into "Urim and Tumim" too.

Transposition

Transposition is another strategy found in this novel which falls under the category of syntactic strategy. The translation strategy of transposition refers to any change in word class, for example, adjective to noun. One instance of transposition was found in the novel as follows:

Datum No. 51.

SL: *"They trust me, and they've forgotten how to rely on their own instincts, because I lead them to nourishment."*

TL: *"Mereka mempercayaiiku, dan mereka sudah lupa bagaimana mengandalkan insting-insting mereka sendiri, sebab akulah yang menggiring mereka mendapatkan makanan."*

In Datum number 51, the translation strategy used is transposition. As stated earlier, this transposition strategy refers to any change in word class, for example adjective to noun and vice versa. In the sentence above, the word noun "nourishment" should have been translated as "makanan." However, the word was not translated into another word noun and instead, was translated into an adjective phrase "mendapatkan makanan."

Cohesion Change

This particular strategy is similar to the coherence change within the category of syntactic strategy. While coherence change involves changes in the logical arrangement in the text, cohesion change has to do with a single sentence or paragraph. Thus, as coherence change may include rearranging, combining or splitting of paragraphs, cohesion change may include rearranging, combining, or splitting of words or phrases.

Datum No. 52.

SL: *"When you are unable to read the Omens, they will help you to do so."*

TL: *"Saat kau tidak sanggup membaca pertanda-pertanda yang diberikan padamu, batu-batu ini akan membantumu mengambil keputusan."*

In Datum number 52, the translation strategy used in sentence above is cohesion change. Cohesion change here is illustrated by changing of words or phrases by taking into considerations the context of the sentence. For example, the word "they" in source language is translated into "batu-batu" in target language, instead of "mereka". The word "batu-batu" is obviously different from "mereka" but it has the same meaning within the same context.

Sentence Structure Change

Sentence structure change is another strategy under the category of syntactic strategy. This strategy of sentence structure change includes changes between main clause and sub clause status, changes of sub clause types, etc.

Datum No. 53.

SL: *"There had been times when his heart spent hours telling of its sadness."*

TL: *"Dulu kadang-kadang hatinya bisa men-curahkan kesedihannya hingga berjam-jam."*

In the sentence above, there is change in sentence structure. From the source language, the phrase "spent hours" was translated by changing the position of the phrase in target language. As illustrated above, the phrase "spent hours" was translated and moved to the end of the sentence instead of staying in the middle of the sentence. Thus, the writer observed that the translator used sentence structure change strategy. This strategy is part of syntactic strategy and it changes between main clause and sub clause, etc. Another example of sentence structure was found below:

SL: *"Creatures like the sheep, that are used to travelling."*

TL: *"Makhluk-makhluk yang suka berkelana, seperti domba-domba itu."*

As illustrated in the sentence above, there is another change in sentence structure within the translation. In source language, the sentence reads "Creatures like the sheep, that are used to traveling". If it was translated literally, then mention of sheep should be in the first clause of the sentence as in "Makhluk yang seperti

domba itu,” then followed by “yang suka berkelana.” In the final target language translation, however, the sentence was translated by changing the position of the clauses in target language so it reads, “Makhluk-makhluk yang suka berkelana, seperti domba itu.” Therefore, the writer analyzed that the translator used sentence structure change strategy. It changes between main clause and sub clause, etc.

Semantic Strategy

The translation strategy of semantic strategy that was found in the novel refers to the selection of a synonym or near synonym of a word.

Datum No. 1.

SL: “Life might be listening, and give you less the next time”

TL: “Jangan lagi berkata begitu. Hidup ini mungkin sedang memasang telinga, dan lain kali tidak akan semurab hati ini lagi padamu.”

In Data number 1, the word “listening” is translated into “memasang telinga” when it should have been translated as “mendengar”. It means that the translator used synonymy strategy to translate the word. The second instance of this strategy reads as follows:

Datum No. 2.

SL: “When you really want something, the universe always conspires in your favor.”

TL: “Kalau kau menginginkan sesuatu, jagat raya pasti akan bersatu padu membantumu mendapatkannya.”

In Datum number 2, the word “conspires” is translated into “bersatu padu”. In translating the excerpt above, the translator also opted to use a near synonym of the word in the target language. The literal meaning of the word “conspires” is “berkonspirasi”, but the translator chose “bersatu padu” instead. Thus, this act of substituting a word with another word with similar meaning is called as synonymy strategy. Another example of synonymy strategy is illustrated through the excerpt below:

Datum No. 3.

SL: “But that disaster taught me to understand the word of Allah.”

TL: “Tapi malapetaka itu telah mengajari jariku memahami sabda Allah.”

In Datum number 3, the phrase “the word of” which literally means “kata-kata” is translated into “sabda”. While the meaning of both word is similar, this does not change the fact that the translator opted to use an alternative or a synonym for the translation of the word instead of using the literal meaning of the word. searched near synonym for it. Similarly, synonymy strategy was also found in another excerpt, which reads:

Datum No. 5.

SL: “It’s like the camel driver said: Eat when it’s time to eat.”

TL: “Seperti dikatakan pemandu unta itu, makanlah pada saat makan.”

As illustrated by the sentence above, the word “driver” in the sentence was translated into “pemandu” instead of its literal meaning that is “pengemudi” or “sopir”. Again, it means that the translator opted to use a synonym of the word while translating the sentence, applying the synonymy strategy of translation. The same goes for the following example of:

Datum No. 6.

SL: “The city was still sleeping.”

TL: “Kota itu masih lelap.”

In Datum number 6, the phrase “still sleeping” was translated into “masih lelap”. Similar to the previous case, this means that the translator searched for and opted to use a synonym for its literal meaning “tertidur”.

Datum No. 8.

SL: “His heart told the boy what his strongest qualities were.”

TL: “Hatinya menyebutkan sifat-sifat terbaik yang dimilikinya.”

In Datum number 8, the word “qualities” is translated into “sifat-sifat”. In this case, the translator opted to use a synonym for the meaning of the word “qualities”. In literal translation, the word should have been trans-

lated as “kualitas”, but the translator chose “sifat-sifat” instead. This act of substituting a word with its synonym in target language is referred to as synonymy strategy. Another example of synonymy strategy using the same word “qualities” can be observed through the sentence below:

Datum No. 10.

SL: “*Courage is the quality most essential to understanding the Language of the World.*”

TL: “*Keberanian adalah faktor paling penting untuk bisa memahami Bahasa Dunia.*”

In the sentence above, the word “quality” was translated into “faktor.” Different from its literal meaning and its alternative as illustrated in the previous datum, this time the translator neither use the word “kualitas” nor “sifat-sifat”. Instead, the translator used another word that is “faktor” which has similar meaning to the two previous words.

Pragmatic Strategy

The pragmatic strategy found in the novel was illustrated through several explicitness changes. This particular change means that the word or phrase or sentences are translated to be more explicit or implicit. Some of the instances of this strategy being used are as follows:

Datum No. 1.

SL: “*Life might be listening, and give you less the next time.*”

TL: “*Jangan lagi berkata begitu. Hidup ini mungkin sedang memasang telinga, dan lain kali tidak akan semurah hati ini lagi padamu.*”

In sentence above, the phrase “Jangan lagi berkata begitu.” was added despite the original text has no such phrase. This phrase was added in order to make the sentence to be more explicit and easily understandable. To be more precise, the phrase was used to give context to the readers about what the speaker are trying to say or the message that the writer is trying to deliver. With the addition of the phrase, it becomes clearer that the speaker is trying to warn their

interlocutor to be more careful of what they are saying. Such strategy of adding phrase in translation is called as explicitness change.

Datum No. 2.

SL: “*The sun thought about that, and decided to shine more brightly. The wind, was enjoying the conversation, started to blow with greater force, so that the sun would not blind the boy.*”

TL: “*Matahari memikirkan ucapan anak itu, dan memutuskan untuk bersinar lebih terang. Angin, yang menikmati percakapan tersebut, mulai bertiup lebih kencang, agar matahari tidak membutakan si anak.*”

As illustrated in the datum above, there are some words that were added in target language, in order to make more explicit and understanding. In this case, the word “that” which literally only means “itu” was substituted by the phrase “ucapan anak itu”. The phrase “ucapan anak” is being added in the final target language translation to make it easier for the readers to understand what the word “that” is referring to. Again, this particular strategy of translation is called as explicitness change.

Datum No. 3.

SL: “*He had always believed that the sheep were able to understand what he said.*”

TL: “*Sejak dulu dia yakin sekali domba-domba ini memahami perkataannya.*”

Again, as seen in the sentence above, there are some words that were added in target language. This is all was done in order to make the sentence to be more explicit and easily understandable for the readers. This strategy is called explicitness change.

Datum No. 4.

SL: “*They’re the same as the people who live right here.*”

TL: “*Tapi pada dasarnya mereka sama dengan orang-orang yang tinggal di desa ini.*”

Again, in the sentence above, there are some words that were added in target language. The words being added were “pada dasarnya” and “desa”. The phrase “pada dasarnya” is putting emphasis to the idea while the word “desa” is

giving clarity to which group of people the speaker is talking about. This addition was made in the target language translation in order to make the sentence to be more explicit and easily understandable by the target readers. This strategy is called explicitness change.

Datum No. 5.

SL: "I have been told that beauty is the great seducer of men."

TL: "Pernah ada yang mengatakan padaku, orang mudah terpicat pada keindahan."

Similarly, in Datum number 5, there are some words that were added in target language, in order to add explicitness to the sentence. The same also goes for the following example:

Datum No. 6.

SL: "Because I've known that every hour was a part of the dream that I would find it."

TL: "Sebab aku tahu setiap jamnya merupakan bagian dari impian menemukan harta itu."

In the sentence above, some words were also added in target language, in order to make more explicit and understanding. This strategy is called explicitness change. The last instance of explicitness change is illustrated by the excerpt below:

SL: "You must understand that love never keeps a man from pursuing his destiny."

TL: "Cinta tak pernah menghalangi orang mengejar takdirnya."

In data above, some words were deleted from the final target language translation. Therefore, in contrast to the previous examples, this deletion makes the sentence to be more implicit. Yet, just as the other examples discussed earlier, this particular translation strategy is also called as explicitness strategy as it changes the level or degree of explicitness that the sentence originally had.

CONCLUSION

Based on finding and discussion, it can be concluded that several translation strategies are

used in the novel *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. The writer analyzed the strategies using Chesterman (1997) theory. The writer found 69 data translation strategy that the translator used in translating the novel entitled "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho. According to Chesterman (1997), There are three types of translation strategy, namely syntactic strategy, semantic strategy and pragmatic strategy. After the writer analyzed the data, the writer found 54 syntactic strategy (47 literal translation, 1 calque, 2 phrase structure change, 1 cohesion change, 2 sentence structure change, 1 transposition), 10 semantic strategy (10 synonymy), and 7 pragmatic strategy (7 explicitness change). Therefore, the total of data that the writer found is 69 data translation strategy.

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