

EXPLICITATION STRATEGY IN TRANSLATING AN INDONESIAN NOVEL INTO ENGLISH

Erlina Zulkifli Mahmud^{1*} & Cece Sobarna²

¹Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Padjadjaran

²Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Padjadjaran

Corresponding Author: Erlina Zulkifli Mahmud, E-mail: erlina@unpad.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

This research article is about the use of translation strategy namely explicitation in the translation of a novel from Indonesian into English. The data source is an Indonesian novel entitled *Lelaki Harimau* written by Eka Kurniawan and its English translation, *Man Tiger*. The novel creates commands and critics regarding its content as well as its language use. This makes the novel unique. The uniqueness in the source language text needs extra works to do in delivering the closest natural equivalent in the target language text. Untranslatability is no longer issue as there are strategies of translation that can be applied, one of them is explicitation. The explicitation strategy used is the one proposed by Klaudy. Using descriptive qualitative method, this research is aimed at revealing the kind of information being explicitated, the forms of explicitation used, and the semantic information of the words explicitated. The results show that the kind of information is both cultural and non-cultural, and the forms of explicitation identified are all five of them and semantically all the words being explicitated become clearer, specific, and more informative.

1. INTRODUCTION

The novel *Lelaki Harimau* written by Eka Kurniawan is one of the hundreds of novels and other literary works translated into foreign languages mostly English to be exhibited in Frankfurt Book Fair in 2015 (<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/12/28/new-dawn-for-indonesian-literature.html>). Indonesian people should be proud of this achievement as it could be said that very limited literary works like novels which have been translated into English before. Now people around the world could get some information about Indonesia and its culture through the novels translated. *Man Tiger* as the English translation of *Lelaki Harimau* is one of them. The novel provides the daily life of Indonesian people combined with some myths occurs in a certain region of Indonesia. It is about a tiger and its power that is believed to be able to control human body.

As it is well-known that Eka Kurniawan has a unique style in his writing that people discuss his work from various perspective. What are being talked about ranging from (i) the theme of his work: the overlapping conflict in its narrative structure (Asmida, 2020), the magical realism



(Komariya & Faruk, 2020), (ii) the language use: structural semantics (Wijianto, 2019), (iii) the figurative languages he uses: metaphors (Belwawin, Levina, 2020), personification (Desi & Hikmahyanti, 2019), (iv) the writing style: the symbolic strategy of Eka Kurniawan (Arifin, Zainul, 2019) as well as (v) the characters in his work: inner conflict of the main character (Dermawan, Rusdian Noor & Noviyanti, 2018), the personality of Margio, the main character (Sutanto, 2020).

Dealing with its language use which can be considered unique, it can be identified that some words in the novel are not generally cohesive and coherence; some are not collocative. This confuses the readers even of the source language text and this condition can move on to the readers of the target language if things are not solved thoroughly. It must have been challenging to translate the words as vocabularies as well as the structures with these conditions. Those are what the translator of this novel needs to deal with. One of the ways to solve the problem in making the meaning clearer, more specific, more informative to the readers of the target language text is by using a translation strategy, namely explicitation. Based on the background of this research, it can be constructed three research questions: (1) what kind of information is being explicitated; (2) what form of explicitation is used; (3) what semantic information found in the equivalent in the target language text. It is therefore that the objectives of this research is to reveal the kind of information which is being explicitated, and to identify the forms of explicitation used, also to uncover the semantic information found in the equivalent.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The notion “explicitation” in Translation Studies has been firstly introduced by Vinay and Darbelnet (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995). They classify this as a part of translation procedures whose main function is to reveal the meaning of the source language text which is implicit into explicit in the target language text either by introducing new informations or by adding some details lexically as well as grammatically. This Vinay and Darbelnet’s procedure is to make the equivalent in the target language more specific, and more informative. Under the same function, Nida (Nida, 1969) proposes what he calls as addition instead of explicitation, as one of his adjustment techniques.

Apart from the similar function it is made, the notion explicitation is attached to various translation tools covering: translation strategy, as it is found in a journal article discussing the definition of explicitness and implicitness towards a theoretical foundation (De Metsenaere & Vandepitte, 2017); then translation procedure as it is found also in a journal article about legal translation from Spanish source language text into Danish target language text (Vesterager, 2017); also translation method as found in a journal article about a case of screen translation (Moghaddam, 2017); the last is translation technique as found in the journal article about the review of both



principles and procedures of explicitation as translation universal (Hawamdeh & Alzu'bi, 2020). It is not automatically confirmed that explicitation is officially called a translation procedure as firstly introduced by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995). And this research uses the notion explicitation as a translation strategy as it refers to Klaudy and Karoly's proposal (Klaudy & Karoly, 2005).

Explicitation as a translation strategy can be specified into several forms or occurrences. Those that are used for this present research are those which are studied based on its occurrences. It covers five of them: (1) when a SL (Source Language) unit of more general meaning is translated into a TL (Target Language) unit of a more special meaning; (2) when a SL word of complex meaning is translated over several words in the TL; (3) when there is an appearance in the TL of new meaningful elements; (4) when a SL sentence is divided into two or several sentences in the TL; (5) when SL phrases are extended into clauses in the TL (Klaudy & Karoly, 2005). Klaudy and Karoly do not state that the five classifications are the types of explicitation as they have their own classification for the types of explicitation. This present research calls this occurrence or form. Referring to Klaudy and Karoly's occurrences of explicitation, Pym makes his reviews on the same occurrences or forms of explicitation strategy and he supports this (Pym, 2014).

There are some previous researches applying Klaudy and Karoly's explicitation strategy (2005) that can show the novelty of this present research. The first one is found in the journal article talking about the translation of '*Rihlah Ibn Battutah*' from Arabic into English focusing on the implicit meaning and explicitation (Abdullah et al., 2018). The results show that explicitation is not only suggested by cultural factors in general but also by others like religious factors, Arabic rhetorical sciences, pragmatic factors, and communicative preferences. The second one is with the same object of research, the translation of *Rihlah Ibn Battutah* from Arabic into English, with the same main theory by Klaudy and Karoly, yet this one deals with the use of explicitation strategy only, and this research uses the application of the *ATLAS.ti* analysis software (Yaakob et al., 2020). The result of the research is almost the same with the previous research that explicitation takes place not because of cultural elements only. The third one is found in the translation of a novel from Indonesian into English which discusses Indonesian political situation (Mahmud, Zulkifli et al., 2020). Making use of these five occurrences of explicitation by Klaudy and Karoly (2005) and the forms of explicitation by Séguinot (1988), the results show that the specific information dealing with Indonesian political situation which is explicitated covering from identities like actors in pronouns, names of organization or institution, names of people and location as well as revealing activities from passive to active.

The next previous research deals with the novel, *Lelaki Harimau* 'Man Tiger'. The first one is about the translation of figurative languages found in the novel and how they are translated into English but it is not involved explicitation strategy; it uses other strategies like domestication and foreignization and one of the results that literal translation is used more frequently than others (Gustema & Tanjung, 2020). The second one is also about the same novel and it discusses the



main character using the narrative structure, it does not deal with translation and the result shows that Margio as the main character has a strong characterization (Khairaa, 2020).

3. METHODOLOGY

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. It is qualitative due to the fact that no number or quantity is involved; all data are words (Creswell, 2014). All phenomena are described as the way they are. It is not a field research either as the data are taken from written sources. Not all explicitation cases in the novel are discussed. This research limits the data to those found in the beginning of the first chapter of the novel. The first chapter is used for this research because it contains of introduction to the story. Everything deals with the next chapters is explained here and explicitation strategy is identified more in this chapter.

The explicitation is studied from the additional information identified in the target language text. After all data are collected from both the source language text and the target language text, then they are classified based on the characteristics of occurrences of explicitation proposed by Klaudy and Karoly (2005). There are five of them and all occurrences of explicitation are located in the data source. Each of the data is studied based on the kind of information it contains to answer the first research question. Next step is to reveal the kind of explicitation it belongs to as to answer the second research question. The last step is to find out what semantic information it has in the target language text after having been explicitated in order to answer the third research question. All those answers show the objectives of this research.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research presents the all five of occurrences or forms of explicitation, and based on the collected data, there are thirty five cases identified. From the thirty-five explicitation cases, the most frequent occurrence located in the target text is when a SL word of complex meaning is translated over several words in the TL. This shows that the existence of words of complex meaning in the first chapter of the source novel is higher than others. As opposed to the most frequent occurrence, it can be identified that the least frequent occurrence is when SL phrases are extended into clauses in the TL. It shows that SL phrases can be translated into phrases again with some additional information but not reaching to a shift from phrases into clauses.

Each occurrence is given in a table but not all the data are discussed. There are five tables revealing each occurrence of explicitation. In table 4.1 SL unit of more general meaning is translated into TL unit of more specific meaning; this table covers eight cases. In table 4.2 SL word of complex meaning is translated into several words in the TL; there are fifteen cases identified. Then in table 4.3 there is an appearance of new meaningful elements in the TL and this covers seven cases. The next table is table 4.4 one SL sentence is divided into two or several sentences in the TL, and there are three cases found. The last table is table 4.5 SL phrases are extended into



clauses in the TL and this covers two cases. For this research each form or occurrence of explicitation is represented by three cases only.

Table 4.1 SL Unit of More General Meaning is Translated into TL Unit of More Specific Meaning

No	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
1.	<i>Orang-orang datang, selang beberapa lama selepas perkebunan dinyatakan bangkrut tumbang, untuk memberi patok-patok</i>	Not long after the plantation was declared bankrupt, people had arrived to put up boundary stakes ,
2.	<i>Barangkali Margio menemukannya di pembuangan sampah,</i>	Perhaps Margio had found his sword at the dump,
3.	<i>Ia meminta samurai itu</i>	He asked for the samurai sword

The three data in table 4.1 refer to the explicitation from general meaning to specific meaning by adding details in the target language text. This is one of the occurrences as mentioned by Klaudy and Karoly that in order to make the sentence clearer is by adding details to make the general meaning in the source language text into the specific meaning. The adding details in the target language like this is called differently by Molina and Albir; it is called amplification (Molina & Hurtado Albir, 2002). In data no. 1 the explicitation occurs in the translation of SL reduplication “*patok-patok*” in plural having general meaning of any “*patok*” ‘stake’ is then replaced by TL unit of specific meaning ‘boundary stakes’. The adding of the word “boundary” specifies that the stakes are not any stakes but boundary stakes that limit between properties or land. This gives the meaning of stakes ‘*patok-patok*’ more specific in the target language text. While the second data deals with the translation of suffix “*nya*” as an object attached to a verb which in the Bahasa it is often used and it is grammatically correct or acceptable. The suffix “*nya*” in this context equals to ‘it’. The meaning of SL unit “*nya*” has a general meaning but then when it is explicitated into ‘his sword’ in the target language, the meaning becomes more specific comparing if it is translated into ‘it’. Finally the last data in this table, data no.3, the SL unit is a cultural word “samurai” refers to a long sword slightly curved usually used by Japanese army in war in Indonesia a very long time ago when Indonesia was still dependent country. The word “samurai” is actually a name given by Indonesian people but it has been listed in *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* officially together with its first entry, the real meaning of the word “samurai” as understood by Japanese people and the world; the name of Japanese aristocracy, a class of warriors. It is therefore in data no.3, the word “samurai” is translated into ‘the samurai sword’ not just “samurai” to specify that what refers to in the context is a name of sword.



Table 4.2 SL Word of Complex Meaning is Translated into Several Words in the TL.

No	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
4.	<i>Ma Soma, ia guru mengaji anak-anak di surau,</i>	Ma Soma, who taught children how to read the Koran at the surau,
5.	<i>pos ronda</i>	the hut where the night-watch stood vigil.
6.	<i>menebas-nebaskan samurai ke kentongan kayu dan tiang,</i>	swinging the sword, hitting the slit wooden drum used to sound the alarm.

The three data in table 4.2 refer to the form of explicitation when SL word of complex meaning is translated into several words in the target language text. In the novel *Lelaki Harimau*, the use of cultural words is significant. It needs a description to be comprehended by target text readers. It is therefore, one of the occurrences of explicitation to change SL word of complex meaning such as cultural words into several words in the target text is needed. In Newmark's procedure of translation, it is known as descriptive equivalent (Newmark, 1988). In data no.4, the SL word of complex meaning is "*mengaji*" referring to an activity of teaching how to read the Holy Book, the Koran, in Islam. It has no direct equivalent in English so additional information is needed through several words 'taught how to read the Koran'. By this form of explicitation, the word "*mengaji*" which is translated into several words 'taught how to read the Koran' becomes more informative. Next data is data no.5 when the words "*pos ronda*" as cultural words belong to Indonesian culture where people within a neighborhood work together to keep their surrounding safe by being the night-watch working hand in hand with the real security guards and the station where they are doing their job is a kind of hut and it is called "*pos ronda*". The term is explicitated into several words 'the hut where the night-watch stood vigil' so the meaning becomes more informative in the target language text. The last data of table 4.2 is data no.6 which deals with the previous data "*pos ronda*" as the things "*kentongan kayu dan tiang*" are provided in any *pos ronda* at the front part of the hut. It is for a certain function that is to give alarm when a burglary happens or any crime happens by hitting it continuously and these are translated into several words more 'the slit wooden drum used to sound the alarm'. By this occurrence of explicitation, the meaning of the complex word in the source language becomes more informative in the target language text. The three cases of explicitation in this table involve cultural words.

Table 4.3 An Appearance of New Meaningful Elements in the TL



No	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
7.	<i>Tak ada pistol, tak ada keris, apalagi gigitan.</i> Literal translation: No gun, no kris dagger, no bite.	The cause of the death was never a gun or kris dagger and certainly not biting
8.	<i>Berita itu jauh lebih menakjubkan, disebabkan pelaku dan korbannya.</i> Literal translation: The news is much more shocking because of the perpetrator and the victim	The identity of the killer and his victim made the news all the more shocking.
9.	<i>Kyai Jahro datang bersama mereka, menanam padi untuk satu musim,</i> Literal translation: Kyai Jahro came together with them, grew rice for one session	Kyai Jahro had come with them, but had grown rice for only one season.

Table 4.3 consists of three data regarding the appearance of new meaningful elements in the target language text. The appearance of new meaningful elements in the TL in one of the occurrences of Klaudy and Karoly's explicitation is to emphasize the meaning of an expression like a clause or a sentence by changing the order of information with the existence of the new meaningful elements, by adding connector or adverb. In data no.7 the new meaningful elements are the subject of restructuring sentence in the target language text, the English text. If it is translated literally into 'No gun, no kris dagger, no bite' the meaning is not going to be informative that it leads to a confusing context. It is therefore, the noun phrase functions as subject "the cause of the death" in the data is needed. With this explicitation the meaning in the target language text becomes clearer and more informative. The same thing occurs also in data no.8 when the new meaningful elements "the identity" is added as the subject of the sentence. What makes the news more shocking is the identity of the perpetrator as well as the identity of the victim. Not just the news about the perpetrator and the victim but to be exact is the identity of both. As in data no.9, the new meaningful elements are the adding of conjunction but revealing contradictive meaning between the first clause and the second clause, and also the adding of adverb "only" to underline the meaning that Kyai Jahro did grow rice together with others but he would not do it all the time, he just did it once and after that not anymore. The explicitation there makes the meaning of the equivalent in the target language text becomes more informative.

Table 4.4 One SL Sentence is Divided into Two or Several Sentences in the TL

No	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
10.	<i>Kolamnya menggenang di tengah perkebunan cokelat, yang meranggas kurang rawat, buah-buahnya kering dan</i>	The pond lay in the middle of a cacao plantation, the trees barren from lack of care, their fruit shriveled and thin, like bird's eye chilies. The leaves were of use only



<p><i>kurus tak lagi terbedakan dengan rawit, hanya berguna bagi pabrik tempe yang merampok daunnya setiap petang.</i></p>	<p>to the tempeh factories, which collected them every night</p>
<p>11. <i>Anwar Sadat sendiri penuh antusias di setiap musim panen berakhir kala orang tak lagi terikat pada tanah yang sejenak dibiarkan gembur kembali, meski dirinya namun selalu menyediakan bagi mereka truk yang mengangkut rombongan hingga tepi rimba raya, serta nasi kotakan berlauk telur mata sapi</i></p> <p><i>tak pernah ambil bagian mengangkat tombak dan berlari naik-turun bukit,</i></p>	<p>Anwar Sadat himself had always been highly enthusiastic every time the harvest season ended, when people were no longer bound to the soil, which was left fellow temporarily. Although he had never raised a spear or run up and down the hills, he always provided boxed meals of rice and fried egg, and a truck to take the hunters to the jungle's edge.</p>
<p>12. <i>Demikianlah perburuan pertama minggu lalu berakhir mengecewakan, mereka hanya menangkap dua ekor babi yang terperangkap lebih karena kecerdikan ajak-ajak, hingga di hari yang sama mereka mendengar Komar bin Syueb mati</i></p>	<p>The first hunt the previous week had ended in disappointment. They had trapped only two boars and mostly because the ajaks' agility. On the same day they heard that Margio's father died.</p>

Unlike other cases of explicitation in the previous tables, data in table 4.4 deal with the breaking of one sentence into several sentences. This is one of the ways to make a sentence easier to understand. Newmark named the same case as transposition in his translation procedure (Newmark, 1988). In data no. 10, the SL unit consists of one sentence with three clauses which then is translated into two sentences by explicitating the subject for the second clause of the first sentence, "the tress", and the subject of the second sentence, "the leaves". The structure of the SL sentence is kept. By doing this, the equivalent in the target language becomes clearer and more informative. In data no.11, the SL unit is a very long and complicated sentence consisting of four clauses yet it is translated into two sentences by breaking it up without additional grammatical element. The sentences in the target language text is derived from the clauses of a sentence in the sour language text. This way the meaning of the equivalent in the target language becomes more informative and clearer. Similar to data no. 10 and data no.11, there is a breaking up of one sentence of SL unit into two sentences of TL unit, in data no 12. The breaking up involving one sentence of SL unit into three sentences of TL unit. By breaking the very long sentence into several sentences the meaning in the target language text becomes more informative and clearer.



Table 4.5 SL Phrases Are Extended into Clauses in the TL.

No	Source Language Text	Target Language Text
13.	<i>dan si tetangga balas melemparnya dengan batu, dan meletuplah keributan.</i>	then the neighbor might throw a rock at him in return, and things would get out of hand .
14.	<i>Keyakinan bahwa anak itu tak berbahaya yang kemudian membuatnya lupa</i>	He was so convinced the kid was harmless he had soon forgotten

Table 4.5 provides data of SL phrases which are extended into clauses in the TL. This is one of the occurrences with the least case located in the novel. If the SL phrases are extended but without the limitation as long as a clause, then the cases can be found more. The kind of extension of explicitation in Klaudy and Karoly's is called unit shift by Catford (Catford, 1969). In data no. 13, the phrase "*meletuplah keributan*" 'commotion erupts' is extended into a clause 'things would get out of hand; it is not exactly in the same original form but it shows the same meaning. The extended unit also appears in data no.14 when the subject "*keyakinan*" 'belief' which is not exactly a phrase, it is a word, but it is extended into a clause 'he was so convinced'. Grammatically this extension is needed as it gives more specific information to whose belief is the word "*keyakinan*" refers to.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion on section 4, it can be concluded that any forms or occurrences of explicitation as proposed by Klaudy and Karoly (2005) make the meaning in the target language (1) clearer especially when dealing with complex structural unit of SL, like clauses and sentences; (2) more specific especially when some cultural words are given detailed description; and (3) more informative especially when implicit meaning in the SL unit is replaced by explicit meaning either by adding details or by breaking up a very long sentence. The SL unit which is explicitated covers both cultural and non-cultural words. When it does not involve the cultural word, it involves the gaps between the grammatical or syntactical rules of the SL with the grammatical or syntactical rules of the TL. It is through this research that it can be confirmed nothing that cannot be translated whatever situation occurs in the source language text. Translation strategies, translation techniques, translation procedures, translation methods provide various options for any translators in translating any texts.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR(S)



The first author, Erlina Zulkifli Mahmud is a doctoral program student of Universitas Padjadjaran and she is interested in Translation Studies. She is writing her dissertation now dealing with the translation of Sundanese folklores into two target languages as a case of multiple translation. Prof. Cece Sobarna as the co-author is a professor in Linguistics. He is interested in Etymology and Toponym. He is the Head of Doctoral Program of Literature in Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Padjadjaran.

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