

AN ANALYSIS ON TRANSLATION METHODS' PREFERENCE IN MEMOIR TRANSLATION PUBLISHED BY WARUNGSATEKAMU

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Abstract

This study investigates the general translation methods preference in memoir translations published by Warungsatekamu until April 2018 and what are the features of each translation method. This study uses translation method categories proposed by Newmark (1988). The data are twelve memoir translation texts which originally were written in English, and had been translated by Warungsatekamu's translator into Indonesian. The result of translation methods analysis shows that there are seven translation methods applied. They are communicative translation method, free translation method, idiomatic translation method, faithful translation method, semantic translation method, word-for-word translation method and literal translation method. What influences these seven methods to be applied are the specific features of each translation methods.

Keywords: *Features of translation methods, memoir, translation's focuses, translation methods.*

INTRODUCTION

The activity of translation has an important role in this world, because it acts as a bridge that cover the gap that occurs due to language difference. Translation studies also have made a lot of development ever since it is proposed by Holmes in 1972. For example, Vinay and Darbelnet (1958) developed seven translation procedures that can be used by translators to help them filling the lexical and cultural gap between the source and target language. However, no matter how advanced translation studies are, there are still many problems that cannot be avoided in translation. One of these problems are meaning loss in translation, which could cause a further debate regarding the concept of equivalence. Kashgary (2010) stated that the definition, relevance and applicability of equivalence in translation have caused heated controversies. Such controversies happened due to different perspectives regarding what aspects in translation that must be prioritized and sacrificed to create a better translation result.

Due to that reason, there are many translation strategies proposed by experts to improve the quality of translation activity. One of the strategies is translation methods that proposed by Newmark (1988). The classifications are divided into eight methods, where each of them has

their own criteria that are different from each other. Since each method focuses on different aspects that can be preserved and sacrificed, translators can choose them based on the kind of text that is going to be translated and all the elements that will be involved during the translation process.

Each of the translation methods proposed by Newmark (1988) come with unique features. Even though Newmark has explained the function of each translation method, it is important to learn deeper how actually these methods can be applied in translation. That is why the specific features of each translation method is considered necessary to be studied. These features may show the extend of limitation and flexibility of each method, which may help the readers to figure out how to apply these methods practically.

Warungsatekamu is a division belongs to Our Daily Bread ministries. According to their official website, Our Daily Bread stated that they are a non-profit Christian organization that aims to publish Christian resources in international scale. They have distributed more than sixty million resources in 150 countries until today. As a part of Our Daily Bread, Warungsatekamu handles the translation of written texts in Indonesian branch, including the translation of Christian memoirs published online through

Warungsatekamu's website. Based on the author's personal experience during his internship program in Warungsatekamu, thousands of people visited Warungsatekamu's website every month. The fact that the memoirs published by Warungsatekamu are read by thousands of people every month proves that they are successful in creating a good translation that harness the interests of a big community. The success that has been achieved by Our Daily Bread and Warungsatekamu in distributing international-standardized resources, memoirs in particular, make their works worth to be analyzed.

METHOD

Berg and Howard (2012) characterize qualitative research as meanings, a concept, a definition, metaphors, symbols and description of things. One of the characteristics of qualitative research mentioned by Berg and Howard (2012) is in line with the method of this study, which is descriptive analysis. The result of translation methods' analysis and further discussion were explained using descriptive explanation. As such, this study is considered a qualitative study. The data collected for this study is considered as primary because the data was taken directly from Our Daily Bread's international website, which contains the English memoir version and Warungsatekamu's website, which contains their translated versions in Indonesian language.

There is one theory applied in this study, which is Newmark's (1988) classification of translation methods. The criteria of each method explained by Newmark and the results found by related studies were used as a method to analyze each sentence of the sample texts. However, the translation of Bible's verses was excluded from analysis. From the writer's personal experience during his internship program in Warungsatekamu, the translation of Bible verses from English to Indonesian was done by copying the official translation published by Lembaga Alkitab Indonesia. Thus, the

translation of Bible verses was not affected the translator's decision.

DISCUSSION

The analysis was done on twelve English memoir texts along with their Indonesian translations. The total number of sample texts are twenty-four texts, which consists of twelve source texts which were written in English and twelve target texts which were written in Indonesian. There were 346 sentences along with their Indonesian translations analyzed in this analysis, and the analysis was done by figuring out the criteria of certain translation method contained within each sentence. Out of eight translation methods provided by Newmark (1988) there were seven methods applied. They were communicative translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, free translation, idiomatic translation, word-for-word translation and literal translation. The focuses of translation were divided into two categories. They were originality-focused transfer and message-focused transfer.

Originality-Focused Transfer

This category's priority is to transfer the original elements of source text, such as original sentence structure, original word-orders and precise contextual meaning into target text. Due to its priority, this category tends to be stricter and more rigid compared to message-focused transfer category. There are four translation methods included in this category. They are faithful translation method, semantic translation method, word-for word translation method and literal translation method. Further explanation of each method's analysis can be seen in the following sections.

Faithful Translation Method

There are 29.19% data classified in this category, which mean that faithful translation method was applied in 101 sentences. Newmark (1988) stated that faithful translation attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning within the constraints of target language

grammatical structures. Furthermore, he also mentioned that faithful translation transfers cultural words and preserve the degree of grammatical and lexical abnormality in the translation. Faithful translation is also uncompromising and dogmatic. From Newmark's (1988) explanation, it can be concluded that faithful translation has three main criteria. The first criterion is reproducing a precise contextual meaning. The second criterion is the sentence structure of the source text and target text must be similar. Adding additional information that is not contained within the source text is not allowed as it may corrupt the message or taint the originality. The third criterion is that the translation is source language emphasized. That means the preservation of originality is prioritized. The criteria of this method shows that they prioritize the transference of source text's original aspects over readability. The examples of applied faithful translation method can be seen below.

- (1) ST : My husband recognized and affirmed the work I was doing, and I did the same about the sacrifices he was making for us.
- TT :
Suamikumenyadaridanmeneguhkanpekerjaan yang kulakukan, danaku pun melakukanhal yang samauntuksetiappengorbanan yang diaberiakanbagi kami sekeluarga.

(Text 1)

In this sentence, the meaning of the source text and target text are equal. There is no meaning-loss at all in the target text. The structures of the source text and the target text are also equal, which mean that there was no need to make the wordings or structure of the target text to be different from the target text. "My husband recognized and affirmed the work I was doing" was translated to "Suamikumenyadaridanmeneguhkanpekerjaan yang kulakukan" and "and I did the

same about the sacrifices he was making for us" was translated to "danaku pun melakukanhal yang samauntuksetiappengorbanan yang diaberiakanbagi kami sekeluarga". The translation is just as simple and as complete as the source text without any major adjustment. Furthermore, the word "us" is translated into "kami sekeluarga", to make the meaning as clear as possible without any possibilities of misunderstanding. The ability to reproduce the contextual meaning while preserving sentence structures altogether proves that this translation is faithful.

- (2) ST : I fantasized about the idea of marriage, believing it would change me completely.
- TT : Lalu, aku pun berimajinasitentangpernikahan kahandanpercayabahwaitudapatmengubahkusepenuhnya.

(Text 2)

In this sentence, the meaning of the source text and target text are equal. "I fantasized about the idea of marriage" was translated to "Lalu, aku pun berimajinasitentangpernikahan" and "believing it would change me completely" was translated to "danpercayabahwaitudapatmengubahkusepenuhnya". There is no meaning-loss at all in the target text. The structures of the source text and the target text are also equal, which mean that there was no need to make the wordings or structure of the target text to be different from the target text. This proves that the translator tries to be as faithful as possible toward the source text.

- (3) ST : Early into the marriage, I started to see how my husband and I actually did not share much in common.
- TT : Di awalpernikahanku, akumulai melihatbahwaakudansuamikuternyatatidakmemilikibanyakkesamaan.

(Text 2)

In this sentence, both the meanings of the texts and sentence structures are equal. There is no meaning-loss at all in the target text. The structures of the source text and the target text are also equal, which mean that there was no need to make the wordings or structure of the target text to be different from the target text. Even the location of coma was placed exactly at the same part of the sentences. Furthermore, "how" was translated to "bahwa", which is accurate. If "how" was translated to "bagaimana", then the target text might sound a bit weird and unnatural. This choice of word proves the translator's consideration toward delivering the contextual meaning. After all, the content of a natural-sounding text is easier to digest compared to an unnatural sounding text.

Semantic Translation Method

There are 15.02% data classified in this category, which mean that semantic translation method is applied in fifty-two sentences. Newmark (1988) stated that semantic translation is similar to faithful translation, however semantic translation method is more flexible. Semantic translation allows the translator's intuitive to empathy with the original text. From Newmark's (1988) explanation and this study's analysis results, it can be concluded that semantic translation method has two criteria. The first criterion is its attempts in reproducing the precise contextual meaning while preserving source text's sentence structure in the target text. The second criterion is its flexible nature, which allows a change in meaning when it is considered necessary. This change is allowed as long as it will not betray the quality of source text's original contextual meaning. These criteria show that originality preservation is prioritized in this method. The examples of semantic translation can be seen below

- (4) ST : "Quiet time" with God
was virtually non-existent.
TT : Waktuuntuksaatted

uhbersamaTuhanhampir
menjadisesuatu yang
mustahil.

(Text 1)

In this sentence, "quiet time with God" is translated into "waktuuntuksaatteduh", and "was virtually non-existent" is translated into "hampirmenjadisesuatu yang mustahil". The source text and target text is equal in terms of meanings and sentence structures. There is no meaning-loss at all in the target text. The structures of the source text and the target text are also equal, which mean that there was no need to make the wordings or structure of the target text to be different from the target text. However, this sentence is not translated using faithful translation. The "virtually non-existent" part indirectly implies that the author was so busy and she could not even plan a quiet time with God in her mind. However, it is probably difficult to deliver a similar impression in the target text. As a result, the translator translated it into "hampirmenjadisesuatu yang mustahil". It is true that the original text's indirect impression is gone, however the idea of the sentence and its contextual meaning is still delivered. This change in translation requires the translator to actually empathy with the original text, and that is what makes the semantic translation method different from faithful translation method.

- (5) ST : While we were dating, I
was trying so hard to
make things work out
that I often gave in to
him without voicing what
I really wanted.
TT : Ketika kami
berpacarandulu,
akuberusahaterlalukeras
untukterusmengalah
demi mencapai kata
sepakat.
Akutidakpernahbenar-
benarmenyuarakanapa
yang akuinginkan.

(Text 2)

In this sentence, the meaning of texts and sentence structures of the source text and

target text are equal. There is no meaning-loss at all in the target text. The structures of the source text and the target text are also equal, which mean that there was no need to make the wordings or structure of the target text to be different from the target text. However, "make things work out" is translated into "mengalah demi mencapai kata sepakat". In English, this phrase can be used in various situations and has different meanings depend on the situation. For example, if someone were to say "I am sure I can work things out", it could mean that the person in question was trying to solve certain problems that they were facing. However, the meaning of "make things work out" in this sentence refers to author's effort in protecting her relationship with her husband. From the examples above, it is clear that the phrase "make things work out" could be used to express an effort to protect or to solve something, depends on the situation where the phrase is used. In other words, the translator must let their intuitive to empathy with the situation in which this sentence is written in order to be able to interpret the meaning accurately. These facts show that this sentence was translated using semantic translation method.

- (6) ST : Even the slightest irritation made me flare up.
 TT : Bahkan, kekesalansedikitsajabisa membuatemosikumemu ncakdanmenjadisangatm arah.

(Text 2)

In this sentence, the meaning of the texts and the sentence structures are equal, which mean that there is no meaning loss in the target text and the structures of both the target text and source text are same. This is possible because the sentence is simple, which makes it easy to apply the same sentence structures into the target text. However, the term "flare up" is translated into "emosikumemuncakdanmenjadisangatmar ah". This term is indeed related to anger, but it is not that easy to deliver it into

another language. Thus, the empathy toward the original text is necessary to create an accurate translation. That is why the translation was done using semantic translation method.

Word-for-Word translation method

There are 0.86% data classified in this category, which mean that the word-for-word translation method was applied in three sentences. Newmark (1988) stated that word-for word translation method preserves the word-order. The words are also translated singly by their most common meanings. The examples of word-for-word translation can be seen below.

- (7) ST : The Bible also says
 TT : Alkitabjugaberkatademikian
 (Text 1)

In this sentence, the word-order is preserved in the target text. "The Bible" is translated into "Alkitab", "also" is translated into "juga", "says" is translated into "berkatademikian". The words are also translated singly by their most common meaning. This is possible because the sentence is simple and short.

- (8) ST : We are all invited
 TT : Kita semuadiundang
 (Text 10)

In this sentence, the word order is preserved in the target text. "We are" was translated to "kita", "all" was translated to "semua", "invited" was translated to "diundang". There is no difference between the source text and the target text because there is adjustment needed.

- (9) ST : We need God.
 TT : Kita perluTuhan.
 (Text 2)

In this sentence, the word order is preserved in the target text. "We" was translated to "kita", "need" was translated to "perlu", "God" was translated to "Tuhan". The words were translated singly by their most common meaning, out of

context. This is possible because the sentence is really simple and short, and there is no adjustment needed in the target text.

Literal translation method

There are 0.86% data classified in this category, which mean that the literal translation method was applied in three sentences. Newmark (1988) stated that literal translation method converts source language's grammatical structure to their nearest target language's equivalent. However, the words are translated singly by their most common meaning and out of context. The examples of literal translation method can be seen below.

- (10) ST : I can only play the drums
 TT : Akuhanyabisa main drum
 (Text 3)

In this sentence, "can only" was translated to "hanyabisa", which mean that the grammar in the target text was fixed. However, the words were translated singly by their most common meaning.

- (11) ST : New Bilibid prison
 TT : Penjara New Bilibid
 (Text 9)

In this sentence, the word "prison" is translated into "penjara". The word is simply translated into its most common meaning. Furthermore, the grammar of the target text was fixed. This can be seen from how the word "prison" in the source text was placed at the end of the sentence, while the word "penjara" was placed at the beginning of the sentence in the target text.

- (12) ST : Spiritual plagiarism
 TT : Plagiarismerohani
 (Text 11)

In this sentence, "spiritual" was translated to "rohani", while "plagiarism" was translated to "plagiarism". However, the placement of both words in the source text and target text was reversed. This proves that the grammar of the target text was fixed. Furthermore, the words are simply translated into their most common meaning.

Message-Focused Transfer

This category's priority is to transfer the message of the text through various adjustments, even if the originality of source text must be sacrificed to some extent. This category tends to be more flexible compared to originality-focused transfer category. The adjustments could include sentence structure adjustment, content adjustment or language adjustment. There are three translation methods included in this category. They are communicative translation method, free translation method and idiomatic translation method. Further explanation of each method's analysis can be seen below.

Communicative Translation Method

There are 48.26% data classified in this category, which mean that communicative translation method was applied in 167 sentences. Newmark (1988) stated that communicative translation attempts to deliver the exact contextual meaning of the original text in such a way that that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership. From Newmark's (1988) explanation, it can be concluded that communicative translation method has three criteria. The first criterion is to prioritize the preservation of message over originality, since the goal of communicative translation method is to deliver the contextual meaning. The second criterion is the necessity to make content and language adjustments from source text to target text. The adjustments could involve both or either content and language adjustments. The third criterion is taking readers' comprehensibility into account. That means the translator must ensure that the target text can be easily understandable and acceptable by the target readers. These criteria prove that this method prioritizes message delivery over originality preservation. The examples of applied communicative translation method can be seen below.

- (13) ST : Not all of them had a
 monetary value, but
 most of them were
 things the world

- expected us to accomplish.
- TT : Tidaksemaual yang kupikirkanitumemangber nilai, tapi kupikir kesemuanyait uadalahhal-hal yang haruskucapaisesua ideng anstandardunia.
- (Text 1)

In this sentence, the sentence structure of source text and target text is similar, which mean that following the source text's sentence structure is still acceptable. However, the target text added a subject "ku-" which does not exist in the source text. Furthermore, "monetary value" is translated into "bernilai". This translation actually reduces the message contained within the source text. The source text specifically mentioned what kind of value did the author meant, and that is "monetary value". However, the translator translated it as "bernilai", which is not as specific of a term as the source text. Lastly, "most of them were things the world expected us to accomplish" is translated into "kesemuanyaitu adalahhal-hal yang haruskucapaisesua idenganstandardunia." The structure of this part is changed in the target text, because the original sentence structure is not suitable to be applied in the target text. This structure change was also done to make the target text easily understandable by target readers, which mean that the translator took reader's comprehensibility into account. These factors show that this sentence is translated using communicative translation method.

- (14) ST : I thought marriage could change me.
- TT : Ketikapernikahantidakmengubah kanhidupku
- (Text 2)

In this sentence, the source text and the target text have different wording. While the source text is indirectly implying that the author's marriage could not change her life, the target text directly delivers the

contextual meaning clearly. This change of wording might be caused by language difference. English has irregular verbs which may hold different meanings and forms depend on what tense is used, while the verbs in Indonesian language only has one form. The source text used the word "could", which clearly shows to English-speaking readers that the word "could" refers to the author's thought in the past. However, the verbs in Indonesian language doesn't have tense concept. If the target text was translated to "Akupikirpernikahanbisamengubahkanhid upku", the target text might cause a misunderstanding because it might sound like a statement of fact instead of a statement regarding a wrong way of thinking. That is why the change in wording is considered necessary. This change in wording makes the target text understandable and clear. This proves that the translator took the readers' comprehensibility into account.

- (15) ST : Honoring our marriage took faith in that busy time.
- TT : Diperlukan iman yang sungguh-sungguh agar kami mampumenghargai per nikahan kami sekalipunhidup kami dipenuhidengankesibu kan.
- (Text 1)

In this sentence, the target text is longer than the source text. However, this actually shows that a longer target text is considered necessary to create a natural and readable text without losing its contextual meaning. The word "honoring" is translated into "menghargai", which is accurate considering the situation in which this text is written. The attempts in creating a readable text, preserving the contextual meaning and changing the wording due to language difference proves that this sentence is translated using communicative translation method.

Free Translation Method

There are 2.89% data classified in this category, which mean that the free

translation method was applied in ten sentences. Newmark (1988) stated that free translation method reproduces the matter without the manner, or the content without the form of the original text. In other words, free translation is only able to reproduce matter or content. However, it does not mean that the content it reproduces is always sufficient and accurate. According to the study that written by Prasmawati in 2016, a translation that reproduces incomplete information also belong to this category. Newmark's (1988) definition of free translation method proves that this method only prioritizes message delivery. The examples of free translation can be seen below.

- (16) ST : One of those days
 TT : Haripenuhkegalauan
 (Text 3)

In this sentence, the message was preserved, however the manner was abandoned. "the manner" here refers to the wording of the source text. The wording of the source text was simply abandoned because there is no equal phrase in the Indonesian language. As such, the translator decided to deliver the main message of the text instead. In the text 3, the author tried to tell the readers about one of the struggle that they had faced in the past. Due to that reason, the translator chose the word "galau" to create a similar impression to the source text in the target readers' mind. Since the manner would sound unnatural in Indonesian language, the translator decided to abandon it and went straight to deliver the message.

- (17) ST : The day my Instagram account was stolen
 TT :
 KetikaInstagrammenjadicandubagi ku
 (Text 8)

In this sentence, the translator goes straight to deliver the main message of the whole text instead of preserving the original wording of this sentence. In text 8, the author explained how attached she was to her Instagram account, until the

day she realized that it was wrong only after her account was stolen. Besides trying to avoid any chance of misunderstanding by delivering the main message of the text, the translator was probably trying to make the sentence sound more interesting in the target text. This proves that the message is preserved while the manner is abandoned.

- (18) ST : It was only a few years ago that I gained a painful understanding of the true significance of Good Friday.
 TT : Beberapaatahun yang laluakupernahmengalamise buahperistiwa yang menyedihkan di hariJumatAgung.
 (Text 7)

In this sentence, the translation does not mention that the painful experience showed her the true significance of Good Firday. Thus, a piece of very important information was erased. According to the result of Prasmawati's (2016) study, this sentence was translated using free translation method.

Idiomatic Translation Method

There are 2.89% data classified in this category, which mean that idiomatic translation method was applied in ten sentences. Newmark (1988) stated that idiomatic translation reproduces the message of the original text, however it tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms that do not exist in the original version. Furthermore, Prasmawati (2016) also stated that idiomatic translation also translates idioms of the source text into common expression in the target language. These criteria prove that this method prioritizes the message delivery over originality. The examples of idiomatic translation can be seen below.

- (19) ST : As we talked over one by one the things that bothered or worried us, we realized that in the grand scheme of things,

TT : none of those things were that important. Ketika kami membicarakan tentang satu per satu hal yang membuat kami khawatir, kami sadar bahwa sesungguhnya ya hal-hal yang kami khawatirkan itu tidaklah penting.

(Text 1)

In this sentence, the sentence structures of the source text and target text are equal, which mean that there was no need to make the wordings or structure of the target text to be different from the target text. However, the idiom "in the grand scheme of things" is simply translated into "sesungguhnya". It is probably more accurate to say that the idiom is "replaced" instead of "translated". However, even though the translation is not equal in term of meaning, the main message of the sentence is still delivered.

(20) ST : If we sold the car for less than we had hoped for, it still wouldn't put much of a dent in our plans.

TT : Lalu, jika sajaandainya kami menjual mobil dan harga yang kami dapatkan ternyata lebih rendah dari yang kami harapkan, hal itu pun tetap tidak akan mengganggu rencana-rencana kami yang lain.

(Text 1)

In this sentence, "put much of a dent" is translated into "mengganggu". Since the idiom was translated into common expression in the target language, it can be concluded that the sentence was translated using idiomatic translation.

(21) ST : I felt security in my new relationship status and in knowing that I was no longer left on the shelf.

TT : Aku merasa aman dan

ngan statusku yang baru seakan-akan sudah terpilih dari sekian banyak gadis lainnya.

(Text 2)

In this sentence, "no longer left on the shelf" was translated to "terpilih dari sekian banyak gadis lainnya." The translation was done using informative explanation, since there is probably no equal idiom in Indonesian language. The translation is able to deliver the message of the original text and there is no meaningful difference in terms of text meanings and sentence structures. Thus, the translation was done using idiomatic translation method.

CONCLUSIONS

There are several conclusions that can be made from the data obtained in this study. First, the basic focus of translation methods can be divided into two categories. They are originality-focused transfer category and message-focused transfer category. Faithful translation method, semantic translation method, word-for-word translation method and literal translation method are included in originality-focused transfer category because these translation methods prioritize originality preservation. Communicative translation method, free translation method and idiomatic translation method are included in message-focused transfer category because they prioritize message preservation. However, Warungsatekamu tends to prefer using the translation methods included in message-focused transfer category, because the translation works they produce must be inspiring and able to harness the interests of their target readers.

Even though Newmark (1988) proposed eight translation methods, there were only seven translation methods applied by Warungsatekamu in their memoir translations. This is related to the features of each translation method. These features decide the extent of flexibility and limitation of each translation method. That is the reason why not all

translation methods could be applied at will by any translator. Each translation method has their own unique features, and each of them has different roles to fulfill

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