

## AN ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION SHIFT IN THE MERRY RIANA'S *DARE TO DREAM BIG BOOK*

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: 23-03-2025	People are destined to live with pressures, and some deal with them by conducting paradoxes to survive. However, consciously or unconsciously people construct and conduct paradoxes to live. Paradox is a contradiction of two things. Winston Smith, has to run paradoxical life for the sake of surviving the pressures in Orwell's <i>1984</i> . This study examines the causes and reasons of Winston Smith committing paradoxes and the ways he applies his paradoxes to disclose his survivals against lethal pressures and compelling inner conflicts. Applying Roy Sorensen's paradox theory, supported with discourse study, within a qualitative method of study, this research analyzes the paradoxical realm of Winston Smith in his surviving the pressures. The result shows that Winston Smith conducts three kinds of paradoxes, i.e., the paradox of thoughts, the paradox of action, and the combination of the two paradoxes that contains how Winston's thoughts and actions are contradictory. It is a must for him to take the three kinds of paradoxes to survive the pressures and achieve his desires, yet, consequently, he has to experience inner conflicts.
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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Translating in the world of literary works is a translation process that involves the conversion of linguistic aspects and writing style from the source language into the target language. It is a writing comprehension that bridges the gap between folk stories, cultures, and traditions enabling the readers to access the creativity contained within a piece of literature. The literary text carries a rhetorical and aesthetic writing style, moreover, literary translation form interlinks with the material content (Davis, 2020; Dong, 2022). Therefore, literary translation is predicted to possess a profound of both language and way of life issues of the source and target language. The ethic of literary translation often includes accuracy and proficiency in reproducing language to benefit equivalence which includes an exchange of structure in goal language (Köksal & Yürük, 2017).

The process of translating literary works is commonly faced with numerous challenges, each of which can significantly influence the outcome and reception of the translated text (Plyth & Craham, 2020). One of the foremost difficulties lies in the author's unique writing style which gives the translator difficulties in adapting the work into another language. Literary works are often mixed with cultural references, idiomatic expressions, and wordplay that may not balance with the target language (Hartono, 2009). Furthermore, the choice of words and phrases can influence the

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reader's perspective while reading the text regarding the intrinsic elements such as theme, characters, and settings. An inaccurate translation may alter the meaning of the narrative, leading to an error translation mistaken by the translator (Putri, 2019).

In summary, the translation process has become an art of adapting language textually and contextually in literary works which undergone a transformation over time. Literary translation is no longer a passive act of transference but an active act of creation (Caraman-paşca, 2013). Translation must relate to authors, wielding words and phrases to craft a unique literary piece. In order to pacify the translation correctly, most translators use several methodologies in accordance. As an example, the concept of translation shift is a prime example of how translation can be an act of literary creation (Turchamun, 2019).

Translation shifts are changes that occur when a text is translated into another language due to either the differences between the two languages or translator's choices (Sadkhan & Fouad, 2015). The concept is located within descriptive translation studies which enable the translator to assess the naturalness of the translation within the target language and culture. One example of such a level shift would be the translation of an aspectual category, such as an item of the grammar conveys a similarly aspectual meaning (Cyrus, 2009).

Translation shift is termed by Vinay & Darbelnet, (1995) called transposition involves replacing one word class with other without changing the meaning of the message. Transposition is termed by Catford (1965) as a shift is a translation procedure involving changes in the grammar from source language to target language. It aimed to recontextualizes the source text in accordance to the source literature with relations to literary traditions. Through translation shift method both writers and readers can interpret precisely a new culture and literature (Sipayung, 2018).

In order to utilize translation shift method in literary works, the writer uses "Dare to Dream Big" book authored by Riana (2015) which contains an inspiring story of the author in struggling to save her money during her youth and become rich person. The book has been adapted into a movie that follows original story which revolves around how Merry Riana, having to flee to Singapore from the riot incident in Indonesia (Diany, 2019; Harefa, 2022).

Over the years, quite a few studies have looked into Merry Riana's life story. However, most of them tend to focus on the novel or the film adaptation, rather than her original biography, *Dare to Dream Big*. This book, written by Merry herself, offers something far more personal: an honest, reflective, and deeply motivational account of her journey. For instance, Djameleng (2022) examined translation shifts in the novel *Mimpi Sejuta Dolar* and its English version *Million Dollar Dream*, finding two main types—level shifts and category shifts. However, the focus stayed within the realm of fiction. Similarly, studies by Sumanari et al. (2021) and Oktavianoro et al. (2018) explored speech acts and character education in the film adaptation, without touching on the translation of the written, biographical text.

This leaves a noticeable gap: the translation of *Dare to Dream Big*, a real-life success story, hasn't been given the attention it deserves. Merry's book is more than just a retelling of achievements—it's a heartfelt account of dreams, struggles, and cultural values. Translating such a work isn't simply about switching words from one language to another; it's about capturing the spirit and emotions behind those words. Scholars like Newmark (1988) have long pointed out the delicate balance between sticking closely to the source text and adapting it to communicate naturally in the target language. Nida (1964) also emphasized the idea of "dynamic equivalence"—getting the same emotional reaction from readers, even if the words themselves change. Yet so far,



no detailed study has applied Catford's (1965) theory of translation shifts to this important non-fiction text, which could shed valuable light on how meanings shift and adapt through translation.

This study steps into that space, aiming to analyze the types of translation shifts found in *Dare to Dream Big*. Using a descriptive qualitative approach and building on Catford's framework, it will dig into how changes in structure, style, and meaning can impact the delivery of Merry's message. As House (1997) reminds us, successful translation is about keeping the text's function and spirit alive, even when the words have to change. By exploring this process in a real-life biography, the study hopes to not only add to the broader field of translation studies but also offer practical advice for translators tasked with carrying inspiring life stories across cultures—without losing the emotional weight behind them.

When it comes to literary translation, cultural references often pose a special challenge. A perfect example comes from *Dare to Dream Big* itself. In the original, Merry mentions Gatotkaca—a heroic figure from traditional Indonesian wayang known for his incredible strength and bravery. In the English version, however, Gatotkaca is replaced by Superman. This wasn't just a name swap. The translator made a deliberate cultural adjustment to make sure the idea of heroism and strength still resonated with readers who might not be familiar with Indonesian folklore. This is exactly the kind of adaptation that Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) talked about, where "modulation" and "adaptation" help keep the spirit of the original text alive.

Such decisions show that translation isn't about mechanically converting language—it's about deeply understanding audiences, cultures, and emotional contexts. As Baker (2011) points out, translators act as bridges between worlds, carefully crafting messages so they can survive and thrive in a new cultural setting. In this way, theories by Catford (1965) and Vinay & Darbelnet (1995) remind us that translation shifts are not failures or distortions; they're creative moves that keep the heart of the story beating across languages.

## 2. METHOD

This research uses qualitative method with descriptive analytic approach. According to (Pillai & Kaushal, 2021), descriptive research usually involves studies that aims to identify the facts. In other words, descriptive research mainly deals with the "description of the state of affairs as it is present", and there is no control over variables in descriptive research. As explained in the last paragraph of the Introduction chapter, the data source was taken from the book "Dare to Dream Big" by Merry Riana both from the Indonesian version as the Source Language (SL) and the English version of the Target Language (TL). Due to analyzing the author's biography literature work, the researcher chose the book as the primary data to scrutinize the language shifts from both sources. The data of the study were collected through underlining the sentences in both Indonesian and Language versions, the researcher downloaded the book in both language versions to gather the data correctly. The limitation of this research is based on the book page by choosing 1 – 20 pages as the main data to shorten the study. Justification for the constraint data on the literature passages due to numerous of information that could not be poured entirely in the article research. Furthermore, a researcher will use chosen pages as basic examples for readers regarding translation shifts found in biography work. The data that have been analyzed based on types of shifts in translation found in the source were categorized and summarized. After the types of translation shifts in the 'Dare to Dream Big' book were analyzed, the dominant type occurred was identified.



### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study identified the types of shifts and the most prevalent shifts found in the English-to-Indonesian translation of the book *Merry Riana*. The findings are presented below:

#### 1. Level Shift

A level shift occurs when an object in the source language has a different level of translation equivalency in the destination text or language. An SL item that is equal in a TL translation at a different language level may experience a level shift. The example that follows is shown below:

**Table 1. First data of translation level shift**

No. Data	Source Language	Target Language	Source of Text
1	Dalam perjalanan, anda pasti merasa sangat gembira dan saya yakin anda <b>akan merencanakan</b> bagaimana anda akan menggunakan uang tersebut. (page 4)	On the way there you are excited and already <b>starting to plan</b> on how you are going to spend your million dollars	Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book, page 3
2	Jadi dengan adanya peraturan tersebut, jam berapa anda akan <b>mulai berangkat</b> menuju gedung tempat koper itu berada? (page 4)	so with that in mind, what time would like to start <b>making your way</b> to the building where the suitcase is at?	Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book, page 3

The transition from Source Language (SL) to Target Language (TL) is depicted in the translation above. With the formula "S + Verb + ing," the level shift seen above is a tense version of the simple present continuous tense. It serves to highlight the author's actions that were taking place at the moment and could continue in the future. As an additional illustration,

1) the V-ing 'starting to plan' in the TL has been translated into 'akan merencanakan' in the SL. In the passage, the author suggests that the readers will gain motivation after reading her work in managing personal income. Contextually, the phrase refers to the outcome of the book that delivers value to the readers instead of referring herself as managing her profit during her early story. Therefore, the translation shift is purposed to indicate passage that anybody who reads her literature will receive insights of a certain action.

2) The V-ing 'making your way' in the TL is translated from SL as 'mulai berangkat'. This phrase indicates that Merry Riana interactively wrote a suggestion on whether the reader would plan to travel to the designated location for a single purpose. The shift is worked to matching the actual meaning of author's intention to the readers, therefore it is translated as it is purposed.

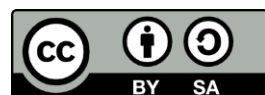


Table 2. Second data of translation level shift

No. Data	Source Language	Target Language	Source of Text
1	Jika anda menyukai apa yang anda baca di sini, anda pasti juga <b>akan menyukai</b> semua isi blog saya (page 2)	If you like what you read here, you are <b>going to love</b> all the other content in store for you at my blog	Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book, page 1

The level change from Indonesian (SL) to English (TL) is depicted in the translation above. The simple future tense, which has the formula "S + to be + going to + non-verb," is the tense form in which the level shift is employed in the table. To provide more context for the data, the verb "going to love" in the target language (TL) is translated as "akan menyukai" from the source language (SL).

The example demonstrates how the future tense in English employs the auxiliary verb "going to" to indicate an action that will occur, while in Indonesian, this concept is conveyed through the auxiliary verb "akan," which directly expresses the future without requiring an additional verb. This difference in structure reflects the level shift, where the form and function of the future tense are adapted to the grammatical systems of both languages. Such shifts are important to examine, as they reveal the challenges and nuances of translating tense and aspect across languages, particularly when one language relies on auxiliary verbs while the other uses a more straightforward expression of time. These shifts also underscore the complexity of conveying the same temporal meaning while respecting the syntactic and morphological rules of the target language.

In Indonesian, "akan" indicates a future action, and "menyukai" is considered a verb, synonymous to 'like' or 'to love'. However, in Source Language, there are no auxiliary verbs such as 'to be' or the construction 'going to' to indicate future tense as English does. Thus, to convey a similar meaning in English, the phrase is expanded with auxiliary elements to form the expression 'is/are going to love'. This adjustment reflects the level shift, as the translation moves from a simpler marker of future action in SL to a complex structure in TL.

Table 3. Third data of translation level shift

No. Data	Source Language	Target Language	Source of Text
1	Namun, saya <b>menghadapi</b> berbagai macam tantangan dari orang tua, guru dan teman-teman (page 17)	But I <b>faced</b> a lot of resistance to my decision, from my parents, teachers, and friends.	Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book, page 19

The level change from Indonesian (SL) to English (TL) is depicted in the translation above. The level shift utilized in the table is in the simple past tense tense, which has the formula "S +





V2" or employs a verb to indicate "telah/sudah," which is an indirect or direct meaning. An further example of data analysis is the translation of the TL word "faced" to the SL verb "menghadapi."

In SL, the word 'menghadapi' is considered to be present continuous tense because having a remuneration of the word 'hadap', adding 'meng-' in the early and 'i' letter at the end. However, the phrase indicates that the author has encountered obstacles in past times, instead of literally translating it into 'faces' the shift occurred as past tense version ('faced').

## 2. Category Shift

Category Shift happens when the change of grammatical position between the source language (SL) and the target language (TL). The most frequently shown category shifts are structure, unit/rank, class, and intra-system. For example:

### 2.1. Structure Shift

A structural shift, which often happens at all translation levels, is the result of a change in the grammatical forms of the source language (SL) and target language (TL). The data analysis following provides more insight into the shift:

**Table 4. Fourth data of translation structure shift**

No. Data	Source Language	Target Language	Source of Text
1	Saya adalah <b>contoh nyata</b> dari kalimat tersebut (page 5)	I am a real <b>living example</b> to that statement.	Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book, page 5
2	untuk menjadi seorang <b>pengusaha milyuner</b> seperti sekarang ini (page 5)	who used to survive with just \$10 per week, to the <b>millionaire entrepreneur</b> I am today.	Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book, page 5

The translation above shows the level shift in Indonesian (SL) when it translated into English (TL). The level shift used in the table is in modification of 'head + modifier' in the SL to 'modifier + head' in TL. Further explanation:

1) The phrase 'living example' in TL is translated from SL as 'contoh nyata'. In Indonesian 'contoh' comes first, followed by 'nyata', which directly as to 'example' and 'real' in English. However, the order is reversed to follow the 'modifier + head' structure, making it 'living example,' where 'living' precedes 'example'.

2) The phrase 'millionaire entrepreneur' in TL is translated from SL as 'pengusaha milyuner'. In the Indonesian phrase, 'pengusaha' comes before 'milyuner', which translates as to 'entrepreneur' and 'millionaire' in English. The English translation follows the 'modifier + head' structure, becoming 'millionaire entrepreneur' where modifier comes before head.



## 2.2. Rank/Unit Shift

A rank/unit shift happens when there is no strict concept of equivalent correspondence between the SL and TL texts. Further explanation can be seen from analyzed data below:

**Table 5. Fifth data of translation rank/unit shift**

No. Data	Source Language	Target Language	Source of Text
1	Awalnya, tidak pernah selintas pun ada di pikiran keluarga saya untuk <b>menyekolahkan ke luar negeri</b> (page 8)	Initially, it was never in my whole family's plan to send me <b>overseas to study</b> .	Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book, page 10
2	Dulu saya <b>sangatlah berhemat</b> . (page 9)	I was a very <b>thrifty student</b> back then	Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book, page 10

The translation above depicts the rank/unit change in Indonesian SL as translated into English TL. As a result, the unit/rank changes when a grammatical class in SL is translated into TL. Further explanation:

- 1) The term 'overseas' in English (TL) is derived from 'menyekolahkan ke luar negeri'. In TL, it can alternatively be written as 'study abroad' instead of 'overseas', however, because it is a shift translation, the grammatical class of the nouns changes.
- 2) The word 'thrifty' in the English (TL) is translated from 'sangatlah berhemat' from Indonesian (SL). It can also be written as 'saved' but it was shifted due to the grammatical class.

## 2.3. Class Shift

A class shift happens when a term from the source language is translated into the target language and assigned to a different grammatical class. The data below can be seen as an example:

**Table 6. Sixth data of translation class shift**

No. Data	Source Language	Target Language	Source of Text
1	Saya sangat bersyukur atas kesempatan <b>istimewa</b> ini (page 2)	And I'm truly grateful and honored to enjoy this <b>privilege</b>	Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book, page 1

The translation above shows the class shift. There is a change in the different grammatical classes of a noun in TL is translated from an adjective in SL, For further explanation of the data, the word 'privilege' in TL is translated from 'istimewa' from SL. In TL, the word 'privilege' is a noun while in SL, its translation is 'istimewa' which refers to an adjective.



The original adjective 'istimewa' in the SL is applied to explain a quality whereas 'privilege' in TL depicts a singular concept that holds that quality. This shift encompasses the translation to more precisely convey the actual context and befits the grammatical norms of the TL.

## 2.4. Intra-system Shift

When a group of non-corresponding terms is used in the target language, this is known as an intra-system change. Data as an example can be seen below:

Table 1. Seventh data of translation intra-system shift

No. Data	Source Language	Target Language	Source of Text
1	Bahkan, untuk menghemat, saya <b>sering</b> tidak makan ataupun hanya makan mi instan (page 11)	There were <b>many times</b> where I also had to skip a meal or just ate instant noodles	Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book, page 9
2	Mari ijinkan saya membawa Anda ke <b>beberapa tahun</b> yang lalu (page 9)	Let me bring you back in time, <b>many years</b> ago to the year 1998	Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book, page 12

The preceding translation exhibits an intra-system transition from Indonesian (SL) to English (TL). Those strong words are noun plural and have been rendered as noun singular.

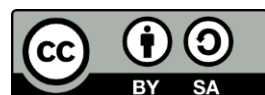
- 1) The word 'many times' is a transposition of the word 'sering' and it has a meaning of doing something regularly. Since the translation is shifted, the translated word is changed.
- 2) The word 'many years' is translated from 'beberapa tahun' although the word is to indicate something happened in the past, the translation insists to shorten the meaning into singular form.

Table 2. Type of Translation shift in Merry Riana's "Dare to Dream Big" book

Aspect	Translation Shift				
	Level Shift	Category Shift			
		Structure	Intra-System	Rank/Unit	Class
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

The table above can be seen as a summarization of the whole analyzed data. In total, there are 11 translation shifts data found by the researcher. Level Shift shows 4 data categorized into 3 parts, namely Simple Present Continuous Tense with 2 data, Simple Past Tense with 1 data, and Simple Future Tense with 1 data. On the other side, Category Shift has 7 data collected and categorized into 4 parts, 2 data Structure Shift, 2 data Intra-System shift, 2 data Rank/Unit shift, and 1 Class Shift.

It is revealed that Level Shift is the dominant translation shift concurred in the passages due to frequent changes in the level of linguistic units from the SL to TL. A Level Shift occurs when an





element expressed through one linguistic level in the SL is translated into a different level in the TL.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This researcher does not aim to correct the error translation in the book, but rather an analysis of the shift in the translation from the source language (SL) and target language (TL). The summarization of analyzed data is written in the last paragraph of the discussion sub-part where 21 data is collected within 20 pages of the book. Level Shift contains 11 data with 3 parts categorized each and Category Shift contains 10 data with 4 parts. In this research, several aspects can be further developed by other studies such as extending the main subject of study into whole pages of the book to maximize the data collection and analysis.

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