
Cultural Words and the Translation in Twilight

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Abstract

This study deals with analyzing types of cultural words in the English version of Twilight novel and identifying and most frequently applied translation procedures used in the Indonesian translation of the novel based on Newmark's theory. Therefore, the objectives of this study are to identify the cultural words in the novel and map the types of translation procedure applied in translating those words using qualitative method. From the findings and the discussion of the study, it can be concluded that there are 4 basic categories of cultural words appeared in the novel; ecology, material, social, and organization. The type of cultural words mostly found is material which consists of food, artifact, house, transportation, clothes, and communication. From 100 samples of cultural words, there are 52 (52%) cultural words categorized into material, 25 (25%) cultural words categorized into ecology, 18 (18%) cultural words belonged to organization, and the rest were 5 cultural words that belonged to social (5%). In translating the cultural words in the novel, the study shows that the translation procedure applied are transference, transposition, naturalization, cultural equivalent, componential, through-translation, literal, notes, addition, and glossaries, couplet, paraphrase, descriptive equivalence, and synonym. Transference and transposition procedures are the most commonly procedure used in translating cultural words found in Twilight novel.

Keywords: cultural word, source language, target language, translation, translation procedures

Introduction

Translation is an operation performed on languages: a process of substituting a text in one language for text on another, translation must make use of a theory of language, general linguistic theory (Catford, 1965 : p.1). Translation has already been used to transfer information whether it is a novel, article, short story or manual which are originally written in English. They need to be translated into *Bahasa Indonesia* in order to be understood by Indonesian people who do not know English.

Catford (1965: p.21) stated, "Translation is the replacement of textual material in one language (Source Language/ SL) by equivalent material in another language (Target Language/ TL)". Further, this statement is supported by Newmark (1988: p.5) "Translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text". The explanations above mean that when a text is translated from one language (SL) to another (TL) the meaning should be rendered the same. Here, a translator is needed to transfer the meaning as clear as possible from SL to TL without any reduction. The translator should have good knowledge of both the source language and target language so that s/he is able to transfer the message without reducing its meaning.

In translating a novel there are some aspects that should be noticed by a translator. Those are grammatical and cultural aspects contained in the novel. A good translator should understand not only the language but also the culture of both languages, the SL and the TL. For example, a translator should know that a *cat fish* in English is "*Lele*" in Indonesian instead of *ikan kucing*. A translator often finds difficulties due to different cultures of SL and TL. For example, a translator will probably unable to find the equivalence of "Freesia", "Driftwood" and "Maple" in Indonesian. Often times, In the Indonesian version of a novel, the translator leaves those words in their original forms. It is due to no direct equivalent word of SL found in the TL. Those words are called cultural words. It is one of the problems that a translator may encounter. Therefore, it is important to pay attention to the culture of a language because cultural word plays a significant role in describing the culture of the

related language. Thus, a wide knowledge of culture is demanded in order to make the translation readable and understandable for the target readers.

Newmark (1988: p. 95) associated cultural word with a particular language and cannot be literally translated. It means that cultural word is a word that only exists in a particular language. It is supported by Baker (1992: 21) who said that “SL word may express a concept which is totally unknown in the TL culture”. It may be abstract or concrete and relates to religious, belief, social custom, or even type of foods. Therefore, cultural word means a word that involves culture in which culture itself, according to Hornby (1995: 285) is “art, literature, music, or other intellectual expression of a particular society or time”. To conclude, cultural word is a specific word for special kinds of “things”, “events” or “customs”, which only exist in one language that cannot be translated literally, because it will distort its meaning.

Newmark (1988: p.94) defined culture as the way of life and its manifestation that very special to a community that uses certain language as the way of expression. He classifies cultural words into several terms. First is ecology which consists of geographical features which are usually value-free, politically and commercially and can be normally distinguished from other cultural terms. For example it could be *flora, fauna, winds, plains, hills, seasons*, etc. Second is material culture that involves food, clothes, houses and towns and transport. Food is the most sensitive and important expression of national culture for many people such as *sake*. Clothes as cultural terms could be a national or traditional costumes for example *sarung, yukata, kimono*. Etc. Third is social culture – work and leisure. In considering social culture one has to differentiate between denotative and connotative problems of translation. There is rarely a translation problem since the words can be transferred, have approximate one-to-one translation or can be defined functionally. For example *rock, reggae*, etc. Fourth is organizations, customs, activities, procedures, concepts. It includes political and administrative, such as King, *Assemble Nationale*, President, etc., religious, such as *dharma, karma*, temple, etc.. Fifth are gestures and habits. There is a distinction in this kind of cultural categories. It is between description and function which can be made where necessary in ambiguous cases since a gesture or habit can occur in one culture but cannot in others, such as, spitting, kiss finger tips to greet or to praise.

In the process of translating cultural words, some procedures of translation to render meaning in SL into TL properly were needed. A procedure is “a formal or official order or way of doing thing” (Hornby, 1995: 922). Therefore, procedure of translation can be assumed as a set of method or technique in transferring the meaning from SL to TL. Newmark (1988: 103) proposed some procedures of translation such as (1) Transference, (2) Cultural equivalent, (3) Neutralization (i.e. functional or descriptive equivalent), (4) Literal translation, (5) Label, (6) Naturalization, (7) Componential analysis, (8) Deletion (of redundant stretches of language in non-authoritative texts, especially metaphors and intensifiers), (9) Couplet, (10) Accepted standard translation, (11) Paraphrase, gloss, notes, etc, and (12) Classifier, that have to be mastered by a translator. These help translator to translate particular non-equivalent words of target culture.

On the other hand, Stephenie Meyer’s novel *Twilight* which originally written using USA as the setting has been translated into several languages such as Czech, Thai, Russian, Norwegian, Arabic, and Indonesian. Consequently, there are many cultural words in the novel that may incur misunderstanding if they are not translated appropriately.

In this study, qualitative method is used and cultural words are derived from the novel to be analyzed. In total there are 100 (a hundred) cultural words identified, and below is the elaboration of the translation procedures applied in translating those unique words.

Discussion

This study investigated the kinds of cultural words and procedures of translation used in the translation of Meyer’s *Twilight*. The data are 100 cultural words found in the novel. They were taken purposively in order to get comprehensive analysis and for the sake of translation efficiency and also to avoid repetition because most of the cultural words are almost similar.

Ecology

There are 25 items found in the novel that belong to ecology. They fall into flora (12 items), fauna (7 items) and ecology (6 items). One example of cultural word that belongs to ecology category is the following.

SL	TL
He swung me up into his arms, and carried me across the dark grounds till he reached the bench beneath the shadow of the madrone trees. (p.273)	Ia menggendong dan membawaku melintasi halaman yang gelap ke bangku di bawah bayangan pepohonan madrone. (p.514)

Table 1. The example of flora

In the example above, *Madrone tree* which is an evergreen tree of the heath family, with smooth, red bark, leathery, oval leaves, and edible, red berries and it is usually found in North America (Online merriam-webster dictionary), is directly transferred into *madrone* in Indonesian. Thus, the procedure applied is transference.

Another example of fauna is as follows:

SL	TL
Pelicans floated on the swells while seagulls and a lone eagle wheeled above them. (p.66)	Burung-burung Pelikan melayang di atas buih ombak sementara camar dan elang terbang di atas mereka. (p.127)

Table 2: The example of fauna

In the data above, *Pelicans* which is a large, web-footed bird of the genus *Pelecanus* of tropical and warm regions, having a long straight bill from which hangs a distensible pouch of skin for catching and holding fish (Hornby, 1995: 855) is translated using two types of translation procedures. The first procedure was naturalization procedure and the second one was transposition. *Pelicans* is translated into *pelican* by using naturalization procedure because the letter 'c' is replaced it with letter 'k' to adjust to Indonesian pronunciation. In addition, transposition is used in translating the plural 's' into Indonesian plural that uses repetition *burung-burung*. Based on Newmark's theory, when a translator used two or more procedures in translating one word or phrase then it is called couplet procedure.

While in translating season such as summer or winter, the translator uses the definition from dictionary such as *musim panas* or *musim dingin* which is considered as componential analysis procedure because the translator translated the word to the nearest possible TL equivalence. In Indonesia, there is no *musim panas* because in Indonesia there are only two seasons, rainy season and dry season (drought). In order to inform the readers adjective *panas* (hot) or *dingin* (cold) is added to illustrate the nature of the *musim* (season).

Material

Second category of cultural word is material. There are 52 items of material. Those items belong to artifact, clothes, communication, food, house, and transportation. 6 items belonged to artifact, 9 items belonged to clothes, 1 item belonged to communication, 18 items belonged to food, 1 item belonged to house, and 17 items belonged to transportation.

Below are the examples of the item:

SL	TL
The only changes Charlie had ever made were switching the crib for a bed and adding a desk as I grew. (p.7)	Satu-satunya perubahan yang dibuat Charlie adalah mengganti tempat tidur bayi menjadi tempat tidur sungguhan dan menambahkan meja seiring pertumbuhanku. (p.21)

Table 3: The example of artefact

Crib is a small bed for a baby (Hornby, 1995: 275). *Crib* in SL is translated into *tempat tidur bayi* in TL by using descriptive equivalent procedure since there is no word-to-word equivalence of *Crib* in Indonesian. Therefore, the function of the *crib* is described.

Another example is a cultural word about clothes.

SL	TL
I was wearing my favorite shirt – sleeveless, white eyelet lace. (p. 4)	Aku mengenakan kaus favoritku – tanpa lengan, berenda putih. (p. 15)

Table 4: The example of clothes

According to Hornby, (1995: p. 1113) *sleeveless* means part of a garment that covers the arm and – *less* means not. From the definitions above *sleeveless* means does not have part of a garment that covers the arm. The translation of cultural word *sleeveless* used paraphrase procedure. The translation in the TL was made by paraphrasing the cultural word into *tanpa lengan*.

The example of the translation procedure about food is as follow.

SL	TL
Um... I'll have the mushroom ravioli. (p.96)	Mmm... aku mau mushroom ravioli. (p.182)

Table 5 The example of food

Ravioli is small squares of pasta containing a savoury mixture of meat, cheese, etc (Hornby, 1995: p. 965). It comes from Italia. Further, mushroom ravioli is a kind of food that consists of mushroom mixes with ravioli. It was translated into Indonesian by using transference procedure because all words in the SL is transferred into TL. One of the reason is that there is no equivalence in Indonesian.

The next example is a cultural word that related to house.

SL	TL
Um, it doesn't help with the Charlie situation if an unexplained Volvo is left in the driveway. (p.125)	Mmm, rasanya tidak akan terlalu membantu bila Charlie melihat Volvo asing di halaman rumahnya. (p.237)

Table 6 The example of house

Driveway is a private road leading to a house (Hornby, 1995: 357). In the novel, driveway is translated into *halaman rumah* and it was a kind of cultural equivalent procedure. The translator tried to find out the closest meaning or the equivalent of *driveway* in Indonesian culture. While for transportation the translation tends to use naturalization for certain vehicles and transference procedure when translating the brands of vehicle. The example of cultural word on transportation is elaborated below.

SL	TL
I did remember the sleek black car, the glass in the windows darker than that on a limousine. (p.225)	Aku ingat mobil hitam yang mengilat, kaca jendelanya lebih gelap dari pada kaca limusin. (p.424)

Table 7: The example of transportation

Limousine is a large expensive comfortable car and usually used by a rich people (Hornby, 1995: 684). There is a partition to separate between the driver's room with the passenger's room. Basically to translate kinds, types or brands of cars the translator used transference procedure but since most of Indonesian rather difficult to pronounce *Limousine* then the translator used naturalization procedure to make it easy to pronounce by the Indonesian. *Limousine* was translated into *limusin* by eliminating at least two letters. First she eliminated letter 'o' which placed between letter 'm' and 'u'. And second she eliminated letter 'e' which placed in the end of the word. By eliminating those letters the Indonesian can easier pronounce the word.

Social Culture

There are many cultural word related to the social culture found in the novel. One example is elaborated below.

SL	TL
We will be playing baseball. (p.194)	Kami yang akan bermain bisbol. (p.365)

Table 8: The example of social culture

Baseball is American game played with a bat and ball by two teams of nine players (Hornby, 1995: 85). *Baseball* become *bisbol* was a kind of naturalization procedure in which the spelling and pronunciation of the word is adjusted to Indonesian system. As a result, *baseball* is translated into *bisbol*.

Organization

Fourth category of cultural word is organization. There are 18 items found in the novel that referred to organization. The 18 items belong to types of organization; administrative, artistic, and religion. 12 items belonged to administrative, 2 items belonged to religion, and 4 items belonged to artistic. The examples are as follow:

SL	TL
I glanced down to see the IV pulling at my hand. (p. 255)	Aku memandang ke bawah, melihat kantong transfusi menahan tanganku. (p. 480)

Table 9: The example of Administrative

The term *IV* refers to one of hospital tools. It is used to transfuse medicine, food or blood to the patients (Hornby, 1995: 636). The *IV* was translated into *kantong transfusi* by using cultural equivalent procedure. Here the translator describes the physical appearance of the tool commonly found in Indonesia.

Another example is the translation of the word *cafeteria* which belongs to artistic.

SL	TL
So I was impatient and frightened as Jessica and I entered the cafeteria. (p.50)	Jadi aku merasa tidak sabar dan sekaligus ngeri ketika Jessica dan aku memasuki kafetaria. (p.98)

Table 10: The example of Artistic

Cafeteria is restaurant in which customers collect their own food from a counter (Hornby, 1995:157). *Cafeteria* was translated into *kafetaria* by using naturalization procedure. First, there are changes in the pronunciation to suit the normal TL's pronunciation. First the letter 'c' which placed in the beginning of the word was replaced with letter 'k'. Second, letter 'e' which placed between letter 't' and 'r' was replaced with letter 'a'.

Still, another example is cultural word related to religion which also appears in the novel.

SL	TL
A wide river filled the foreground, crossed by a bridge covered with structures that looked like tiny Cathedrals. (p.187)	Sungai lebar mengalir bagian muka, dilintasi jembatan penuh bangunan yang tampak seperti katedral kecil. (p.353)

Table 11: The example of religion #1

Cathedral is main church of a district under a care of a bishop (Hornby, 1995: 176). *Cathedrals* in SL is translated into *katedral* in TL using couplet procedure. There is a combination of two different procedures; naturalization and transposition. Naturalization is manifested in the way initial letter 'c' is replaced with the letter 'k', and the double consonants 'th' is transferred into single 't'. Another translation procedure occurred when the grammatical structure of the word is changed from plural form in SL into singular form in TL or transposition procedure.

Translation Procedure Analysis

From the data the writer found that there are 100 cultural words found in the novel, and 11 procedures of translation are used in translating them, namely transference (31%), cultural equivalent (14%), couplet (13%), transposition (11%), Literal (11%), naturalization (10%), componential

analysis (3%), through translation (2%), , notes, addition and glosses (1%) and paraphrase, descriptive equivalence and synonym each accounts for (1%).

According to the explanation above about translation procedures in translating the cultural words found in the novel the writer then made a table that showed the frequency of using those procedures in each category of cultural word. It was made to make it easy to read and to understand.

No.	Procedures of Translation	Types of Cultural Words			
		Ecology	Material	Social	Organization
1.	Transference	6	24	-	1
2.	Transposition	2	7	-	2
3.	Naturalization	0	8	1	1
4.	Cultural Equivalent	3	2	1	8
5.	Componential	0	1	1	1
6.	Through Translation	-	-	-	2
7.	Literal	6	4	-	1
8.	Notes, addition and glossaries	1	-	-	-
9.	Couplet	7	3	2	2
10.	Paraphrase	1	1	-	-
11.	Des. Equivalence	-	1	-	-
12.	Synonym	-	1	-	-

Table 12: The frequency of using procedures of translation

Based on table 12 (The frequency of using procedures of translation) the first procedure used is transference. It mostly used in translating material cultural words (24 items). The second procedure is transposition. Similar to transference it mostly used in translating material (7 items). The third most commonly used procedure is naturalization and this procedure is mostly used in translating materials (8 items). Fourth is Cultural equivalent procedure which is mostly used in translating organization (8 items). Fifth is componential analysis which is used in the all categories of cultural words found in the novel except ecology. It is used once in Material, Social, and Organization. Sixth is through-translation. It is only used in translating organization (2 items). Seventh is literal procedure which is mostly used in translating ecology (6 items). Eighth is notes, addition, and glosses. It is only used in translating ecology (1 item). Ninth is couplet that is mostly used in translating ecology (7 items). Tenth is paraphrase that is used in translating ecology and material (1 item in each category), eleventh is descriptive equivalence that is used in translating material (1 item) and the least applied procedure is Synonym which is used once in translating material cultural word..

Transference is the most applied translation procedure in facing cultural words because as stated by Newmark (1988: p.94) culture is manifested by using certain language as the way of expression. Considering that English and Indonesian have different culture, it is quite difficult to translate name of food, such as hotdog, pretzel, ravioli, etc., or clothes such as cocktail dress, summer dress, etc., into Indonesian. Thus, it is not suprising to find transference procedure often used in the translation of cultural word.

Further, transposition is the second most commonly used procedure. It is understandable since the grammar of English and Indonesian is not similar. The different expression of singular and plural, the contradicting structure, and the tendency to use active or passive voice, makes transposition procedure the second most applied procedure in translating cultural words.

Conclusions

This study is aimed at identifying types of cultural words mostly found in the novel and the translation procedures applied in translating them. Based on the findings and the discussion, it can be concluded that there are 4 basic categories of cultural words present in the novel. They are: ecology, material, social, and organization. The type of cultural words mostly found is material that consists of food, artifact, house, transportation, clothes, and communication. From 100 samples of cultural words, there are 52 (52%) cultural words categorized into material, 25 (25%) cultural words categorized into ecology, 18 (18%) cultural words belonged to organization, and the rest were 5 cultural words that belonged to social (5%).

In translating cultural words in the novel, the study reveals that the most commonly used translation procedure are transference, transposition, naturalization, cultural equivalent, component, through-translation, literal, notes, addition, and glossaries, couplet, paraphrase, descriptive equivalence, and synonym. Transference procedure and transposition procedures are the most commonly applied ones in translating cultural words in *Twilight* novel.

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