

Research Article

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Translation Method in Song Lyric “Cintanya Aku” From Indonesian to English

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Abstract

This study analyzes the translation methods in the lyrics of the song “Cintanya Aku” from Indonesian to English. In the process of translation analysis, the researcher uses the theory of translation methods based on Newmark’s theory, namely word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation. This research uses descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the data. The problems discussed in this study are: 1. What is the meaning of the lyrics of the song “Cintanya Aku” into English? 2. What translation method is used by the translator to translate the lyrics of the song “Cintanya Aku” into English? Finally, the researcher found that the most dominant method which is used by the translator is Free translation. This free translation prioritizes the overall meaning and impact of the source text over a direct word-for-word translation.

Keywords: Translation; song lyric; method; analyzing

1. Introduction

Translation is the act of changing the meaning of a text from one language to another. According to Newmark in Khodijah, translation is a craft consisting of the endeavor to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language. In the era of modern information and communication technology, translation plays an important role in facilitating communication and supporting literature (Volkova, 2021). In the current era of global communication, people need language translations that are in accordance with the target language of the community so that the messages conveyed can be understood. Songs as one of the literary works play an important role in cultural exchange and information delivery in today's world. Song translation is one type of translation. Song lyrics try to communicate the ideas and feelings of the writer. Some song lyrics convey messages to their listeners in a certain context.

Translation is both an art and a skill, as described by Haq (2017). It involves the challenge of conveying the same idea or statement from one language into another, striving to maintain the original message's essence and nuances. Jordan (2021) expands on this by highlighting that translation is one of humanity's oldest professions, necessitated by language barriers that hinder communication. This difficult yet essential task has played a crucial role in promoting intercultural dialogue and the exchange of spiritual values. Fundamentally, translation serves as a tool for interlanguage communication, where a text in one language (the original) is rendered into another language with equivalent information and communicative intent. In particular, translating cultural elements such as idioms, proverbs, and metaphors presents significant challenges, especially when translating between two different cultures (Arfianti & Widiati, 2021). These elements often carry specific cultural meanings that are hard to convey accurately in another language. Translators who work from a foreign language into their native language generally find it easier to handle these cultural features compared to those who translate into a foreign language. This is because native language translators are more familiar with the nuances and cultural contexts of their own language, allowing for a more accurate and natural translation. Song translators have five options for song translation:

- (1) leave the song untranslated
- (2) translate the lyrics without considering the music
- (3) write new lyrics based on the original music
- (4) adapt the music into the translation
- (5) adapt the translation into the music (Franzon, 2005, p. 373).

Gritsenko and Aleshinskayah (2016) investigated the function of translation as a source of meaning in popular songs, focusing on "The Voice Russia" in particular. Though most viewers of the show are Russian, this study examined three songs that the participants sang in two distinct languages.

The study discovered that translation in these songs works in a manner akin to code-switching, in which the translation both maintains the original meaning and enriches the song's presentation by generating a variety of new verbal and melodic interpretations. They noted that the song's structure often influences the way the original lyrics and the translation alternate, suggesting that translation is a major factor in enhancing both the musical experience and the lyrics' meaning. Another study, Purba et al. (2022), examined the translation procedures utilized in the Indonesian translation of Maroon 5's song "Memories" from asaljeplak.com. They used Newmark's translation techniques, which included word-for-word, literal, semantic, free, and communicative translations. Their qualitative descriptive investigation discovered that word-for-word translation was the most common strategy, used in 50% of cases. The study found that a variety of translation methods were used, with a strong emphasis on word-for-word translation. As a comparison with previous studies, our research will try to translate Indonesian songs into English by using the translation method by Peter Newmark (1988).

There are four translation methods used, namely Free translation, Communicative translation, Literal translation and Faithful translation. We believe that Song Translation is an exciting issue to research since it combines linguistics, culture, and creativity. Translating song lyrics involves not just altering words from one language to another, but also accurately conveying emotions, meanings, and cultural backgrounds. This is difficult since it entails preserving the original wordplay, rhythm, and rhyme while ensuring that the outcome sounds natural in the target language. This study sheds light on how cultural values are translated and adapted, demonstrating the dynamic interaction between global and local cultures. In the worldwide music industry, song translation is critical for increasing the reach of artists and songs, which has enormous commercial and social implications.

Translation Method

Although several methods have been proposed for translation, it is clear that a high-quality translation cannot be achieved by strictly adhering to just one method. During the translation process, the translator often employs a combination of these different methods, depending on the nature of the source language text. Peter Newmark, in his book 'A Textbook of Translation,' illustrates these methods in the form of a flattened V diagram.

SL emphasis

Word-for-word translation

Literal translation

Faithful translation

Semantic translation

T Lemphasis

Adaptation

Free translation

Idiomatic translation

Communicative translation

a. Word-for-Word Translation

Word-for-word translation involves translating each word in the source text directly into the target language without considering context or idiomatic expressions. This method is often used for technical or specialized texts where precision is crucial. Example:

- Indonesian: “Aku makan nasi.”
- English: “I eat rice.”

b. Literal Translation

Literal translation is a step beyond word-for-word translation, where the translator aims to retain the exact meaning of the source text while making minor adjustments for grammar and syntax in the target language. Example:

- Indonesian: “Dia menulis surat.”
- English: “He writes a letter.”

c. Faithful Translation

Faithful translation strives to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original text while maintaining the grammatical structures of the source language. This method is used to preserve the author's original intent and style. Example:

- Indonesian: “Cinta adalah anugerah.”
- English: “Love is a gift.”

d. Semantic Translation

Semantic translation focuses on conveying the meaning of the source text as accurately as possible while considering the cultural and contextual nuances. This method is more flexible than faithful translation and allows for some creativity in the choice of words. Example:

- Indonesian: “Dia memiliki hati yang besar.”
- English: “He has a big heart.”

e. Adaptation

Adaptation involves changing the text to suit the cultural context and preferences of the target audience. This method is often used in translating literary works, plays, and advertisements to ensure that the content resonates with the audience. Example:

- Indonesian: “Selamat datang di Indonesia.”
- English: “Welcome to the land of diversity.”

f. Free Translation

Free translation prioritizes the overall meaning and impact of the source text over a direct word-for-word translation. This method is often used for creative works, such as poetry and songs, where preserving the artistic elements is crucial. Example:

- Indonesian: “Matahari terbenam begitu indah.”
- English: “The sunset is breathtaking.”

g. Idiomatic Translation

Idiomatic translation aims to convey the meaning of the source text using natural expressions and idioms in the target language. This method ensures that the translation sounds natural and fluent to native speakers of the target language. Example:

- Indonesian: “Buah jatuh tak jauh dari pohonnya.”
- English: “The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.”

h. Communicative Translation

Communicative translation focuses on conveying the intended message and effect of the source text in a way that is easily understood by the target audience. This method is often used in translating instructions, advertisements, and other practical texts. Example:

- Indonesian: “Tolong matikan lampu.”
- English: “Please turn off the light.”

2. Methods

This study applied a descriptive qualitative research design to analyze the translation methods used in the song lyrics of “Cintanya Aku” from Indonesian to English. The primary source of data for this study is the English cover version of the song provided in the YouTube video "Cintanya Aku - Tiara Andini, Arsy Widianto [English Cover]" on the channel Emma Heesters. The data collection process involved a structured approach to ensure the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the translated lyrics. The researcher identified the original Indonesian lyrics and their English translations as primary data sources based on the relevance and richness of the content provided in the video. The selected lyrics were transcribed directly from the YouTube video into text format. After transcribing the English lyrics, the researcher checked the transcription results by re-watching the video and ensuring that the data obtained were accurate and complete.

Data analysis was conducted using the content analysis method. Content analysis is a qualitative research technique and reporting written data in the form of the main content of data and their messages (Cohen, L., 2007:475). The researchers used this method to analyze documented information in the form of transcribed lyrics from the YouTube video. The first step was to classify the transcribed data into categories that reflect different types of translation methods used. The categorized data was then interpreted and analyzed by applying Peter Newmark's theory. The transcribed lyrics were analyzed to identify which of these translation methods were employed in the English cover version. Each instance of translation was categorized accordingly to find the translation method used.

3. Results

After collecting data taken from the song “Cintanya Aku”, which is the English lyrics from the Emma Heesters cover and the official Indonesian lyrics of the song itself, the researchers will list and elaborate the data using the translation method by Peter Newmark (1988). There are 9 data and four translation methods used, namely Free translation, Communicative translation, Literal translation and Faithful translation.

Table 1. Translation analysis

| Source language | Target language | Translation method |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| Tergetar aku tepat di hadapanmu | Right in front of you I'm standing with so much joy | Free translation |
| Debar jantungku berdetak saat kugenggam tanganmu | My heart beats fast when I hold you and when my hand touches your hand | Free translation |
| Beruntung aku kini dapatkan cintamu Yang tercantik di hatiku sejak awal ku bertemu | I feel so lucky cause right now i'm feeling your love youre the most beautiful on earth | Free translation |
| Janji padaku jangan kau lukai Hati seperti kisah yang lalu | Promise me my love, that you won't break my heart I've been hurt before | Communicative translation |
| Kau bukan cinta pertamaku Namun aku berharap Mulai hari ini saat ini | No I know you are not my first love but I hope that from today | Literal translation |
| Yang kurasakan denganmu semua berbeda | What I feel with you is so much more than I once had | Free translation |
| Janji padaku jangan ada lagi Hati yang lain selain aku | Promise me my love, don't take another heart | Communicative translation |

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Kau bukan cinta pertamaku Namun aku berharap Mulai hari ini saat ini | No I know you are not my first love but I hope that from today | Literal translation |
| Satu untuk selamanya | Us two till eternity | Faithful translation |

Table 2. Results

| Translation method | Total number | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Free translation | 4 | 45% |
| Communicative translation | 2 | 22% |
| Literal translation | 2 | 22% |
| Faithful translation | 1 | 11% |
| Total | 9 | 100% |

4. Discussion

After analyzing the data above, the most dominant translation method found in song lyric “Cintanya aku” is Free translation. In this research there are 9 data from song lyric “Cintanya aku”. The researchers find four methods applied by the translator. From 9 data of song lyric “Cintanya aku”, there are 4 or 45% belongs to Free translation, there are 2 or 22% data belong to Communicative translation, there are 2 or 22% data belongs to Literal translation, and there are 1 or 11% data belong to Faithful translation. It shows that the most dominant method which is used by the translator is Free translation which is 4 or 45% data from 9 data of song lyric “Cintanya aku”. The result also can be seen in the table and also in the Pie chart below.

5. Conclusions

The results of this study on the translation methods used in the song lyrics of “Cintanya Aku” from Indonesian to English can be concluded based on Peter Newmark's theory, which categorizes translation methods into various types, such as Free translation, Communicative translation, Literal translation, and Faithful translation. The most prominent type of translation method found in this research is Free translation, showing that 45% of the data from the song lyrics utilized this method. This means that the translator prioritized conveying the overall meaning and impact of the source text rather than adhering strictly to word-for-word translation. The implementation of Free translation in the song lyrics allows for greater flexibility and creativity, ensuring that the emotions and artistic elements of the original text are preserved in the target language. In general, it can be concluded that

Free translation is effective for translating song lyrics as it maintains the original message's essence and nuances, making the translated version resonate well with the target audience.

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