# THE ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL CHOICE IN TRANSLATING "LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING" NOVEL INTO INDONESIAN

A Thesis

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In Partial Fulfillment to Obtain Sarjana Degree

In English Department

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This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents

Gunawan Widoyoko
and
Ketut Kasihani

# SKRIPSI

## AN ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL CHOICE IN TRANSLATING
## "LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING"
## NOVEL INTO INDONESIAN

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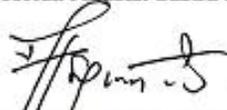
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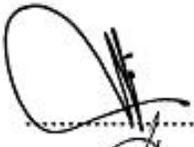
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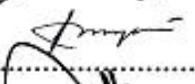
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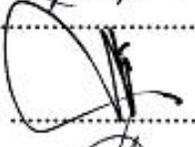
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Makassar, August 5th 2013

*Writer*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# ABSTRAK

**Ageng Pudyasmoro**. *An Analysis of Lexical Choice in Translating "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" Novel into Indonesian*. (Dibimbing oleh Sukmawaty dan Sudarmin Harun).

Studi ini bertujuan untuk menunjukkan kesalahan-kesalahan dalam menerjemahkan atau memilih kata yang terdapat pada novel *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* karangan John Ronald Reuel Tolkien versi Indonesia setelah diterjemahkan dari bahasa Inggris, menjelaskan pengaruh kesalahan pemilihan kata tersebut pada arti atau makna yang dibawa dari bahasa sumber ke bahasa target.

Metode yang digunakan adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Penulis menerapkan kajian kepustakaan dalam mengumpulkan data. Data yang sebagian besar berasal dari hasil bacaan novel *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* diambil dengan menggunakan *purposive sampling* yaitu mengambil kalimat-kalimat yang hanya mengandung kesalahan gramatikal atau pemilihan kata. Dalam menganalisis data, penulis menggunakan metode penerjemahan karya Newmark, yakni metode penerjemahan bebas, penerjemahan literal, maupun penerjemahan idiomatis, sehingga alternatif yang penulis berikan bisa lebih baik dibandingkan dengan hasil penerjemahan yang mengandung kesalahan-kesalahan gramatikal pada novel versi bahasa Indonesia yang bersangkutan.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat beberapa jenis kesalahan leksikal mendasar yang dilakukan penerjemah dalam mengalihkan kalimat dari bahasa sumber ke bahasa target, yaitu kesalahan dalam memilih kata yang tepat dan sesuai konteks pada bahasa sumber, kesalahan dalam menerjemahkan ekspresi atau tindakan yang bersifat idiomatis, dan kesalahan dalam menerjemahkan frasa kata benda yang memiliki penentu sifat atau *modifier* berjumlah lebih dari satu rekonstruksi kata ataupun frasa ke bahasa target tanpa memperhatikan makna sebenarnya dalam bahasa sumber sehingga bisa memicu terjadinya kesalahpahaman pembaca dalam memahami isi cerita dari novel tersebut.

# ABSTRACT

**Ageng Pudyasmoro**. *An Analysis of Lexical Choice in Translating "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" Novel into Indonesian*. (Supervised by Sukmawaty dan Sudarmin Harun).

This study aimed to reveal the grammatical errors or inappropriate lexical choices occurred in Indonesian version of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* by John Ronald Reuel Tolkien after it is translated from English, to explain the effect of the inappropriate lexical choice on the meaning from source language to target language.

The method used was qualitative descriptive method. The writer applied library research in collecting the data. The data, which were mainly obtained by reading the novel of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* itself, were taken through purposive sampling by taking the phrases or sentences that only contained errors or inappropriate lexical choices. In analyzing the data, the writer used Newmark's translation methods which were free translation method, literal translation method, and idiomatic translation method, so that alternatives given by the writer could be better than the translation results which contained grammatical errors brought in the Indonesian version of the novel.

The result of this research shows some kinds of lexical errors done by the translator in rendering the phrases or sentences from the source language into the target language. They are errors in selecting the right words and based on the context in the source language and errors in translating idiomatic expressions or actions which has more than one modifier reconstruction of words or phrases into the target language without considering the real meaning brought in the source language so that it may cause the reader to misunderstand the story of the novel.

**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Background**

Nowadays, language has already become a very important aspect in human's daily life. Interacting with each other, giving information, sharing thoughts, and delivering speech are several functions of a language. Language is not just functioned as the explanation above. Language has become an identity for each people in this world. It represents the culture and as the globalization becomes spread out in this entire world, language is particularly used for transferring many kinds of knowledge from many fields of study and one of them is by translating.

Translating has become more advanced in these days. People can use some common technologies to do translating without fully utilizing the knowledge of the translator, such as computer which has been advanced with translation programs. This condition, however, sometimes makes the translation accurateness becomes unclear because such kinds of tools have not been advanced to translate one paragraph or discourse. These tools can only translate a sentence or some words in that sentence. As a result, the translation has some errors in its grammar and meaning. The common errors in rendering one language into the other mainly occurred by mistranslating. Mistranslating can be interpreted as a condition when a translator renders some or many parts of any kind of documents, novels, letters, songs, or poems into a target language without considering the significances or the real meaning of the source language itself.

To translate one work, there should be a consideration by the translators on how they choose what types of translation they want to apply, and the translator should have enough knowledge about the source language and the target language, also about their culture. A sufficient knowledge of source target language and its culture provides the translator to fully understand the source language content; both in meaning and message. For translating a textbook, novel, or short story, translators will tend to use literal translation. Literal Translation follows very closely the grammatical and lexical forms of the source text language. Other type of translation is idiomatic translation. It is concerned with communicating the meaning of the source text using the natural grammatical and lexical items of the target receptor language. Whereas, unduly free translation is used to add or to change certain information for a specific affect. This type of translation is sometimes used without analyzing the grammatical aspects of both source and target language.

There are so many English best-selling novels to be analyzed whether they have a good translation into Indonesian or not. In 1954, a philologist and the Oxford University professor, John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, published his first of the three volumes of the epic novel *The Lord of the Rings*: *The Fellowship of the Ring*. It was originally published on July 29, 1954 in the United Kingdom by Harper Collins Publishers. His other two books, *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King* published not long after the first book released. *The Lord of the Rings* has since been reprinted numerous times and translated into many languages, including Indonesian, becoming one of the most popular and

influential works in the field of 20th-century fantasy literature and the subject of several films.

Based on those factors, the writer is really interested to choose *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* novel as a matter of this research study. In analyzing the novel, the writer only analyzes the lexical choices that occur in this novel and on how those changes affect the meaning of translation from the source language into the target language.

**1.2 Identification of the Problems**

Talking about lexical choice in translating an English novel into Indonesian, it means that we are dealing with some grammatical elements that are used to render the source language to the target language. The writer identifies that there are some problems which should be focused on, they are the lack of vocabularies, the types of translation, the lexical unequivalency, the misinterpretation, the grammatical errors, and the transfering meaning of both source and target language.

**1.3 Scope of the Problems**

The writer realizes that there are many aspects in Indonesian version of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* to be analyzed. From those aspects, the writer considers that the most important and interesting aspect is the grammatical aspect. The Novel has 12 chapters, thus; the writer takes samples from each chapter and content in this research.

**1.4 Research Question**

In analyzing the lexical choices in translating Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, the writer actually finds some problems in investigating the novel. The first is about to reveal the lack of vocabularies, lexical equivalences, and misinterpretations which done by the translator. The word choices is one of the problems which make the translation cannot be easy to understand. Second, the grammatical errors occurred in this novel after it is translated into Indonesian, because of the rising of grammatical errors, the meanings of translation from source language to target language become different. Third, the writer believes that the role of types of translation which used in translating this novel is also important to be known. Finally, the writer chooses two research questions as the most significant and interesting problems to be analyzed in this novel. They are:

1. What kinds of lexical errors occurred in Indonesian version of Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*?

2. How does the lexical choice affect the translation from the source language to the target language?

**1.5 Objectives of the Writing**

The objectives of writing that would like to be achieved by the writer are as follow:

1. To reveal the lexical errors occurred in Indonesian version of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of The Ring* written by John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, especially in selected chapters after it is translated from English.

2. To analyze the effect of lexical changes on the meaning from source language to target language.

## 1.6 Significances of the Writing

The significances of writing which the writer wants to achieve are:

1. This study may increase the students' awareness in responding the results of translation of English novels made by Indonesian translators.

2. This study may maximize students' comprehension on grammatical rules and structures from both English and Indonesian when do translating.

3. This study may become a new reference for those who concern in translation studies, especially English-Indonesian translation.

# CHAPTER II

# REVIEW OF LITERATURE

## 2.1 Previous Studies

There are several studies which have been carried out related to the topic of translation. Some of English Department students of Hasanuddin University wrote the thesis pertaining to the translation from English into Indonesia. They are:

Andi Salma (2010) focused on *The Translation Analysis of Novel Twilight by Stephanie Meyer into Indonesian*. She described the use of appropriate lexical equivalency of translator in translating the novel and the types of translation used by the translator.

Sari Kemala Fardiah (2009) wrote *The Translation of Aviation English Article in Indonesian*. Her writing is mainly focused on the explanation of methods used by students in translating the English words phrases and sentences and types of errors that made by students in translating the words, phrases, and sentences into Indonesian.

Fitria (2006) focused on the *Grammatical Errors in Subject-Verb Agreement: A Case Study at LBPP LIA Makassar*. The writer explained what types of grammatical errors that made by students through writing and what kind of grammatical errors which dominantly occurred in their writings.

Firmansyah (2007) wrote *Translation Analysis of English into Indonesian on Shipping Text*. He tried to reveal the errors in choosing words on the translation of the text. He also described the errors in arranging the phrase

structure in the sentences in order to know the equivalent meaning of the source language into the target language.

In general, those writers above only focused on the types of translation which used by translators or students and they did not explain the effect of those changes upon the meaning transferred from the source language into the target language. In this writing, the writer will systematically list the sentences that contain all grammatical errors in the selected chapters of the novel. The writer will also identify, extract and classify the errors.

These ways of analyzing are actually the differences between the writer and the other writers who already conducted the same subject, particularly in translation terms.

In this study, the writer will only focus on the translation of English novel, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* into Indonesian that has been translated by Ingrid Gita Yuliani K. The writer aims to show the errors occurred in the novel and on how those errors can actually affect the meaning transferred from the source language into the target language.

**2.2 Theoretical Background**

**2.2.1 Definition of Translation**

Translating is one of the ways to utilize the language in term of transferring the knowledge from one language to the other. Based on Wikipedia (Online Encyclopedia):

> Translation is the comprehension of the *meaning* of a text and the subsequent production of an *equivalent* text, likewise called a

"translation," that communicates the same _message_ in another language. The text that is translated is called the _source text_, and the language that it is translated into is called the target language.

Translation means transferring the meaning of the source language into receptor language (Larson 1984:3). Translation is done because the existence of various languages in this world and the desire to know and to understand many kinds of things and information which is written in foreign language. Richards (1985:299) said that translation is the process of changing speech or writing from one language (source language) into another language (target language).

Process of translation is reproducing the natural equivalent of the Source Language message especially in terms of meaning and style (Nida and Taber 1969:12) in (_Kongres Nasional Penerjemahan_ 2003:36). There must be correspondence of meaning between Source Language (SL) and Target Language (TL). A translator should have a perfect knowledge of the original language, and a competence acquaintance with the subject of which it treats. Of course, it is not easy for the translator to make natural translation and has the exactly same meaning with the source language, because every language has the different structures or grammar, for example, English and _Bahasa Indonesia_ has grammatical differences.

## 2.2.2 Types of Translation

Two translators may be translating from the same source text and into the same receptor language and yet the results may be very different. There is not one "correct" translation of a given text. Reasons for this variation include the purpose

of the translation, the translation team itself, and the receptor language audience for whom the translation is intended.

The results are translations that fall someplace on a continuum from literal translations to idiomatic translations. *Literal translations* follow very closely the grammatical and lexical forms of the source text language, whereas *idiomatic translations* are concerned with communicating the meaning of the source text using the natural grammatical and lexical items of the receptor language. Translations that add to the source text or change certain information for a specific affect are called *unduly free.*

There are various aspects of the communication situation that may determine the choice of type of translation produced. One of the goals of the translation team is to produce a translation that will be acceptable to the receptor language audience, those are:

1. The actual receptor language forms (grammar and lexicon) are chosen with the educational level of the audience in mind, as well as their previous knowledge of the subject matter.

2. A newly literate audience will find it hard to read a translation intended for a highly literate readership.

3. Some audiences have a strong opinion as to the type of translation that is acceptable. They may expect a close formal equivalence and will not accept a more idiomatic translation.

The ideal of accurate, natural, and communicative is still the goal. But, in practice, this goal may be carried out with differing result by different translation teams. (*http://www.sil.org/translation/trtypes.htm*)

*From One Stop English Services, translation is divided into five parts. Those are:*

1. *Technical Translation* is the kind that can be considered one of the most highly demanded; as such translation requires technical knowledge of some specific field, be it reciprocating compressors or an anti-spam program. With such translations, usually translation agencies are preferred to free-lance translators because a good translation agency possesses not only a highly qualified translators with technical knowledge (or even education), but also a special glossary of technical terms that ensure that the terms used in the translation are homogeneous, and specialized proofreaders who make sure the translation not only sounds ok, but also will be of help to technicians who will work with it later.

2. *Scientific translation*. To this kind may be referred medical translations, translations of scientific works in various fields of studies (such as Chemistry, Physics, Mechanics), different research works. A good translation agency will make sure that the terms used in the translation are special terms that will be understood by foreign researchers, doctors, and other specialists.

3. *Literary translation* does not only require a thorough knowledge of the source and target languages, but also the ability to correctly translate the

original feelings and to employ the most appropriate language means in the translation. A good translation agency will provide you with an experienced proofreader whose native language is the target language of the translation.

4. *Translation of documents* is a kind of translation that in all cases has to be ordered from a translation agency because almost always it requires a special certification.

5. *General translation* is the simplest kind of all because it deals with a language without any special terminology or literary me

### 2.2.3 Source and Target Language

There are two important points that have to be concerned well before translating; SL and TL. Both languages have to be mastered by the translators. If this cannot be fulfilled, surely the result of a translation must be out of satisfaction. According to Djaja Subagja:

Translating a text book (into English) is necessarily be done by a translator with certain criteria. A translator have to:

1. master the language that is going to be translated

2. master the target language (Indonesian)

3. master the field of study related with the text book which is going

   to be rendered.

That is why, it is clear to understand that both source and target language cannot be separated to each other. Both the languages should be equally mastered by the translators in order to achieve what we call as a "good translation".

## 2.2.4 Translation procedures, strategies and methods

The translating procedures, as depicted by Nida (1964) are as follows:

*1. Technical procedures:*

a. analysis of the source and target languages;

b. a thorough study of the source language text before making attempts translate it;

c. Making judgments of the semantic and syntactic approximations.

*2. Organizational procedures:*

Krings (1986:18) defined translation strategy as "translator's potentially conscious plans for solving concrete translation problems in the framework of a concrete translation task," and Seguinot (1989) believed that there are at least three global strategies employed by the translators: (i) translating without interruption for as long as possible; (ii) correcting surface errors immediately; (iii) leaving the monitoring for qualitative or stylistic errors in the text to the revision stage.

Furthermore, Bell (1998:188) differentiated between global (those dealing with whole texts) and local (those dealing with text segments) strategies and confirms that this distinction results from various kinds of translation problems.

Venuti (1998:240) indicated that translation strategies "involve the basic tasks of choosing the foreign text to be translated and developing a method to translate it." He employs the concepts of domesticating and foreignizing to refer to translation strategies.

Jaaskelainen (1999:71) considered strategy as, "a series of competencies, a set of steps or processes that favor the acquisition, storage, and/or utilization of information." He maintains that strategies are "heuristic and flexible in nature, and their adoption implies a decision influenced by amendments in the translator's objectives."

Taking into account of the process and product of translation, Jaaskelainen (2005) divided strategies into two major categories: some strategies relate to what happens to texts, while other strategies relate to what happens in the process.

Product-related strategies, as Jaaskelainen (2005:15) wrote, involves the basic tasks of choosing the SL text and developing a method to translate it. However, she maintains that process-related strategies "are a set of (loosely formulated) rules or principles which a translator uses to reach the goals determined by the translating situation" (p.16). Moreover, Jaaskelainen (2005:16) divided this into two types, namely global strategies and local strategies: "global strategies refer to general principles and modes of action and local strategies refer to specific activities in relation to the translator's problem-solving and decision-making."

Newmark (1988b) mentioned the differences between translation methods and translation procedures. He writes that, "While translation methods relate to whole texts, translation procedures are used for sentences and the smaller units of language" (p.81). He goes on to refer to the following methods of translation:

- *Word-for-word translation*: in which the SL word order is preserved and the words translated singly by their most common meanings, out of context.

- *Literal translation*: in which the SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents, but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context.

- *Faithful translation*: it attempts to produce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures.

- *Semantic translation*: which differs from 'faithful translation' only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value of the SL text.

- *Adaptation*: which is the freest form of translation, and is used mainly for plays (comedies) and poetry; the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture is converted to the TL culture and the text is rewritten.

- *Free translation*: it produces the TL text without the style, form, or content of the original.

- *Idiomatic translation*: it reproduces the 'message' of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original.

- *Communicative translation*: it attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership (1988b: 45-47).

Newmark (1991:10-12) wrote of a continuum existing between "semantic" and "communicative" translation. Any translation can be "more, or less semantic—more, or less, communicative—even a particular section or sentence can be treated more communicatively or less semantically." Both seek an "equivalent effect." Zhongying (1994: 97), who prefers literal translation to free translation, said that, "in China, it is agreed by many that one should translate literally, if possible, or appeal to free translation."

## 2.2.5 Grammatical Errors in Translation

Grammar is a description of the structure of a language and the way in which linguistic unit, such as words and phrases are combined to produce sentences in the language (Richards 1985:125). English grammar has units; they are sentence, clause, phrase, word and morpheme. Grammatical Errors means here is that any particular errors that occurred related to whole grammatical aspects in translation of English-written novel into Indonesian, especially its lexical equivalences.

Based on Hablamos Juntos, there are three common errors which can be found in translations. Those are:

1. *grammar errors*

    These errors are produced when the translator is faithful to the grammar of the source language.

2. *vocabulary errors*

    Some words sound similarly from language to language. For example, "sensible" in English and "sensible" in Spanish. However, they

have totally different meanings: "intelligent" in English and "sensitive" in Spanish. These words are considered false cognates of these languages. If we use Spanish "sensible" to translate English "sensible", we are making a translation error at the vocabulary level. In the following example, the word "pariente", which means "relative" in Spanish, is incorrectly used to translate "parent" in English.

3. *spelling or punctuation errors*

These are not necessarily translation errors. They happen when the translator or the text creator does not follow the spelling / punctuation rules of the target language. These errors may result in loss of credibility in the information provided or the source of the material.

**2.2.6 Analysis of Novel Translation**

There are many novels which have been translated into Bahasa Indonesia. When an English novel is translated, the translator often makes some necessary changes. It is interesting to establish what the changes are and to consider reason why the changes have been made (Protherough, 1986: 27).

In translating English novels, changes like reduction, addition and modification of the intrinsic elements of the novels cannot be avoided. When SL in the novel is translated into TL, there cannot be transform all of the words. To find what changes are made from the English novel, a comparison (analysis) of the English version and Indonesian version can be done.

Consequently, some of the translations cannot be easy to understand. This can be happened when the translators have not got mastery in both languages well

or they do not possess the principle of translation. Sutiarti (2001:1) states many translators make mistakes in translating a text because they do not master the foreign language well.

For that reason, comparing several different translated versions of an English novel is supposed to be also a valuable activity because the quality of translation will play important role in attracting reader's interest and appreciation. The result of the activity may offer an alternative in providing the materials of translation teaching, helping the students to understand the implementation of translation methods and its impact to the result of translation.

Newmark (1988:184) comments that translations criticism is an essential link between translation theories with its practice. Criticism of translation is assuming a role of evaluation to the translated versions of a text, whether in the form of a critique or a graded assessment, is done by the way of a comparison between the original and the translation or between the translations (Newmark, 1988:185).

According to Newmark (1988:186), there are five topics to cover in criticism of translations:

(1) A brief analysis of the source language text stressing its intention and its functional aspects;

(2) The translator's interpretation of the source language text's purposes, his translation methods and the translation's likely readership;

(3) A selective but representative detailed comparison of the translation with the original;

(4) An evaluation of the translation – (a) in the translator's terms, (b) in the critic's terms;

(5) Where appropriate, an assessment of the likely place of the translation in the target language culture or discipline.