

THE TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN *MEAN GIRL* MOVIE INTO INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

This research is focused on the English figurative language and its translation into Indonesia found in the movie *Mean Girl*. The aims of this research are to find out the types of figurative language in English and its equivalence in Indonesia and to know the strategies used to translate the English figurative language into Indonesian. The data of this study was taken from the movie *Mean Girl* released in the year of 2004. The data were collected through identifying the dialogues made by the character which are considered as figurative language and note taking the translation subtitle for the specific dialogue. The theory used for this research is the theory about the types of figurative language proposed by Henry Guntur Tarigan (2009) and the theory proposed by Larson (1997) about translation strategies for figurative language. The findings shows that they are nine types of figurative language found in the *Mean Girl* movie, namely antithesis, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, paradox, sarcasm, euphemism and synecdoche and the strategies used to translate the figurative language are translating the figurative language into its sense in TL and translating figurative language into figurative language in TL without reducing any meaning feature.

Key words: translation, figurative language, translation strategies.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini difokuskan pada bahasa kiasan dalam bahasa Inggris dan terjemahannya ke dalam bahasa Indonesia yang ditemukan dalam film Mean Girls. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis bahasa kiasan dalam bahasa Inggris dan kesetaraan maknanya pada bahasa Indonesia dan untuk mengetahui strategi yang digunakan untuk menerjemahkan bahasa kiasan bahasa Inggris ke dalam bahasa Indonesia. Data penelitian ini diambil dari film Mean Girls yang dirilis pada tahun 2004. Data dikumpulkan melalui mengidentifikasi dialog yang dilakukan oleh karakter yang dianggap sebagai bahasa kiasan dan pencatatan subjudul terjemahan untuk dialog tertentu. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori tentang jenis bahasa kiasan yang diusulkan oleh Henry Guntur Tarigan (2009) dan teori yang diusulkan oleh Larson (1997) tentang strategi penerjemahan untuk bahasa kiasan. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa ada sembilan jenis bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan dalam film Mean Girls, yaitu antitesis, metafora, simile, hiperbola, ironi, paradoks, sarkasme, eufemisme dan synecdoche dan strategi yang digunakan untuk menerjemahkan bahasa kiasan adalah menerjemahkan bahasa kiasan sesuai dengan maknanya pada TL dan menerjemahkan bahasa kiasan dalam bahasa kiasan di TL tanpa mengurangi apapun dalam fitur makna.

Kata kunci: penerjemahan, bahasa kiasan, strategi penerjemahan

I. INTRODUCTION

People used language to express themselves; they used different language style to communicate such as using figurative language. According Turner (2002) figurative language is as special as it concerns emotional communication, which tightly reflects something about people's ordinary conceptualizations of their complex experience. In other words, it can be said that figurative language can be found in daily conversation, newspaper, magazine, novels, drama and even movie. If people speak the same language then they can easily understand the meaning of the English figurative language, but if they speak different language, a media is needed to transfer the figurative language so the target reader or viewers of a certain movie can still understand the sense of the figurative language. The media is known as translation. Translation is transferring the meaning of the source language into the target language. This procedure will also apply for the subtitle translation in a movie. Movies are loaded with conversation using figurative language that needs to be translated to the target language. In order to translate the figurative language, the translator must make an effort to maintain the meaning since figurative language is related to the culture of the source language. Commonly, the best way to translate figurative language is by replacing it with the most similar figurative language in the target language and it will be a very challenging task for the translator.

With respect to the present study, the research problem can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of figurative language and its equivalence found in the movie *Mean Girl?*

2. What are the strategies used to translate the English figurative language into Indonesia?

1.1 Figurative Language

There are actually many definitions in terms of figurative language, commonly referring to the same notion. According to Tajali (2003:100) language that uses figure of speech is figurative language. The same argument is also stated by Kennedy (1967: 548), he says that figurative language is a figure of speech used by the speaker or writer for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotations of words. The figurative language itself can be divided into many types; the categorization from one literature to other may be differing. One of the categorization used is figurative language device proposed by Henry Guntur Tarigan (2009), he divided the figure of speech into four major classifications, and they are:

a. Based on Comparison

1. Antithesis is a construction in which words are opposed but balanced in opposition (McArthur, 1996:72).
2. Metaphor is a figure of speech that concisely compares two things by saying that the one is the other (McArthur, 1996:653).
3. Personification is the assigning of human characteristics to non-humans (Karaf, 2002).
4. Simile is a figure of speech in which a more or less fanciful or unrealistic comparison is made (McArthur, 1996).

b. Based on Opposition

1. Hyperbole is an exaggeration or overstatement, usually deliberate and not meant to be taken literally (Larson, 1998).

2. Irony is words with an implication opposite to their usual meaning. Ironic comment may be humorous or mildly sarcastic (McArthur, 1996: 532).
3. Paradox is a term in rhetoric for a situation or statement that is or seems self-contradictory and even absurd, but may contain an insight into life (McArthur, 1996: 348).
4. Sarcasm is a term in rhetoric and general use for sneeringly ironical remarks (McArthur, 1996: 887).

c. Based on Association

1. Euphemism is the use of a mild, comforting or evasive expression that takes place of one that is taboo, negative, offensive or too direct (McArthur, 1996: 387)
2. Metonymy is a word which is used for something related to which it usually refers to (Halliday, 1985: 319).
3. Synecdoche is a figure of speech concerned with parts and wholes (McArthur, 1996: 1014)

d. Based on Repetition

1. Pleonasm is the use of more words than necessary; wither for effect or more usually as a fault of style (Keraf, 2002).

1.2 Translation Strategy

The purpose of a translator in translating figurative language is to maintain the three elements of clarity, forth and beauty in the language. It can be said that translation strategies are mechanism used by the translator to find out the problem solving in the process of translation. Larson (1997: 124) proposed three strategies in dealing with figurative translation, they are:

1. Translating the figurative language into its sense in TL.
2. Using similar word in the figurative language of SL plus adding sense to it. This mechanism should be used if there

is possibility to lose any meaning feature.

3. Translating figurative language into figurative language in TL without reducing any meaning feature.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The data of this study was taken from a movie entitled *Mean Girl* released in 2004. It is an American teen comedy movie written by Tina Fey and directed by Mark Waters. The data were collected by identifying dialogue that contains figurative language and note taking the Indonesian subtitle version. Then, the data were classified based on the types of figurative language in English. Lastly, the English figurative language and the Indonesian translation were compared to find out the strategy used by the translator in translating the figurative language.

III. Finding and Discussion

3.1 Overview of the movie *Mean Girl*

Cady a new girl at school badly needed friends. Then, she made friends with Janis and Damian. They told everything to Cady an especially about the popular girls in the school, there are Karen Smith, Gretchen Wieners and Regina George who they believe as an evil in a form of human. Janis and Damian made a plan to give some lesson to Regina through Cady. Cady was asked to pretend to be Regina's new friend, and they would make fun and ruin Regina's life, Cady agree to that plan. So, Cady made friend with Regina but at the same time she had a crush on Aaron, Regina's boyfriend. She was so heart and spread bad rumors and writes it down in a book about Regina. The book was discovered by Ms. Norbury and she gathered all the female student at school and tells them to confess what rumors they have spread and apologize. When it comes to Jenis turns, she told everyone including

Regina all the bad things she had done with the help of Cady and that Cady kiss Aaron and made Aaron broke up with Regina. Regina and Cady had a fight and Regina was hit by a bus and everyone blame Cady. Cady told her parents and Ms. Norbury that she started all the rumors and solely responsible of every single rumors written in the book. Ms. Norbury punished her to join the Math Olympic which was the same day with the

prom night. She had no choice then to join the Math Olympic so her friend and Ms. Norbury can forgive her. Finally, Cady won the Math Olympic and Ms. Norbury allowed her to come to the prom. She was very happy. There she won the homecoming queen and Aaron also confesses that he had a crush on Cady. Then, they dance and kiss each other.

3.2 Figurative Language and its Translation Strategies

3.2.1 Antithesis

Antithesis may simply include the negative or may be done as a form of repetition,

stating both the positive and criticized negative case (McArthur, 1996:72). There is only one antithesis found in the movie, as shown below.

	SL	TL
1.	<i>And evil takes a human form in Regina George.</i>	<i>Dan iblis berupa manusia Regina George.</i>

From the antithesis above, the translator recreates the image using the same antithesis without reducing any meaning feature

because both the SL and the TL are stating that Regina George is an awful human being like a demon.

3.2.2 Metaphor

Metaphors are representation, in that they represent an idea but are not the idea itself. All words are also representations and in this sense all words are metaphors (McArthur, 1996: 653). There were three

metaphor found in the movie, below are the metaphor.

	SL	TL
2.	<i>She's the queen bee. The star.</i>	<i>Dia itu ratu lebah. Bintangnya</i>
3.	<i>This is ass, you guys.</i>	<i>Ini tak berhasil teman-teman.</i>
4.	<i>Suck all the poison out of my life.</i>	<i>Menghisap semua racun keluar dari hidupku.</i>

Data 2 shows that the metaphor is translated into the same metaphor in the TL without reducing the meaning because either *queen bee* and *ratu lebah* have the same meaning that is a person or a woman who behaves

like a queen and make herself so important. This strategy is also applied for data number 4, where both the SL and the TL have the same meaning that is to deal with her problem so it will not get worse. Meanwhile

data number 3, translates the metaphor into its sense in the TL, since the meaning of the SL means that everything they had done is not working, this strategy is chosen by the translator so the TL viewer can understand the metaphor in the SL due to different culture background.

3.2.3 Simile

Simile is a figure of speech that makes a comparison, showing similarities between two different things. Unlike a metaphor a simile draws resemblance with the help of words “like” or “as” (McArthur, 1996). There were three simile found in the movie, as shown below.

	SL	TL
5.	<i>But this one hit me like a big yellow school bus.</i>	<i>Tapi yang ini terasa kuat.</i>
6.	<i>Regina's like the Barbie doll I never had.</i>	<i>Regina seperti boneka Barbie yang tak pernah kumiliki.</i>
7.	<i>She's like a Martian.</i>	<i>Dia seperti Martir.</i>

Data number 5 shows that the simile is translated into its sense in the TL, so the viewer of the TL can understand that Cady really have this big crush on Aaron like love at the first sight. Data 6 translate the simile into simile in the TL without reducing any meaning feature, both the SL and the TL compares Regina with a Barbie doll. A Barbie doll is often valued as a beautiful, good looking, sexy body spoiled glamorous girl. In this situation, Cady sees Regina's life is perfect like a Barbie. The same strategy also apply for data number 7, both the SL and the TL have the same meaning that is Regina imagine Cady as like a

Martian, an imaginary creature from Mars, its means that Regina think Cady as an alien because she is not familiar with the American's teen culture or pop culture.

3.2.4 Hyperbole

Hyperbole clearly tells the listener that something is going on and that the exaggeration is not to be taken literally. A common meaning is that the speaker has been surprised and that the hyperbole is being used to convey something of the emotion experienced (Larson, 1998). There are two hyperbole found in the movie as below.

	SL	TL
8.	<i>Don't have sex. Because you will get pregnant and die.</i>	<i>Jangan melakukan seks. Karena kau bias hamil dan meninggal.</i>
9.	<i>I could hear my heartbeat in my ears. My stomach felt like it was going to fall to my butt. I had this lump in my throat like after you dry-swallow a big pill.</i>	<i>Aku bisa mendengar suara detak jantungku sangat jelas. Perutku terasa seperti akan jatuh melalui bokongku. Gumpalan di tenggorokanku terasa</i>

*seperti aku baru saja
menelan pill yang besar.*

In data 8, the translator translate the hyperbole into the same hyperbole in TL without reducing any meaning features, because both the SL and the TL are exaggerating about having sex, having sex does not mean it will make you die but it emphasize a message to high school student to not do free sex because it will ruin your future and make you don't have a life which is the same thing as being dead. Data 9 also uses the same strategy that is recreating the hyperbole using the same hyperbole in the TL without changing any meaning features. Both in the SL and the TL, Cady is exaggerating about her hate feeling to

Regina because Regina kisses Aaron in front of her.

3.2.5 Irony

Irony brings about some added meaning to a situation. Ironic statements and situations in an expression develop listeners' or readers' interest. Irony makes a work of literature more intriguing and forces the readers to use their imagination and comprehend the underlying meanings of an expression (McArthur, 1996: 532). There is only one irony in the movie. Below is the irony.

SL	TL
10. <i>God! I' am so sorry Regina. Really, I don't know why I did it. I guess it's probably because I've got a big lesbian crush on you. Suck on that.</i>	<i>Maafkan aku Regina. Aku tak tahu karena aku melakukannya mungkin karena kau lesbian yang jatuh cinta kepadamu. Rasakan itu.</i>

In data 10, the translator uses a combination of two strategies there are, translating the SL irony with the same irony in the TL for sentence *God! I' am so sorry Regina. Really, I don't know why I did it. I guess it's probably because I've got a big lesbian crush on you* meanwhile for the sentence *suck on that* and the translator translate it into the sense in TL. Even though, they are two strategies used the irony is still there because Jenis did not seriously apologize to

Regina nor regret's her bad action towards Regina but Jenis was mocking and humiliating Regina in front of everyone.

3.2.6 Paradox

Paradox is a term in rhetoric for a situation or statement that is or seems self-contradictory and even absurd but may contain insight into life. There are two paradoxes in the movie, below are the paradox.

SL	TL
11. <i>I started with Regina, who was living proof that the more people are scared of you, the more flowers you get.</i>	<i>Aku mulai dengan Regina, yang merupakan bukti nyata kalau semakin takut seseorang akan dirimu, semakin banyak bunga yang kau dapat.</i>

- | | |
|---|---|
| 12. <i>No. only thing worse than going back will be not going back.</i> | <i>Tidak. Hal terburuk dari kembali adalah tidak mau kembali.</i> |
|---|---|

Data 11 shows that the strategy used to translate the paradox is translating the paradox to a paradox in the TL without reducing the meaning feature. Both the SL and the TL have the same meaning that is the more people fear you the more people respect you and in this situation because of Regina's high social status. The same strategy also apply for data 12, the irony is also recreated using the same irony in the TL and both the SL and the TL have the same meaning that is to not run away from

your problem, you have to solve your problem right away and if not you will regret it.

3.2.7 Sarcasm

Sarcasm is a literally and rhetorical device that is meant to mock with often satirical or ironic remarks with a purpose to amuse and hurt someone or some section of society simultaneously. There are only two sarcasm found in the movie as in the below table.

SL	TL
13. <i>Nice wig, Janis. What's it made of? Your mom's chest hair.</i>	<i>Wig yang bagus Janis, dibuat dari apa? Bulu dada ibumu.</i>
14. <i>So you can go shave your back now.</i>	<i>Jadi kau bias pergi sekarang.</i>

Data 13 contains sarcasm that is translated into the same sarcasm in the TL without reducing any feature meaning since both the meaning in the SL and TL is about mocking about Jenis's hair that looks weird and she got Angry and told that guy it was made by his mom's chest hair. Meanwhile data 14, translate the sarcasm into its sense in the TL, the literal meaning of *so you can go shave your back now* means to tell someone to go

away and that is the meaning of the SL sentence.

3.2.8 Euphemism

Euphemism is the use of a mild, comforting or evasive expression that takes the place of one that is taboo, negative, offensive or too direct (McAthererthur, 1996: 387). There is only one euphemism found in the movie as shown below.

SL	TL
15. <i>Is your muffin buttered? Would you like us to assign someone to butter your muffin?</i>	<i>Apa kuemu sudah diolesi mentega. Maukah kamu mengijinkan kami untuk mengoles mentega di rotimu?</i>

Data 15 shows that the euphemism is translated in euphemism in the TL without reducing any feature meaning. The meaning

of the SL is asking Cady if she wanted to have sex with him, and that type of expression is commonly used in the SL

culture if you meet a pretty young girl and you wanted to flirt with her, however since the culture of the TL viewer are different, they cannot understand the meaning of the translation version, especially for those who do not understand English.

3.2.9 Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a literary device in which a part of something represents the whole or it

may use a whole to represent a part. It may also use larger groups to smaller groups or vice versa. It may also call a thing by the name of the material it is made of or it may refer to a thing in a container or packing by the name of the container or packing (McArthur, 1996: 1014). It may There are two synecdoche found in the movie as provided below.

SL	TL
16. <i>Ok, everybody take some rubber.</i>	<i>Semuanya ambil kondom.</i>
17. <i>You could try Sears.</i>	<i>Kamu bias mencoba Sears.</i>

In data 16, the synecdoche is translated into its sense in the TL because the literal meaning of *ok, everybody take some rubber* is the teacher tells the students to take the condom. And lastly, for data 17, the strategy used is by recreating the same synecdoche in the TL without reducing its meaning feature

IV. Conclusion

From the above discussion about the translation of figurative language in *Mean Girl* movie into Indonesian, there are two points that can be drawn as conclusion:

1. Out of ten figurative languages, they were nine types found in the movie of

since both meaning in SL and the TL are telling Regina to buy the dress at Sears, a five star department store in America.

namely, antithesis, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, paradox, sarcasm, euphemism and synecdoche.

2. The strategies used to translate those figurative languages are translating the figurative language in TL without reducing any meaning feature.

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