
THE TRANSLATION OF SLANG WORDS IN TO ALL THE BOYS I'VE LOVED BEFORE MOVIE

Annisah Inriani Harahap^{1*}, Syahron Lubis²

¹Universitas Sumatera Utara

*Email : nisahinri1998@gmail.com

²Universitas Sumatera Utara

Email : ronlubis@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The objectives of the study to find out the types of English slang words used and strategies in translating slang words from English to Bahasa uttered in "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" movie. The data were collected using the theory of Partridge and Bloomfield, and theories of translation strategies by Mona Baker. The result showed that there were 61 slang words were found in this movie. They were classified into 7 types of slang words namely cockney slang, public house slang, workmen's slang, slang in theater, slang in art, slang in public school and university, and society slang. Society slang is the utmost type of slang used in the movie and other pop cultures. The translation strategies used were translation by more general word, translation by more neutral/ less expressive, translation by paraphrase using the related word, paraphrase using the unrelated word, translation using loan word, cultural substitution, translation by omission, and translation by illustration. In conclusion, the researcher mostly used translation strategy named translation by a more general word in this research which has been determined by analyzing each source of data.

Keywords: *Slang words, Translation strategies, The context of translation*

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the wonderful gifts God gives to mankind. Through language, humans can communicate with others, convey ideas and solve problems. Language is flexible and dynamic, which means that it will grow and change from time to time, which will create a new hypothesis for communication. Language is continuously developed according to social conditions and human needs.

There are more than 6.500 languages in the world. The development of technology and foreign culture also grows rapidly and affects the use of language itself. At this point, the use of slang words is growing rapidly compared to the standard language. It also may encourage many linguistic researchers to conduct more in-depth research and make the research relevant to slang language.

To understand the diversity of languages, especially in slang language, translation is considered an effective way to understand the meaning. The translation is a change of form, not a change of meaning. When talking about a language form, we are referring to the grammatical structure and style, including the actual words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, etc. spoken or written (Larson, 1997).

Nowadays, many people use slang language in their daily conversations, which is considered a wise and insightful variant of the standard language. But, there are some obstacles to translating slang properly. To transmit cultural terms (for example slang) first, a translator should know the source and target language thoroughly. Second, the translator should be accustomed to the cultural customs, religion, beliefs, and historical backgrounds of the two texts, and finally she/he needs to have a proper understanding of the subject matter and the dominant concepts in the text (Thalji, 2015). In conclusion, the strategy is the base step for a translator to determine how they bring readers to their destination. Destination here means a successful translation.

Slang can be described as informal, non-standard words or phrases. They often originate from the subculture of society and reflect the social background of the speaker. Slang is a popular language style, and it has existed until the language is used. Many people who use words have proved this because everyone has a desire for uniqueness. The term “slang” was first used in England in the middle of the 18th century, but English literature about literature can be traced back to the 16th century, including seven large vocabulary lists.

Previous study could be described as barrier through relevant studies which could show how necessary the research would be in the meantime. Such as a previous study which I found within someone’s research entitled “the use of slang language Nicki Minaj’s song lyrics” written by Seprina. As the matter of fact that this research deals with the written forms from the lyrics and the researcher tries to analyze what has the singer had sung especially the use of “African-American Vernacular English” shortened as AAVE. Most African-American will use this term to show their uniqueness in the society although there are many confrontations which leads into hatred, abusive words and etc. But as the supporting of the research the data would like to be allowed and it still follows the ethics of creating reference for the research itself. The researcher also deals how the researcher wants to focus only on slang language which is used in the song although, the research seems general but, the frequency will not be so often meanwhile slang language is used largely by native speakers so that’s why scholars could do research to dig more and acknowledge more about it. So that’s why the researcher uses this previous study to extend the horizon within the use of slang and its translation in this

breakthrough research, mainly discussed about the slang word is often describe in academic journal but featured with translation would be rare due to the fact of the combination of Sociolinguistics and Translation these fields are regarded as linguistics part which have difference and similarities respectively. By doing academic research this could be the starting point to the author chose to focus on this research to discuss the analysis of the type and meaning of slang language in the lyrics of Nicki Minaj's songs. This research investigates not only the types of slang language but also the translation strategy used in the research. As the researcher mentioned earlier that the previous study will be a good point which leads into answering the problems swiftly. Without doing any mishaps. The research should be continued as the breaking point to assimilate the source data to build a nifty academic journal.

The article, meanwhile, focuses on the slang words used in the movie. The researcher investigated the words and dialogues in the movie *To All the Boys I Loved Before*. This is a teen romance novel about young Lara Jean, a high school daydreamer who writes love letters to the boys she has crushes on. She never sends out the letters though, they're just for her to write so she can let out her feelings and move on from her crush. The researcher used (Patridge, 2004) and (Bloomfield, 1993) theories to identify the type of language. According to (Patridge, 2004), there are eleven types of slang words, they are cockney slang, public slang house, workmen's slang, tradesmen's slang, and slang in art, slang in publicity, slang in public school and university, society slang, slang in commerce, and soldier's slang. According to (Baker, 1992), a theory of soldiers' language and usage to find out which strategy is suitable for translating English words into Bahasa Indonesia is found in movies.

In short, this article gives two objectives. This article was to find out the types of slang words used in *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* movie according experts' theory above and to find out how the slang words are translated into Bahasa Indonesia.

METHOD

This article used a qualitative data method. The qualitative method is used because the data in this study adopted the form of words, phrases, and clauses. Descriptive methods are used to describe the results of the research, that is, to analyze the researcher's favorite words in the movie. In this article, the researcher collected, classified, and analyzed data, and finally drew conclusions based on the data.

Qualitative research is the focus of multi-method research, involving explanatory and naturalistic methods of its themes. This means that qualitative researchers will study things in

the natural environment, trying to understand or explain phenomena based on the meaning that people bring to them (Denzin & Lincoln, 2000).

The data for this article were taken from conversations or utterances in the source language (English). Both of these data were found on a website (han J., www.alluringprinces.files.wordpress.com, 2020). The data source came from the movie *To All The Boy I've Loved Before*. The main data came from alluringprincess.files.wordpress.com because they all closely match the dialogue in the movie. Secondary data was collected from journals and articles related to the study of language. The movie consists of 204 pages of English.

The researcher used a documentation method to collect data. The documentation method is a flexible method for analyzing text data.

To obtain the data, the researcher performed the following steps:

- First, the researcher found out the main data of the research on the film titled "To All the Boys I Loved Before"
- The data was downloaded through (han J., www.alluringprincess.files.wordpress.com, 2020)\
- Save the downloaded file in word form.
- The researcher read the data script.
- The researcher found the dictionary on the Internet.
- Downloaded the slang dictionary and save it in the notebook
- The researcher collected the data that has been read by searching for sentences or dialog boxes containing words.
- Listed the words found in the data
- Checked the slang language and matched it with the slang dictionary.

When analyzing the data, the researcher used a technique based on Huberman & Saldana (2014). The analysis in qualitative research was divided into three steps, namely data reduction or selection, data representation or display, and data summary or conclusion graphs (Miles, et al., 2014).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Types of slang language and Translation Strategies

In this article, the researcher classified 7 types of slang words according to Partridge (2004) and Bloomfield (1993).

The first slang found was cockney slang. The example was taken from data 1. Let's go to *Drive-thru!*. The word of *drive-thru* comes from "drive-through". Perhaps it is occasionally known that this term comes from the United States but the fact was brought by UK's pioneer in the 1930's even before World War II. This word *thru* should be changed into *thrah* because the pronunciation in cockney is disambiguation from the original word.

The second slang was public house slang. The researcher found out five public house slang words exist, for example, You're proud of yourself, *dude*. Dude term is one of the slang words in which Americans would likely say to their friends to make a close friend and to address their unique to the public that they're distinctively people who know both backgrounds and experience. So this word is classified into public house slang.

The third slang was workmen's slang. For example, You're such a *farm girl*. This is part of the workmen's slang due to the fact the characters were living in the countryside. It can be seen from the relation between the utterance and occupation mentioned in one word, which has tremendous slang word meanings. Imagine if you say farm girl to someone, it doesn't mean that you work in the barn, or she works in the barn, in this case, the relation between the farm girl and barn has the same direct meaning.

The fourth slang was artistic slang. For example, Peter Kavinski's such a *cliché*. This term was often used by the late 16th century. French artist and making it as it is. This term is called as one of the figures of speech which describe a picture with faded meaning in Bahasa call it as *abstrak*.

The fifth slang was slang in the theater. For example, automatically I point the wand back at him and say *Avada kadavra*. This slang is often used on stage such as a magician who wants to perform close-up magic to amuse the audience. This slang means if someone wants to change someone's nature as if he acts the one from a British magical show. The character says as if he only wants to change a person's nature.

The sixth was slang in Public School and University. For example, I guess Stormy sounds like a *Badass*. *Badass* means someone who has courage, expansion, and the other things which affiliate the term itself. "Ass" is a horse-like animal who will fight against whoever wants to threaten the animal itself so that if someone is called as *Badass* it will define AlterEgo of this term to the public school and university slang word. It means that the word does not have to translate literally because it will end up the definition above since it couldn't separate the meaning of it in the first place, then it could dense what should be meant by the term. This term is often used by students.

As the researcher mentioned above, the barriers are in this research exist with some precautions applied in within the explanation, this could be the proof why the research will be swiftly said by the characters in the movie. There are some accomplishments which is hoped by the researcher to achieve the target of the research itself such as the use of slang language spoken by characters which found in the script. But there are some occasions would likely be diminished as the items which are not hoped to be occurred in certain cases such as, the researcher found out that the characters sometimes use confusing words which is affiliated with American Culture that is not the main discussion in this research, there's a saying such as "Arcadia" which leads to American Culture, this part of the term is not the main discussion of the research but it could be the key which leads into several questions which are not supposed to be answered due to avoid some mishaps in the research.

The seventh was slang in society. For example, did Josh *RSVP* yes to the party?", she asked me. *RSVP* which stands for *repondez, s'il vous plait* which means "please, respond" and this is the foreign language which is taken from the French phrase, it has the meaning in Bahasa as *tolong, jawab*. "did josh *RSVP* yes to the party?", she asks me" which has the translation in Bahasa as "Apakah Josh langsung mengatakan iya pada saat acara?". This word is classified into society slang since one characteristic of society slang is the abbreviation form. *RSVP* is an abbreviation from *repondez, s'il vous plait*.

There were eight translation strategies used in this article, they are:

1. Paraphrase using a related word

SL: Let's go to *Drive-thru*!

TL: Dibungkus saja makanannya ya!

The strategies are used for this certain slang word such as *drive-thru* is paraphrase using the related word, if we try to look for the equivalence in Bahasa Indonesia, we will not find one but if we use the strategy that the researcher mentioned before paraphrasing will determine the meaning itself "lazy to get out of my car". In Bahasa Indonesia but if it's paraphrased into related word such as "drive" which is related to the inside of the car, which means the driver is lazy to get off from his seat and take the food, through means "melalui". in Bahasa Indonesia, so technically a person who is getting along in the car wants to get food without exiting the car itself or it is called as *layanan kemudi*.

2. Paraphrase using an unrelated word

SL: Let's go *light up*!

TL: Ayo semangat!

This term is often used by Americans to express the phrase “wake up and take a spirit”. We can see between these words; we should correlate both of them even though literally. We don’t have contingencies to define those words, as light up will affiliate with wake and cool in American slang. So paraphrasing it will be so much easier and done after doing and scrutinizing the word of light will not affiliate literally in the word of something which can’t be related to the literal meaning or common way to say ‘bersemangat’ in Bahasa Indonesia.

3. More general word

SL: I guess stormy sounds kind of like a *badass*.

TL: Aku rasa Stormy keren

The strategy which is used to translate this term by saying it contextually based on what Americans could perceive what this word means, we will acknowledge what this slang word could mean in our colloquial sense. We have to outsource the meaning from the bottom itself. *Badass* which means literally, in Bahasa, it means ‘bokong jelek’ but generally speaking this means ‘keren, mantap, luar biasa’ as “*Badass*” which will be generalized as “cool, awesome” which means we have to use translation using the more general word.

4. Cultural substitution

SL: You’re proud of yourself, *dude*

TL: Kamu bangga dengan dirimu sendiri, bro

The strategy that is used as in will be called as a cultural substitution because *dude* is only used by American natives, meanwhile if we meet the British People, they would say “mate” and in TL, especially in Bahasa Indonesia ‘bro’ which came from the same language as SL is, which is directed to *bruh*, as in Bahasa Indonesia we would say the term as the Bahasa- English, the reason why cultural substitution as the strategy of translating the word, the researcher wants to find the equivalence in the SL.

5. Illustration

SL: You’re such a *farm girl*!

TL: Kamu sangat kampungan

The strategy used is the illustration since the word *farmgirl* in a general word we would say ‘gadis desa’. In Bahasa Indonesia, so the question is why shouldn’t we use the translation of a more general word. If we use this instead the meaning will not be acceptable in the context of what the character has uttered in the dialogue, but if we

use the illustration as we know that illustration strategy will be acceptable by the intonation that the characters want to mock each other moreover then the illustration tends to define them as *farmgirl* goes on with the meantime. The illustration also tends to describe how a distinct meaning will be affiliated with other words, such as the definition of *farmgirl* itself will not be the same as the previous ones. At least we have to define the word based on what Bahasa Indonesia will be defined as ‘*gadis kampungan*’ appropriately.

6. Less expressive word

SL: automatically I point my wand back at him and say ‘*avada kadavra*’

TL: Dengan langsung aku menatapnya dan menyihirnya

The strategy, which is used is a more neutral/ less expressive word because the researcher tends to relate the word from Aramaic, English, and Bahasa, since there’s no such a direct equivalent in either English and Bahasa. This could be the key of censoring the meaning of *abra kadabra* into less expressive words which means the character isn’t direct action or utterance as what would be later as the becoming word as it is. *Abra kadavra* could be something direct to the doing with the magical word, less expressive word strategy focuses with by meaning this word literally. In Bahasa Indonesia, this magical word has no equivalence so that’s why in Bahasa we should use it as ‘*menyihir*’.

7. Loan word

SL: “ Did Josh *RSVP* yes to the party ?” , she asks me

TL: apakah josh merespon iya ikut ke pesta“.

The technique which suits the translation will be loan word plus the explanation, it’s very obvious since the source language’s term comes from a French phrase. It came from the same culturally specific terms so that we could finally perceive what the term meant from French phrases so that we couldn’t encounter some confusion.

8. Translation by omission

SL: You can do your *goddamn* job?

TL: Ya, bisa lakukan *tugasmu* ?

The word *goddamn* is omitted in the text, but the real meaning still exists. The word *goddamn* is just to strengthen the previous word.

By the end of the research, the researcher could find out some similarities among other previous studies which can be found from the use of theory by Partridge (2004) by dividing types of slang into 11 classifications, it turns out the researcher only found several items from based numbers which many scholars also found out only several items from the proposed theory. Nevertheless, how to translate these slang languages are rarely combination between sociolinguistics and translation studies although, this is not the mainly discussed case to create the pedagogy article. As the matter of fact creating the research would increase Student's capacity, knowledge regarding what would be points in excavating the source which has gathered previously. So that there will be some extra pay-offs to make the research could somehow be beneficial for the readers and so on.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the findings, the researcher concluded that the types of language language in the movie " To All The Boys I've Loved Before" can be divided into seven categories: public house, workmen's slang, slang in art, slang in theater, slang in public school, and university, society slang. Throughout the movie, the researcher found that out of 61 words divided into 11 categories, society language was found at most. On the other hand, the slang language found in public schools and universities is the second-largest discovery with 11 data, while public house slang is the third most discovered, with five data, and the fourth largest found in the workmen's slang and has three data. The fifth is mainly found to be the slang in theater and consists of two data. The last one is the language in art which found one data only.

Regarding the results of this research, the researcher made some suggestions to readers. It is hoped that this research can provide an important reference for understanding types of language and how to translate it into TL text, especially the slang language found in movies. This research is far from perfect. The researcher did not see the strength and weaknesses of translation and did not discover how translators translated certain scripts and target languages (subtitles). Therefore, the researcher suggests that the next researcher who focuses on the same topic as this research conduct some analysis on the translation of slang words and put forward some suggestions to correct weaknesses. Therefore, the researcher should elaborate on previous findings and theories to propose discoveries about slang language.

REFERENCES

Baker, M. (1992). *In other words: A course book on translation*. London: Routledge.

- Bloomfield, L. (1993). *Language*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
- Denzin, & Lincoln. (2000). *handbook of qualitative research*. london: sage publication inc.
- Eric, P. (2004). *Slang: Today and Yesterday*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd.
- Han, J. (2020, August 17). *alluringprincess.files.wordpress.com website*. Retrieved August 20, 2020, from https://alluringprincess.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/jenny_han_-_to_all_the_boys_i_39_ve_loved_before.pdf
- Halim, H. (2019). PROCEDURES USED IN TRANSLATING CULTURAL WORDS OF THE MOVIE, "EAT PRAY LOVE". *LITE; Jurnal Bahasa, budaya dan Sastra*, 218-248.
- Huberman, M., & Saldana. (2014). *Qualitative Data Analysis, A Methods Sourcebook* (third ed.). Sage Publications, Inc.
- Larson, M. L. (1997). *Meaning Based Translation: A Guide to Cross Language*.
- M, K., & T, S. (2011). Employing Compensation Strategy in Translation of Slang: A Case Study of the Translation of Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. *Persian International Journal of Linguistics*, 442-456.
- Martinez, P., & Martin, I. (2011). A Preliminary Study of Its Main Grammatical Features. *Journal of The Spanish Association of Anglo- American Studies*, 105-126.
- Partidge, E. (2004). *Slang: Today and Yesterday*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd.
- Sasha, A. (2018). *Translation of Slang Words Found in Subtitle of "despicable me" Movie into Indonesian*. Mataram: University of Mataram.
- Simanjuntak, N., & A, B. (2021). Subtitling Strategies in Real Steel Movie. *LITE: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Budaya*, 2548-9488.
- Thalji, M. B. (2015). *The Translation of proverbs:Obstacles and strategies*. Jordan: Middle East University.