

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Reading books is very important for us to develop our knowledge. From reading, we can get a lot of information about our country and even the world. If we always want to develop our knowledge, we must read many kinds of books. Reading a lot of books can help us to find new information. Furthermore, by reading widely and attentively, we can enrich our vocabulary.

In this globalization era, there are a lot of books from foreign countries, and they are usually written in English. If we want many people in Indonesia to understand the messages and ideas that the writers want to convey, we must translate the works first into Indonesian. In this case, good skill of translation is required.

In this thesis I want to analyze the non-equivalent words which are found in the translated works. Sometimes, the translation loses and gains meaning. I want to show that the words in the translation text are not translated equivalently enough. Furthermore, I want to analyze whether there are gains or losses in the

translation. I would also like to give a more equivalent word which is more acceptable for the translation text.

In translating a word, we must know what the word exactly means as one word may have more than one meaning. There is also a possible problem occurring when a word has several meanings in the target language. For example, the word take has several similar words in the Indonesian language such as mengambil, menerima, memerlukan, membawa, etc. (Kamus Inggris Indonesia 577) As a result, the translator must be aware of choosing the closest meaning in the target language. It is done to prevent losses or gains in meaning from the source language.

Another possible problem that may occur is when the vocabulary of the target language is not as rich as the source language. For example, there is no equivalent for the words strut and stroll in Indonesian. The word strut means ‘to walk proudly with your head up and chest out to show that you think you are important’ (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary 1343) and the word stroll means ‘to walk somewhere in a slow relaxed way’. (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary 1342) In Indonesian, we just generalize these two words into berjalan. We do this generalization because our language does not have the equivalent word for such specific words. As a result, in this case, most probably the Indonesian translators tend to generalize all the words connected with the movement of legs as berjalan. Therefore, we can see that the word stroll and strut have loss of meaning when they are translated into Indonesian.

The title of my thesis is **Analysis of the Non-Equivalent Translation of Mitch Albom’s Tuesdays with Morrie**. The original novel is written in English

and the Indonesian translation text is written by Alex Tri Kantjono Widodo and it is published by PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama.

Tuesdays with Morrie is a novel that is written based on a true story. It tells about someone named Morrie Schwart, who is facing death because of *amyotrophic lateral sclerosis* (ALS), Lou Gehrig's disease. This is a dangerous illness which attacks the neurological system. This novel describes in detail how Morrie faces his death and how he becomes weaker and weaker every day. This novel is interesting as we can see someone's struggle for life. The author's skill in describing every scene in much detail should be highly appreciated. However, in my opinion, this might become a problem for a translator in translating this novel. He or she should be able to translate these detailed scenes equivalently; otherwise, the readers will not get the exact description given by the author. That is why I feel challenged to analyze how well the translator has translated the novel.

The main reason for choosing this topic is my interest in translation. As an English learner, I think it is important for us to know more about translation. Translation carries a message from the writer to the reader in a different language. It involves transference of information from one language into another language. Through translation, the reader of another language expects to clearly understand the message which is given by the writer. Therefore, it is essential that the message must be transferred to another language containing the same idea.

In reality, however, we often find translation which is not equivalent to the original text. There will be losses and gains if the translator does not transfer the messages equivalently from the source language (original text) to the target language (translation text). Losses and gains in translation are caused by non-

equivalence of meaning from one language to another language. From the meaning, we can know what the writer wants to convey. According to Nida, there are two types of meaning, the referential and connotative meaning. (Hatim and Munday 35) “**Referential meaning** (otherwise known as **denotation**), deals with the word as signs or symbol, and **connotative meaning** (**connotation**), the emotional reaction engendered in reader by a word”. (Hatim and Munday 35)

In this thesis, I use translation theories supported by Semantics theories. In general, translation is “the process of transferring a written text from SL to TL, conducted by a translator, or translators”. (Hatim and Munday 6) Furthermore, Catford states “it is generally agreed that *meaning* is important in translation”. (35) In doing this research, I just want to analyze the translation text through the referential meaning using componential analysis and hierarchical structuring analysis.

I hope through this thesis, I can serve a model for learners of translation in translating a text. The significance of this research is for translators, translation teachers and learners of translation. This research will give them more knowledge about translation. It will also make them know, learn and become more aware that a translation text must have proper equivalents in content to the original text.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. Based on Semantics, what words in the Indonesian translation of Mitch Albom’s Tuesdays with Morrie do not have the equivalent referential meaning?

2. How do componential analysis and hierarchical structuring analysis show the losses and gains of the translated words?
3. What Indonesian words are more equivalent in meaning?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

1. To know what words in the Indonesian translation of Mitch Albom's Tuesdays with Morrie does not have the equivalent referential meaning.
2. To know how componential analysis and hierarchical structuring analysis show the losses and gains of the translated word.
3. To know what Indonesian words are more equivalent in meaning.

1.4 Method of Research

In gathering the data, first I read the novel of Indonesian version as the translation text and compare it with the English version of Mitch Albom's Tuesdays with Morrie. Second, I list the words from the Indonesian version whose referential meaning is not equivalent. Third, I analyze how the words are not equivalent and then I try to give another word which has a more equivalent meaning. Finally, I write the research report.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One provides an Introduction to the subject matter in which it includes Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two presents the theoretical framework, underlying the topic of

the thesis. It contains some theories of Translation and Semantics theories related to the data that I analyze. Chapter Three contains the research findings and the analysis. This chapter presents the result of the data analysis in order to answer the research questions. In Chapter Four, I draw some conclusions based on the previous chapter. This thesis is completed with the Bibliography and Appendices.