CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

The topic of my thesis is *analysis of the non-equivalence of lexical meaning found in the Indonesian translation of Amy Tan's* <u>*The Kitchen God's Wife*</u>. I choose this topic because I am interested in studying translation. It also helps me to enrich my vocabulary and deepen my understanding on translation as well as increasing my translation skill. Another reason is that I am personally concerned with translation and I see it essential that the source text is being translated into the target text equivalently.

I notice that there are quite a lot of translated novels which, in my opinion, have not been translated equivalently. This is inappropriate as it might produce a different perception and it might also cause the readers to have a different sense of meaning of the words/phrases/sentences. Moreover, there is a possibility that the readers might not get the ideas which are depicted in the original text because of the non-equivalent words/phrases/sentences.

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On the surface, the translated words/phrases/sentences may seem correct and equivalent; yet, in fact, when we analyse them further, we can find some non-equivalence of meaning in the translation. What makes the analysis of translation more interesting is that when we find the non-equivalent words, through further analysis we can actually find the equivalent words/phrases/sentences.

I agree with Leech that a translator should achieve the goal of gaining a systematic account of the nature of meaning when they translate the source text into the target text (Hatim and Munday 34). Besides, I think a work of translation should reflect the whole idea and content of the original text so that the text is coherent, comprehensible, and understandable to the readers. This is supported by Locke and Booth, who say, "it is generally agreed that *meaning* is important in translation — particularly in total translation and it is also said that translation has often been defined with reference to meaning; a translation is said to "have the same meaning" as the original." (Catford 35) I also agree with Dostert's definition of translation that defines it as "a branch of the applied science of language which is specifically concerned with the problem — or the fact — of the transference of meaning from one set of symbols into another set of patterned symbols." (Catford 35).

Optimistically, I hope this research will be of benefit for translators in making better translation. Besides, I hope this thesis will help those that learn translation, who might become translators in the future, to increase their translation skill, gain knowledge of translation, and thus become good translators. Moreover, readers of translated books will be made more aware that translation is

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not a simple matter as there might be losses and gains in meaning in a translated version when compared with the original text.

My topic belongs to Translation, which is supported by Semantics. Translation deals with equivalent and non-equivalent transference of meaning between the words/phrases/sentences in the source text and the translation. An equivalence shows "the relationship of the similarity between source text and target text segment" (Hatim and Munday 339). However, in my thesis analysis I give a restriction to the perception of equivalence and non-equivalence. A translation is equivalent when the words/phrases/sentences in the target text are evidently equal to those in the source text after being analysed by using componential analysis, hierarchical structure analysis, as well as contextual meaning. Therefore, when the target text is proved not equivalent by one of the three measures, the target text is not equivalent.

Semantics is "the study of meaning in language." (Hurford and Heasley 1) In analysing whether or not the words/phrases/sentences are equivalent, the data are approached by means of its referential meaning and contextual meaning. The theories of Translation and Semantics and the approaches are used in analysing to explain the non-equivalent words/phrases/sentences and to find the equivalent words/phrases/sentences.

The source of data of this research is a novel entitled <u>The Kitchen God's Wife</u> and its Indonesian version. I choose this source of data because I find some inaccuracies in the Indonesian translation of the novel. Therefore, this phenomenon attracts me to conduct a research on the non-equivalence of lexical meaning found in translation.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In the thesis I would like to analyse two problems; they are:

1. Which words/phrases/sentences in the target texts show the non-equivalence of meaning?

2. What are the equivalent words/phrases/sentences?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This thesis is written:

1. to show which words/phrases/sentences are non-equivalent to the source text.

2. to find what the equivalent words/phrases/sentences are.

1.4 Method of Research

First, I read the English novel together with the Indonesian translation paragraph by paragraph, and second, I mark the words/phrases/sentences which I suspect are not translated equivalently. Finally, I classify the data whether the non-equivalence of meaning belongs to referential meaning or contextual meaning, and analyse it using the theories, and then write a research report until I come to the conclusion of the analysis.

1.5 Organisation of the Thesis

The first chapter is Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organisation of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the Theoretical Framework of

Translation and Semantics which is used to analyse the data. In Chapter Three, I present the analysis. Chapter Four is Conclusion, which concludes the analysis. The last part is the Bibliography and Appendix.