

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Indonesian subtitle plays an important role in English language movies. It has great importance to represent the dialogues of the actors or actresses so the meaning will not be misunderstood by the Indonesian viewers.

There are some DVD and VCD movies which have mistranslated subtitles. For example, a DVD movie titled “BeCool” has perfunctorily translated Indonesian subtitles. It is a pity that such a good movie cannot be enjoyed just because the audience cannot understand the subtitle and as a result, cannot understand the films themselves.

This mistranslation occurs not only in one movie, but there are other movies as well with perfunctorily translated Indonesian subtitle, for example : “Matrix Reloaded”, “Hostage”, “Constantine”. This arouses my attention to find the reason why these mistakes keep happening.

The question “Why do these perfunctorily translated Indonesian subtitling keep occurring?” motivates me to investigate the problem

further, showing examples and evidence of the translation mistakes, and then find the reason.

Translation is not a simple process. It is not just a matter of changing a word from one language into another word in another language. Language is one of a nation cultures. It cannot be separated from the customs, life, and culture of a nation. Therefore, a good translation has to include a research and also an identification in the nation where the target language is spoken.

For example, the word “you” has more than one possible translation in Indonesian language. It could be : “kamu, engkau, dikau, anda”, and each word has a different meaning and way to use it. “Kamu” is used commonly to address people at the same or younger age. We use “engkau” to show great respect, or to express poetic meaning, and it is also usually used to address God. In English language, we use “you” to address everyone, even God. This is just a simple example, but it shows that translation is not a simple process.

I will use two Hollywood movies with different format in my research. First, “BeCool”,a DVD movie, I choose this movie because I find a lot of mistranslations of the Indonesian subtitles in it. Second, “25th Hour”,a VCD movie, the Indonesian subtitles in this movie is a lot better and adequate, but there are still some flaws in some parts of the Indonesian subtitles.

1.2.1 Identification of the problem

The problems I propose to analyze are expressed in these questions :

1. What are the examples of the translation mistakes in “BeCool” DVD and “25th hour” VCD?
2. How to avoid mistranslation in translating the subtitles of a movie?

1.3.1 Objectives of the study

1. To show example of the mistaken subtitling translation as a proof of the bad translated subtitles.
2. To find out how to avoid mistranslation in “BeCool” DVD and “25th hour” VCD.

1.4 Benefits of the Study

1. To present a more appropriate way for translators to translate based on the theory from two textbooks and interviews with the expert.
2. It is expected, the English Study Programme will find the importance of translation in subtitling, especially nowadays where film is a great media which has been accepted globally.

1.5 Limitations of the study

I will focus on two examples of Hollywood movies. The first one is : “Be Cool” DVD. This movie is a box-office movie, and undoubtedly lots of audiences hoping to be able to understand the movies. I will also focus on another movie : “25th Hour” which comes in VCD format. The subtitles in this VCD also has some flaws. I will interview one of the lecturers from the DIII Programme, because he is also an expert in translation.

1.6 Layout of the term paper

This term paper starts with the Abstract, a concise summary of the entire paper in Indonesian. This abstract is followed by the Preface, in which I acknowledge the work and contribution of other parties. After that is the Table of Contents, followed by five chapters :

Chapter I is the introduction to the analysis

Chapter II contains the library research

Chapter III deals with the performance of the research

Chapter IV contains the result and discussion of the research

Chapter V contains the conclusion, the present writer's comments and suggestions.

In the final part, I present successively the Bibliography and the Appendices.