



Proceedings

LSCAC 2016

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 4th International Conference

"Language, Society, and Culture in Asian Contexts" (LSCAC 2016)
on Cultivating and Casting Asian Diversities : Empowering the Asians
May 24-25, 2016 at Universitas Negeri Malang, Indonesia

Organized by:

- Universitas Negeri Malang, Indonesia
- Mahasarakham University, Thailand
- University of Hyderabad, India
- College of Education, Hue University, Vietnam



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Penerbit & Percetakan

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DIALECT AND ITS IMPLICATION ON TRANSLATION

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Abstract: Indonesia is a country in which different races with their different cultures and local languages exist. Each race used their own local language including their own dialect. That condition brings some impacts to certain field of study such as translation, since it is a discipline that deals with languages and culture. Among those impacts, the very complicated one is the difficulty arising in translation. It is due to the fact that there is no one-to-one relation of the source language text and target language text. Any race has its way of perceiving and expressing something that is influenced by the geographical environment and the way of living. The difficulties faced by translators due to the dialect are how to translate the text containing it, how to find the correct equivalence in the target language, especially when there is no appropriate equivalence due to cultural difference of both languages.

Keywords: *dialect, translation, equivalence*

INTRODUCTION

Translation is the process of transferring meaning/message from the source language text into the target language text. It is known that the translator should be able to produce an appropriate translation, translation which is able to provide language equivalence in the structure of the target language in such a way that the readers would not know that they are reading a translated text. Tarjana (2000: 15) states that a translator should possess competence in understanding the message conveyed in the source language and be able to find its appropriate equivalence in the target language.

In fact, translator will face problems in producing an appropriate translation as languages are utilized differently among their users. This difference is closely related to the culture of the language users. Any nation has its way of perceiving and expressing something and its way is influenced with the geographical environment and the way of living. According to Baker (1994: 21), the cultural diversity is resulted by the difference in geography, belief, custom, knowledge, food and technology used in each country. While Soemarno (2001: 1) says the difficulty in translating cultural words and expressions is due to the presence of mental sets and the absence of the cultural words or expressions in the target language.

The very complicated one of the difficulties related to culture is translating dialect. This is due to the fact that dialect is particular in a language. Dialect is able in displaying differences at all levels, differ from person to person. Hence, it is compulsory for the translator to know and understand it, in order to find its nearest translation equivalence. This is reviewed in the following discussion.



Notes of Dialect

The meaning of dialect defined in Longman Dictionary of Applied Linguistics (1985: 80), namely, a variety of a language, spoken in one part of a country, or by people belonging to a particular social class, which is different in some words, grammar, and/or pronunciation from other forms of the same language. Likewise, Baker (1994: 15) explains that a dialect is a variety of language which is currently within a specific community or group of speakers. Briefly speaking, the definitions show that dialect is influenced by area, social class, ethnic group, education, sex, age, and situation. Dialect may be classified on one of the following bases: geographical (e.g. a Scottish dialect, or American as opposed to British English), temporal (e.g. words and structures used by members of different age groups within a community, or words used at different periods in the history of a language), social (e.g. words and structures used by members of different social classes).

In Indonesia dialects are used extensively in daily communication. There is the existence of many different dialects such as *bahasa Jawa* consisting mainly of *Jawa Yogya*, *Jawa Tegal*, *Jawa Surabaya*; *Bahasa Indonesia* consisting mainly of *Jakarta dialect*, *Medan dialect*, etc (Asrori, 2001: 95).

Problems of Translating Dialect into Target Language

It is not at all easy when it comes to finding the appropriate equivalences of dialect, since there is no one-to-one relation among dialects in languages. The way a certain language chooses a particular expression to convey a given meaning would be quite different from another. Likewise, which aspect of life to be expressed may vary based on the experience of the speakers. Certain terms, particularly culture-specific expressions, in one language may even not have any equivalence at all in another (Tarjana, 2000: 21). Hatim and Mason (1994: 240) mention that dialect is variation in language performance depending on characteristics of the user. It should be noted that demarcation lines of geographical dialects are often drawn on political or cultural considerations but not always on linguistic grounds. In addition, certain dialect has the same status throughout different areas where it is spoken. Belonging to it is one variety of English used in southern England. Translators, in achieving dialectal equivalence, therefore should be aware of geographical dialects as well as ideological and political implications that they may have. Accent, for example, is one of the more recognisable features of geographical dialect and is often a source of problems. Hatim and Mason (1994: 40) say that there is controversy in Scotland a few years ago over the use of Scottish accent in representing the speech of Russian peasants in TV dramatisation of a foreign play as Scottish accent may be associated with low status and something was not intended.

Temporal dialects reflect language change through time. Each generation has its own linguistic fashions, and whereas change is generally imperceptible (Hatim and Mason, 1994: 41). Terms such as *ghetto-blasters* and *video nasties* defined as a product of the 1980s. They bring translation problem if monolingual and bilingual dictionaries are not keeping pace with current usage. Translator from earlier times encounters problems to do with the use of either archaic or modern language in his text. In the case of literary translation, there is the added consideration of aesthetic effect. The following text is taken from *Macbeth*, Act V, Scene V, (in Hatim and Mason, 1994:42).

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,



Crieps in this petty pace from day to day,

To the last syllable of recorded time;

Lexical item *petty* can be potentially a problem. *Petty* is intended in the sense of *slow* and *not trivial* as in current temporal dialect.

In addition, language also reflects social dialect. Social dialect emerges in response to social stratification within speech community (Hatim and Mason, 1994: 42). While Nida (1975: 178) informs that in a number of societies different socioeconomic dialects play a much larger role than most people suspect. He proposes a detailed analysis done by Labov of certain features of the dialects of New York and found some amazing situations that the occurrence of the *r* sound in such words as *bared*, *guard*, *dark*, *car*, *beer*, *beard*, and *board*, and found that some speakers pronounce *bared* like *bad*, *guard* like *God*. It is discovered that the occurrence or non-occurrence of *r* was not simply a matter of free variation but that it correlated with class membership and context of use.

In the case of dialect translation from English into Indonesian and vice versa, there seems to be crucial problems as the two languages are different in terms of typology and histories. The following is discussed example of translation equivalences of geographical dialect described by Machali (2000: 85).

Source language text:

I don't have no money, brother!

target language text (1):

Gue kagak punya doku! (Betawi)

target language text (2):

Aku nggak punya uang, nek! (Malangan)

The different words of *gue* and *aku*, *kagak* and *nggak*, *doku*, *uang*, and *nek* show the differences of dialects related to the area of its speakers.

Likewise, there are lots of temporal dialects arising problems in translation, such as translating dialect from bahasa Jawa kuno into Jawa kontemporer. This is found in such temporal dialect as:

Source language text:

Kita sering menghadapi pertanyaan....

target language text:

We are oftentimes faced with a question....

Oftentimes is rarely used and belong to 'old word'. Its meaning is different with *often* (Machali, 2000: 85).

Still other problems are faced by translator in translating dialects found in classic literary works. The translator might not know whether dialect should be translated in terms of using its 'original dialect' or finding its equivalence in target language. The example may be given here when translator has a text about dialect and it is beyond her capability that she gets serious difficulty when she is translating her text. It is about Yorkshire dialect of Pollyanna novel posted by Badariah (2012).

Source language text:

"I was only keepin' on with my work 'cause you specially told me this mornin' ter hurry with my dishes, ye know."

Ter = to

Ye = you



target language text:

"Saya meneruskan pekerjaan hanya karena Anda mengatakan pagi ini cucian harus cepat selesai."

source language text:

"Did you know a little girl was comin' here ter live with Miss Polly?"

target language text:

"Tahukah Anda seorang gadis kecil akan datang untuk tinggal di sini dengan Miss Polly?"

source language text:

"Go on with yer jokin'," scoffed unbelieving Tom. "Why don't ye tell me the sun is a-goin' ter set in the east ter-morrer?"

Ter-morrer = tomorrow

target language text:

"Bercanda ya," dengus Tom tak percaya. "Kenapa tidak sekalian bilang matahari akan terbenam di timur besok?"

source language text:

"Why, Nancy, it must be Miss Jennie's little gal. Glory be ter praise! Ter think of my old eyes a-seein' this!"

target language text:

"Wah, Nancy, dia pasti anak Miss Jennie. Luar biasa! Tak kusangka setua ini aku akan melihatnya!"

It is difficult for the translator to translate into other dialects such as Betawi or Jawa so that the dialect is left untranslated. It seems that the readers of target language could not detect Yorkshire accent showed in the utterances of black people.

It is also necessary for the translator to consider another factor which could play an important role in translating dialect. It is gender. It goes without saying that man is different with woman. Differences in interest, sensitivity, and community between male and female affect the use of the language. Rohmadhona (2011) analyzes the language used by teenagers of bahasa Jawa Malangan (Malangan dialect). The findings of this study shows that language used by female is very different from male in their style, topic, diction, and intensity, such as shown in the followings:

A: *"Wes, mandung-mendung ngene kangen aku karo gjobku."*

B: *"Halah....halah....lambemu cok, iha wong manjan ae lo ngomong gjob, ha....ha....ha...."*

A: *"Hah, delok'an....delok'an! Wes....wes...."*

C: *"Endi? Oh yo rek ayu kon"*

A&B: *"Vita....Vita....Vita....ahem....ahem...."*

C: *"Waduh....waduh, kok tambah ayu ae to rek, iha tapi kok kempes ngono set"*

A: *"Hah, apane rek?"*

C: *"Wes ta lah delok'an siki"*

A: *"Endi? Apane?"*

C: *"Walah....walah gak jeli blas kon, iku lo okonge rek. Emange tau mbok apakno seh?"*

B: *"Cangikmu cok!...he....he....he...."*

A: *"Wes ta lah, ngaku ae pok'o....podo-podo wes tau ngrasakno to?"*

C: *"Jancik! He....he...., ngene-ngene sek benman yo!"*

Likewise, there is another example of Malangan dislect spoken by girls.

A: *"Onfame iku sing apik"*

B: *"Onfame iku ngga mbolis pisan, nggak sesuai karo jenis kulif"*



- A: "Ga sesuai harga"
 B: "Yo, iku mahasiswa terutama"
 A: "Nggawe Ponds wae"
 C: "Aku nggawe Ponds winginane, tambahan iku...kuering"
 B: "Iyo?"
 C: "Iyo langsung laring, plentuk-plentuk, putih kabeh"
 D: "Nggawe opo?"
 B: "Pond's, opo terlalu anu yo...panas, oh iyo keras, opo dikak? lumbak, yo?"
 C&D: "Iyo..."

In this matter, needless to say, a translator needs to make the adjustments in target language text. Baker (1994: 31) offered strategy of translation by cultural substitution which involves replacing culture-specific item or expression with a target language item which does not have the same propositional meaning but is likely to have similar impact on the target reader. The main advantage of using this strategy is that it gives the reader a concept with which she can identify something familiar and appealing.

Although translators will always come across a lot of difficulties, however it does not mean that a translator cannot deal with finding appropriate dialect in target language texts at all. In this case, translator becomes a mediator to support the purposes that the readers want to understand. Hatim and Mason (1994: 223-224) point out:

Most obviously, the translator has not only a bilingual ability but also a bi-cultural vision. Translator mediates between cultures (including ideologies, moral systems and socio-political structures), seeking to overcome those incompatibilities which stand in the way of transfer of meaning. What has value as a sign in one cultural community may be devoid of significance in another and it is the translator who is uniquely placed to identify the disparity and seek to resolve it.

In line with Hatim and Mason, McGuire (1991: 36) also proposes his opinion who states that it is clearly the task of the translator to find a solution to even the most daunting of the problems. Furthermore she says, "*such solutions may vary enormously; the translator's decision as to what constitutes invariant information with respect to the given system of reference is in itself a creative act*". This thought pushes forward the translators to overcome problems and to achieve best solutions through strategies proposed by translation experts. Translator finally may also find his solution self through decisions he made.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Considering broad scope of dialect, it is a must for a translator to have capability to understand all the dialects of the source and target languages he is dealing with. Translator needs to possess a thorough mastery of dialect in order to find its meaning, then to find the appropriate or nearest equivalence in the target language.

In order to make translation of dialects is easily understandable by the readers, it is suggested for the translator to use strategies. The translator should also bring her creativity in overcoming translation problems in the text he is translating.



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