

CHAPTER I

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1.1 Background of the Study

Every language in the world is very unique, even though all languages use the same instrument that is the sounds, which are produced by speech organs of human beings. But no two languages have the same meanings, forms and functions. For example the word 'well', it can be meant 'sumur' or 'baik' in Indonesian words. Eventhough this word has the same form but it has different meaning and function. The function of the word can be seen if it is used in sentences. It depends on the people who want to use that word. One of the factors of this uniqueness is the difference of culture, structure and society.

The differences of languages have to be equalized among the people in their daily activities so that the messages or idea can be conveyed from the speakers to the people addressed. People who lived in the same regions that had the same language background would possibly not meet those difficulties.

Assreddin Barori Tou (1989:123) says:

“When people want to communicate their message or exchange meanings, but they do not speak each other’s language, translation may come into play. And this is of course very helpful for those who are just too busy to learn languages other than their mother tongue”

It explains that translation has an important role to common communication. There is a process of transferring the message from the Source Language (SL) into the Target Language (TL). Translation goes on with the

developing culture. It means that there are many new words that appear in daily language. The appearance of words is also supported by the meanings' development.

There are two opinions about knowing a vocabulary item proposed by Koh (1980:77-79) and Richards (1976:77-87). Firstly Koh (1980:77) states that knowing a vocabulary items means being able to use it correctly. It means that the students should know the part of speech of the vocabulary item and the context of use. And they can use it into correct sentences. Secondly, according to Richards (1976: 77-87) understanding the meaning of a vocabulary item here refers to not only having that mother tongue of students in the Target Language overlap terms of their meanings. In this case, the students should know the equivalent words of the Source Language and the Target Language.

There are many imported books written in English. Of course there are also many words that are not easy to be understood. Sadtono (1980:3) states that from all books found in libraries in Indonesia, 75% are written in English and less than 5% of people mastering English are able to understand them. Because of this, translation takes an important role for them to accelerate the relationship between the translator and the scientists. Briefly, translation is really needed, especially for the scientists. Most development of technologies comes from other countries, through their books. Because English is an international language, many scientists at least know English in order to understand the books for developing technology. When there are some difficulties, translation have the role in here. So, translation

as well as good translators are needed in order to get knowledge and information, which are important for development of the country.

1.2 Statement of Problem

With reference to the background of the problem, the writer stated the following problem:

1. What is the ability of English Department Students in translating Indonesian text to English ones without any dictionary?
 - a. To what extent is the accuracy of English Department Students' translation?
 - b. To what extent is the clarity of English Department Students' translation?
 - c. To what extent is the naturalness of English Department Students' translation?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

This study was conducted with the purpose of the following detail:

1. To measure the ability in general of the English Department students in translating Indonesian to English without any dictionary.
 - a. to find the extent of accuracy of English Department Students' translation.
 - b. to find the extent of clarity of English Department Students' translation.

- c. to find the extent of naturalness of English Department Students' translation.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give some contribution to the teacher and students of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya who join the translation class and also to the teaching-learning at the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya, especially to the translation class.

Finally to the teaching of English at the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya, especially to the translation class. The contribution is that the result of this analysis can be used as the consideration in teaching translation in order to avoid students from doing the same mistakes.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The subject of this study is limited to the third semester students in the academic year of 1997 of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University. The reason she took this class was that they have taken the translation subject. Therefore, only the third semester students of the academic year 1997 of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University and the other students who took the translation subject were taken as sources of data.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

In order to avoid misinterpretation of some key terms, which are used in this study, it is important for the readers of this study to know the definition of the key terms as a means of clarification such as:

- Translation ability: the ability to translate the two Indonesian text to English text that consist of fourteen sentences from the L.G. Alexander in his book A First Book in Comprehension Precis and Composition. It was graded into accuracy (A), clarity (C) and naturalness (N). (The writer's definition)

1.7 Theoretical Framework

In line with the statement of problem (1.2.), the writer reviewed some theories applied in this study.

Nida states that translating involves producing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent to the message of the source language, first in meaning and secondly in style. Another theory that is as the parameter in this study is characteristics of a good translation by Katherine G.L. Barnwell. If a translation work was intended to be accepted by the readers, it should fulfill the criteria of a good translation.

For description of the qualities of a good translation, the writer used Katherine G.L. Barnwell's (1980:15) parameter that consists of three points. Those are accuracy, clarity and naturalness.

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. It gives the reader some explanations about the background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, definition of the key terms, theoretical framework and organization of the study. The second chapter reviews related literatures and studies about definition, translation problems, translation criticism and previous studies. The third chapter discusses about research method, which consists of the nature of the study, the research design, the subject, the instrument to collect the data and data collection procedures. Then the fourth chapter discusses about finding and discussion that consists of translation ability and discussion of finding. The last chapter, the fifth chapter talks about the summary, the conclusion and some suggestions.