

LOSS AND GAIN IN TRANSLATION PROCESS IN *BIG NATE* COMIC STRIPS BOOKS INTO INDONESIAN

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ABSTRACT

The article entitled *Loss and Gain in Translation Process In Big Nate Comic Strips Books Into Indonesian*. The aim of the article is to analyze deeply about the kinds of structural loss and gain found in the comic. The observation done in this qualitative research utilized note-taking technique to find kind of loss and gain in the translation process of the comic. The next step is describing the kinds of loss and gain in the process of translation. The theory of kinds of losses and gain used to analyze the problems, to find kinds loss and gain in translation process of the comic (Basnett, 1991). As the result of the research, the researcher concluded that the translator sometimes lost or gained some words, phrases or even clauses to make the translation acceptable and readable to the target readers and to make it sounds more natural in the target language.

Keywords: *loss, gain, translation, comic*.

ABSTRAK

Artikel ini berjudul *Loss and Gain in Translation Process In Big Nate Comic Strips Books Into Indonesian*. Analisis artikel ini adalah tentang jenis penghilangan dan penambahan secara struktural yang ditemukan pada komik. Teknik pengamatan dalam metode penelitian kualitatif yang dilakukan dalam studi ini disertai dengan pencatatan untuk menemukan jenis penghilangan dan penambahan di dalam proses penerjemahan. Teori jenis penghilangan dan penambahan yang digunakan untuk menelaah masalah, untuk menemukan jenis penghilangan dan penambahan dalam proses penerjemahan komik (Basnett, 1991). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penerjemah terkadang menghilangkan atau menambahkan kata, frase, atau bahkan klausa untuk membuat hasil terjemahan mudah diterima dan dibaca oleh pembaca serta terdengar lebih alami dalam bahasa target.

Kata kunci: *penghilangan, penambahan, penerjemahan, komik*

I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language is a means of communication in daily activity of human life. By using language, people can give or get any information about anything from many ways. Longman Dictionary of American English (2008:570) states that language means the expression and communication of emotions/ideas between human beings by means of speech and hearing, the sounds spoken or heard being systematized and confirmed by usage among a given people over a period of time or the words forming the means of communication among members of a single nation or group at a given period.

Nowadays, English becomes an important language for the whole world. In many countries in the world, people start to use English as a daily language although they have their own language already. So, people always learn how to make a good translation from English into their own language and from their own language into English. Brislin (1976: 1) explained that, “Translation is a general term referring to the transfer of thoughts and ideas from one language to another, whether the language is in written or oral form, whether one or both languages are based on signs, as with signs of the deaf”. However, Larson (1984:3) states that translation is studying the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of the source language text, analyzing it in order to determine its meaning, and then reconstructing this same meaning using lexicon and grammatical structure which are appropriate in the receptor language and its cultural context.

Translation typically has been used to transfer written or spoken SL texts to equivalent written or spoken Target Language texts. In general, the purpose of translation is to reproduce various kinds of texts—including religious, literary, scientific, and philosophical texts—in another language and thus making them available to wider readers. The difference between a Source Language and a Target Language and the variation in their cultures make the process of translating a real challenge. There are many kinds of texts or scripts that can be translated

into Target Language, for example: short text, movie script, song lyric, comic, novel, etc. And the researcher uses comic as a subject to be analyzed because there are some difficulties in translating comic which sometimes could not be found in other texts.

Comics are also called comic magazine or simply comic, is a publication, first popularized in the United States. It consists of comics' art in the form of sequential juxtaposed panels that represent individual scenes (Longman Dictionary, 2008:193). There are some difficulties in translating comic which are not found in other texts. For example: the translator of comic should be able to choose the simple words to fit the capacity in the strips. Besides that, the comic translators have to build their imagination by using the right words to bring the readers to get inside the story. And to make a good translation of comic, one of the strategies that usually used by the translators is loss and gain. And this is what the researcher analyze about.

The comic strips books which are chosen entitled *Big Nate* comic strips books written by Lincoln Peirce and its translation *Big Nate* comic strips books by Erawati Heru Wardhani. *Big Nate* is an American comic strip written and illustrated by Lincoln Peirce. *Big Nate* follows the adventures and misadventures of Nate Wright, a rebellious and energetic sixth-grader, and his classmates and teachers. Strips also focus on Nate's home life and friendships with his best friend Francis and Teddy.

These comic strips books are chosen because there are many loss and gain could be found. The case being analyzed in this research is loss and gain, one of the key issues in translation studies. Loosing or gaining meaning in the target language results from language differences. Language differences usually result in untranslatability, which inevitably leaves the translator no choice but to pick a target language expression that has the closest meaning (Bassnett, 1991: 32). It happens due to various causes. Lack of tenses in the target language, for example, would lead to loss of temporal meaning, while different mindset between source language and target language readers may, at the same time reduce and gain meaning.

II RESEARCH METHOD

2.1 Data Source

The data of this research is taken directly from the comic books strips. The comic strips books which are chosen entitled *Big Nate* comic strips books written by Lincoln Peirce and its translation *Big Nate* comic strips books by Erawati Heru Wardhani. These comic strips books are chosen because there are many loss and gain could be found. This research focuses on what kinds of losses and what kinds of gains found in the data.

2.2 Method

The method of collecting data in this study was conducted through a library research, which means the data were collected by close reading the whole text repeatedly both the source language and the target language, then identifying the loss and gain by taking a note in order to have comparison analysis. Finally the data containing loss and gain were rendered, classified and analyzed. Library research in this study related to the technique of collecting data by using documentation and note taking technique.

The method used to analyze the data was descriptive qualitative method, and there were some steps taken to analyze the data. It was started with scanning the strips for presentation needs analyzing the data consisting of loss and gain in translation, and describing kinds of losses and gains found the utterances both in source language and target language. The collected data was then analyzed by using the theory of kinds loss and gain in translation process of the comic by Basnett (1991). To analyze the data obtained, this research applied descriptive qualitative method.

Basnett (1991:30) stated that once the principle is accepted that sameness cannot exist between two languages, it becomes possible to approach the question of loss and gain in translation process. It is again an indication of the low status of translation that so much time should have been spent on discussing what is lost in the transfer of a text from source language to target language whilst ignoring what

can also be gained, for the translator can at times enrich or clarify the source language text as a direct result of the translation process. Eugene Nida is a rich source of information about the problems of loss in translation, in particular about the difficulties encountered by the translator when faced with terms or concepts in the source language that do not exist in the target language (1991:30).

In this study the researcher only analyze the sentences influenced by loss and gain in translated comic. From this statement, the researcher includes the definition of sentence and also the elements of the sentences. They are word, phrase, and clause.

(1) Word

Word is the smallest class in the languages. Every word has a meaning and sound, but when someone makes a conversation to each other it is impossible if he or she just said a word. It must be more than one word, so what he said is meaningful (Basnett, 1991:30).

(2) Phrases

A phrase is a group of related words used as a single part of speech. A phrase lacks of a subject, a predicate, or both. Consequently, a phrase cannot be a sentence (Basnett, 1991:30). Phrases can be divided into three, they are prepositional phrase, appositive phrase, and verbal phrase (Basnett, 1991:30):

a. Prepositional phrase

Prepositional phrase consists of a preposition, its object, and any modifiers of that subject. In most prepositional phrases, the preposition precedes the object.

b. Appositive phrase

Appositive phrase is a noun or pronoun placed near another noun or pronoun to explain or identify it. The appositive is underlined below. An appositive phrase includes all the words or phrases that modify the appositive. The appositive phrase identifies a noun or pronoun.

c. Verbal phrase

Verbal phrase is the form of verb that functions as noun, adjective, or adverb. For instance, a verbal may be the subject of a sentence, or it may be a predicate nominative. Even though verbal functions as other part of speech, it has some of the properties of verb.

(3) Clauses

A clause is a group of related words that contains both a subject and a predicate (Basnett, 1991:30). There are two kinds of clauses, they are independent clause and subordinate clause (Basnett, 1991:30):

a. Independent clause

An independent clause can stand by itself as a sentence.

b. Subordinate clause

A subordinate clause is a group of words that has a subject and a predicate but cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence because it does not express a complete thought. Subordinate clauses are sometimes called dependent clauses.

III DISCUSSION

This study focuses on what kinds of losses and what kinds of gains applied in the data. The data are presented both in source language text and the target language text. To make the clear analysis, the data are analyzed based on the theory of kind of loss and gain in translation process of the comic by Basnett (1991).

In this study the researcher only analyzes the sentences influenced by loss and gain in translated comic strips books, they are the Discussion of Word Loss, the Discussion of Phrase Loss, the Discussion of Clause Loss, the Discussion of Word Gain, and the Discussion of Phrase Gain.

3.1 The Discussion of Word Loss

Data 1

Source Language: “***Yeah***, it didn’t hurt,” I tell him. “You’re sort of like a giant air bag.” (Pierce, 2010:63)

Target Language: “Tidak sakit, kok,” jawabku. “Bapak seperti kantong udara raksasa.” (Wardhani, 2011:63)

In the data above, the sentence in the source “*Yeah, It didn’t hurt,*” *I tell him. “You’re sort of like a giant air bag”* and “*Tidak sakit, kok,*” *jawabku. “Bapak seperti kantong udara raksasa.”* in the target language. It can be seen that the translator did not translate the word ***yeah*** from source language into target language. The translator did the process that way because the italicized word mentioned before is just an addressing word, so it does not make any difference if the translator lost that word. Besides that, the contexts in both versions of strips are still the same. The important one is that the readers can get the information that Nate races his friends to the flagpole he hits his Principal Nichols who does not stand for any horsing around. Nate tells that the principle look like a giant air bag but he is not angry and he asks his students to move along to their classes.

Data 2

Source Language: “... ***that*** Gina should keep her big fat mouth shut!”
(Pierce, 2010:103)

Target Language: “... Gina seharusnya menutup mulut besarnya!”
(Wardhani, 2011:103)

In the data above it tells that Nate has a trouble of something to write about poetry. His teacher, Ms. Clarke wants to know what his heart tells him but Gina laughs. Nate says an utterance that is written in the source language “... ***that*** *Gina should keep her big fat mouth shut!*” However, in the target language, the same utterance has been translated into “... *Gina seharusnya menutup mulut besarnya!*” The researcher found a word lost in the data above, because the translator did not translate the first underlined word of the utterance and it had been deleted from the

utterance in the target language. It is already explained that comic books represent not only the typical constraints of language (idiolect, double meanings, idioms, et al.) but also space limitations. It can be seen that the translator had a space limitation, thus, the translator removed the first word to fit the strips of the comic without changing the meaning and the style of the source language text.

Besides, the italicized word mentioned before is a kind of idioms “big fat mouth shut.” It means do not talk too much, especially about things that should be secret and the meaning of the utterance already sent to the readers by the utterance of “... *Gina seharusnya menutup mulut besarnya.*”

3.2 The Discussion of Phrase Loss

Data 3

Source Language: Suddenly, *right on cue* ... in walks Ellen. (Pierce, 2010:23)

Target Language: Tiba-tiba ... datanglah Ellen. (Wardhani, 2011:23)

In the data above, there is an utterance by Nate “Suddenly, *right on cue* ... in walks Ellen” and “Tiba-tiba ... datanglah Ellen” in the target language. This data is included to the phrase class loss because the translator does not put the phrase “*right on cue* ...” in source language to target language, or it can be said that the translator lost this phrase.

Naturalness for a translation to be acceptable is to use a natural form of target text. Based on this information, the researcher concludes that the translator purposely lost the phrase “*right on cue*” to get a natural translation, so it can be more comfortable to be read by the readers.

Data 4

Source Language: “Ew, time *to think about* something else.” (Pierce, 2010:29)

Target Language: “Huh, saatnya *cari cara* lain.” (Wardhani, 2011:29)

In the data above, Nate says an utterance describes his worry and it can be said that he is thinking that his father and Mrs. Godfrey are having secret, late night phone conversation. It also can be seen that the utterance in source language text and target language text has some different words of translation. In the target

language it is written “*Ew, time **to think about** something else.*” However, in the target language text, it is written “*Huh, saatnya **cari** cara lain.*” It means the translator did some transformation in translating process of the dialogue. The translator lost the phrase of *to think about* in the source language was transformed into a word *cari* in the target language to get a natural form. Besides, the italicized word in the source language is an idiom, so the translator has to translate it naturally and acceptably.

3.3 The Discussion of Clause Loss

Data 5

Source Language: “Twenty-five minutes until Mrs. Godfrey brings down the summer school *and hammer on me.*” (Pierce, 2010:35)

Target Language: “Dua puluh menit sampai Bu Godfrey membawaku ke sekolah musim panas.” (Wardhani, 2011:35)

In the data above it tells that Nate wants to avoid the test. It also can be read that in the source language text there is an utterance “*Twenty-five minutes until Mrs. Godfrey brings down the summer school and hammer on me.*” Meanwhile, in the target language, it is written “*Dua puluh menit sampai Bu Godfrey membawaku ke sekolah musim panas.*” It is clearly seen that the translator purposely wipe the underlined clause out.

Comic books represent not only the typical constraints of language (idiolect, double meanings, idioms, et al.) but also space limitations. For information, comics provide information not only through words but they are also linked to a strip and the translator should confine translation to the space they have. Keep in mind that in most cases the original author does not do their work thinking about how it will be translated but about ensuring that the strips have the exact right size to fit the text. Thus, the researcher concluded that the translator abolished the underlined clause to fit the strips of the comic strips books.

Data 6

Source Language: I try to hold it in. I really do. But I can't. ***By the time I pull myself together***, Mr. Galvin is handing me a pink slip for five hours of detention. (Pierce, 2010:194)

Target Language: Aku berusaha menahannya. Benar-benar berusaha. Pak Galvin menyerahkan sehelai kertas pink pertanda disetrap selama lima jam. (Wardhani, 2011:194)

There is a quite long utterance by Nate who laughs for his teacher, Mr. Galvin's shirt which has ink stain. It can be seen in the middle of sentence of the utterance above written "*I try to hold it in. I really do. But I can't. **By the time I pull myself together**, Mr. Galvin is handing me a pink slip for five hours of detention.*" And how it had been translated into target language "*Aku berusaha menahannya. Benar-benar berusaha. Pak Galvin menyerahkan sehelai kertas pink pertanda disetrap selama lima Jam.*

The researcher found a clause class loss in the picture above, because the translator did not translate the last underlined clause of the utterance and it had been deleted from the utterance in the target language. It is already explained that comic books represent not only the typical constraints of language (idiolect, double meanings, idioms, et al.) but also space limitations. It can be seen that the translator had a space limitation, thus, the translator removed the middle clause to fit the strips of the comic without changing the meaning and the style of the source language text.

3.4 The Discussion of Word Gain

Data 7

Source Language: Dudes! He says, pointing excitedly. "Check it out!"
(Pierce, 2010:106)

Target Language: Teman-teman! Serunya, ***sambil*** menuding dengan gembira.
"Lihat itu!" (Wardhani, 2011:107)

In the data above, the sentence in the source language *Dudes! He says, pointing excitedly. "Check it out!"* which has been translated into target language become *Teman-teman! Serunya, **sambil** menuding dengan gembira. "**Sambil**"* the italicized word is the word added by the translator although this word cannot be found in the source language. The researcher concludes that the translator added a word "**sambil**" in the target language to give an emphasizing in the utterance.

Data 8

Source Language: "Nice try, Ken, but you should probably stick to wood shop."

(Pierce, 2010:110)

Target Language: "Usaha yang bagus, Ken, tapi mungkin seharusnya kau memahat kayu **saja**." (Wardhani, 2011:110)

In the source language above, it is written "*Nice try, Ken, but you should probably stick to wood shop.*" Meanwhile in the target language text it is written "*Usaha yang bagus, Ken, tapi mungkin seharusnya kau memahat kayu **saja**.*" The translator was gained a word **saja** in the target language which does not exist in the source language. In this case, the translator wanted to emphasize the suggestion of the man who says that he suggests to choose wood, so the translator added a word **saja** in the target language text.

3.5 The Discussion of Phrase Gain

Data 9

Source Language: "We all know you don't ask Chester for favors."

(Pierce, 2010:123)

Target Language: "*Yang benar saja. Kami semua tahu tidak mungkin minta tolong pada Chester.*" (Wardhani, 2011:123)

In the source language above, it is written "*We all know you don't ask Chester for favors.*" While in the target language is written "***Yang benar saja. Kami semua tahu tidak mungkin minta tolong pada Chester.***" The translator added a phrase of *yang benar saja* in the target language to make the text as natural as

possible. Besides that, it will sound awkward if the translator translates it word for word without adding that phrase. It is also because the translator wanted to make an aesthetic form of the text.

Data 10

Source Language: Dad handed out rice cakes for Halloween one year. That was also the year our house got egged. Connect the dots, dad.
(Pierce, 2010:9)

Target Language: Pernah ayah membagi-bagikan kue beras selama Halloween. pada tahun yang sama rumah kami dilempari telur. *Coba tebak* hubungan antara keduanya, yah. (Wardhani, 2011:9)

In the source language above, it is written “*Dad handed out rice cakes for Halloween one year. That was also the year our house got egged. Connect the dots, dad.*” Meanwhile, in the target language it can be “*Pernah ayah membagi-bagikan kue beras selama Halloween. Pada tahun yang sama rumah kami dilempari telur. **Coba tebak** hubungan antara keduanya, yah.*” The translator added a phrase of “*coba tebak*” in the target language. What is often seen as ‘lost’ from the source language context may be emphasized in the target language context. Thus, the translator added a phrase of “*coba tebak*” to emphasize Nate’s dad fact that there is connection of handing out rice cakes and the house got egged. Thus, the translator added a word ***coba tebak*** in the target language text.

IV CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data related to the loss and gain in translation process in *Big Nate* comic strips books into Indonesian, the researcher concludes that there is the process of loss and gain which can be found. The process of loss and gain gives the effects to the readers to catch the messages of the source language to the target language easily.

The reasons why the translator did the loss and gain process in translation process in *Big Nate* comic strips books into Indonesian are mostly because the

translator wanted to make a good translation that sounds natural and acceptable by the readers. Besides that, the translator sometimes did the loss process because of the space limitation, so he tried to eliminate some words without changing the meaning or the context of the source text.

Finally, the researcher concludes that the result of the translation process in *Big Nate* comic strips books into Indonesian is good and acceptable.

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