THE IMPACT OF TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES TOWARD TRANSLATION QUALITY OF MICOAGGRESSION EXPRESSIONS TO LGBT IN BOYS DON'T CRY SUBTITLE

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Abstract

There are so many American films that use LGBT as the theme now in mainstream media such as Netflix, HBO, and Amazon Premium. Some of those films have been streamed in Indonesia. However, there might be some problems regarding the translated subtitle because Indonesia doesn't have as many gendered-languages as America. The aims of this research are to identify the translation techniques and translation quality of microaggression expressions in Boys Don't Cry movie subtitle. This research uses descriptive qualitative method. This qualitative descriptive research is an embedded-cased study and a product-oriented of translation research. The source data of the research are microaggression expressions directed toward LGBT in Boys Don't Cry. The data are collected through document analysist and FGD (Focus Group Discussion). The results of this research reveal that the translation techniques found in.

Keywords: Translation, Techniques, Quality, Microaggressions, LGBT

Introduction

It's a fact that LGBT people face hardships while living among heterosexual people. They are discriminated, assaulted, and harassed whether it's physically or verbally. The subtle insult that they receive every day is then called as microaggression. (Sue, 2010; Nadal et al, 2012). However, in 1960s, started from America, there were so many movements regarding the existence of LGBT. LGBT people started to riot, demanding equality and acceptance. The result of their movements could be seen starting from 1990s, where mainstream media started using LGBT as the theme. Some contents like films, novels, and serials are even streamed throughout the world, including Indonesia.

Problems then arise because Indonesia as the target language doesn't have as many as gendered-language as English as source language. For example, the use of pronoun *'he'* directed toward a trans woman is seen as very insulting microaggression, but when it is translated to Indonesian language, *'he'* becomes *'dia'* and as a result, the microaggression expression is untenable. Another problem is English has so many words to degrade LGBT such as *tranny, faggot,* and *dyke* but the most common words in Indonesian are *banci* and *bencong* and the damage that is caused by these words are not as strong as the denigrating language in English.

There are some previous studies related to this topic. Flotow and Hernandez (2018), Argyriou (2021), Baros (2021), and Yavuz (2015) described about the strategies to solve problems that happen during the process of translating some gendered-languages into non-gendered-languages. The focus of their studies is translation process research. Thus, research about translation product in relation with translation techniques used to translate microaggression expressions toward LGBT and its translation quality is still limited. Hence, the aims of this

research are to analyse the translation techniques used to translate microaggression expressions in Boys Don't Cry subtitle and its translation quality.

Some theories that are used in this research are Sue (2010) to classify the form of microaggression expressions (microassault, microinsult, and microinvalidations), Nadal (2012) to classify the theme of gender and sexual orientation based microaggression, Molina & Albir (2002 to analyse the translation techniques, and Nababan (2012) to analyse the translation quality from three aspects; accuracy, acceptability, and readability.

Method

This research is a descriptive qualitative that aims to describe linguistic phenomena in terms of the translation of microaggression expressions toward LGBT. Besides, it's also a product-oriented translation research. It's called translation research because it compares two languages, English as the source language and Indonesian as the target language. It's also an ethnographic study because it studies the language used in a certain community which is LGBT.

The source data of this research is a movie entitled Boys Don't Cry and its subtitle which contain microaggression expressions. The data are collected through content analysis and Focus Group Discussion (FGD). Content analysis is used to classify the form and the theme of microaggression expressions toward LGBT while FGD is used to determine that translation quality of the expressions. During the process of FGD, the raters are given an instrument to score the translation quality. The instrument used is the instrument from Nababan (2012).

Furthermore, the data are analysed according to the data analysist method from Spradley (1980). In domain analysis, the researcher collected all microaggression expressions found in the subtitle. Next, during the taxonomy analysis step, the researcher classified all the translation techniques used to translation microaggression expressions toward LGBT employed by the translator. After that, all the elements from domain and taxonomy analysis are combined in componential analysis to analyse the impact of translation techniques to translation quality. In the end, the researcher can describe the pattern arise from those analysis.

Findings and Discussions

Table 3.1 the Correlation of Microaggression Expressions, Translation Techniques and

Gender and Sex of The Speaker	Form of Microaggression	Theme of Microaggression	Σ	Translation Techniques	Σ	Average Translation Quality		
						KA	KB	KT
Cisgender Heterosexual Man	Microassault	Theme 1	10	Established Equivalence	9	2,7	2,9	2,9
				Particularization	6			
				Variation	3			
				Implisitation	2			
				Discursive Creation	2			

			Pure Borrowing	1			
	Theme 3	3	Established Equivalence	7	3	3	3
			Variation	3			
			Explisitation	2			
			Modulation	1			
			Paraphrase	1			
	Theme 8	2	Established Equivalence	5	3	3	3
			Variation	3			
			Compensation	1			
			Particularization	1			
	Theme 12	2	Established Equivalence	5	3	3	3
			Variation	1			
	Theme 2	1	Variation	1	2	2	2
			Discursive Creation	1			
Σ of Microassault		18					
Microinsult	Theme 3	1	Established Equivalence	1	3	3	3
			Variation	1			
	Theme 7	1	Established Equivalence	4	3	3	3
			Modulation	1			
Σ of Microinsult		2					
Micro-invalidations	Theme 1	9	Pure Borrowing	5	2,7	2,9	2,9
			Generalisation	2			
			Variation	1			
			Discursive Creation	1			
			Explisitation	1			
	Theme 8	4	Established Equivalence	6	2,5	3	3
			Variation	2			
			Generalisation	2			
	Theme 9	2	Established Equivalence	1	3	3	3
			Paraphrase	1			
			Transposition	1			

Category	Form	Theme		Technique				
		Theme 3	1	Established Equivalence	3	3	3	3
				Compensation	1			
				Explisitation	1			
		Theme 5	1	Established Equivalence	2	3	3	3
				Variation	1			
		Theme 10	1	Established Equivalence	2	3	3	3
				Variation	1			
	Σ of Microinvalidations		21					
	Microassault	Theme 1	1	Pure Borrowing	1	3	3	3
		Theme 7	1	Modulation	1	3	3	3
	Σ of Microassault		2					
Cisgender Heterosexual Woman	Microinsult	Theme 4	1	Established Equivalence	2	2	3	3
				Variation	1			
				Discursive Creation	1			
		Theme 7	1	Established Equivalence	4	3	3	3
				Variation	1			
		Theme 5	1	Variation	1	3	3	3
				Established Equivalence	1			
		Theme 3	2	Discursive Creation	3	1	2	2
	Σ of Microinsult		5					
	Micro-invalidations	Theme 3	1	Established Equivalence	1	3	3	3
				Variation	1			
				Explisitation	1			
	Σ of Microinvalidations		1					

There are 49 data found in the source data, 41 data are microaggression expressions spoken by cisgender heterosexual man, while 8 data are spoken by cisgender heterosexual woman. This can be seen that male characters in this film are more aggressive and tend to behave ruthless and say microaggression expressions to LGBT compared to female characters. Moreover, according to table 3.1, all the form of microaggression expressions proposed by Sue (2010) found, those are microassault, microinsult, and microinvalidations. However, each form of microaggression is projected with different gender and sexual-orientation based microaggression (Nadal, 2012).

Theme 1 is the most common theme used in this film. According to Nadal (2012), theme 1 is the use of transphobic and/or incorrectly gendered terminology. It also covers the use of denigrating language intended to mock or belittle LGBT people.

The translator used different translation techniques to translate each theme that's found in the subtitle. Each technique that's used has different effect on the quality. Established equivalence is the most common technique found in the data. The use of established equivalence doesn't mean the accuracy would be good, if this technique is combined with discursive creation, it would produce less accurate translation. More explanation about translation techniques used in each theme are as follows:

Theme 1 of Mircoassault by Cisgender Heterosexual Man:

There are 10 data found under this theme. The translation techniques used to translate this theme are established equivalence (9), particularisation (6), variation (3), implisitation (2), discursive creation (2), and pure borrowing (1). The average quality of translation affected by the techniques employed by the translator are 2,7 (accuracy), 2,9 (acceptability), and 2,9 (readability). The translation is less accurate because of the use of discursive creation technique. This technique also affects the acceptability and the readability.

SL: "Don't talk to me like that, you *skanky little snake*!"

TL: "Jangan bicara seperti itu padaku, *ular beludak kecil*!"

From the example above, the translator used discursive creation technique and it resulted the shift of the form of microaggression expressions to LGBT, it also resulted in a less accurate translation. Skanky is a word to denigrate someone, based on the form, it's included in microassault because it's spoken with a very harsh way, while the theme is theme 1 because skanky is actually used to denigrate the main character who is trans man. But in TL, the word skanky translated into *ular*, and there's no microaggression expression found in this sentence anymore. It is related to the fact that there is no equivalent word to describe skanky in Indonesian.

Theme 8 of Microinvalidations by Cisgender Heterosexual Man:

There are 4 data found in this theme. The translation techniques used to translate this theme are established equivalence (6), variation (2), and generalisation (2). The use of generalisation technique resulted a less accurate translation such follow 2,5 for the accuracy; 3 for the acceptability; and 3 for the readability.

SL: "Think they'd recognise *her* if we chopped *her* head and hands?"

TL: "Apakah mereka akan mengenalinya jika kita potong kepala*nya* dan tangan*nya*?"

From the example above, it can be seen that the use of generalisation make the microaggresion expressions totally disappeared in the target language. The use of pronoun her directed to trans man is seen as very insulting in source language. However, since Indonesian doesn't have gendered pronoun, this problem is inevitable. The impact of generalisation also resulted a shifting in the form of microaggession, from microinvalidation to no microaggression expression.

Theme 4 of Microinsult by Cisgender Heterosexual Woman:

There is only 1 data found under this theme. The reason is because woman characters in this film are not as aggressive as the male characters. To translate this theme, the translator used three techniques which are established equivalence (2), variation (1), and discursive creation (1). The use of these techniques resulted a less accurate translation as the impact of discursive creation.

SL: "*I don't want 'it' in my house.*"

TL: "*Aku tak mau dia ada disini*."

The word it is translated into *dia*, which make the expression of microaggression disappeared.

Theme 3 of Microinvalidations by Cisgender Heterosexual Woman:

To translate the data under this theme, the translator used established equivalence (1), variation (1), and explisitation (1). These techniques resulted in a very good translation. The accuracy is 3, the acceptability is 3, and the readability is also 3.

SL: "What the fuck are you?!"

TL: "Apa kau ini sebenarnya?!"

It can be seen that the microaggression expressions can be maintained with the combination of the techniques.

Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussions, it can be seen that male characters tend to speak more microaggression expressions that female characters. Related with translation techniques and quality, it can be concluded that using established equivalence doesn't mean that the translation is going to be good. If the technique is combined with generalisation and discursive creation the translation quality is affected. It becomes less accurate, less acceptable, and less readable. The problems also related with the fact that Indonesian doesn't have as many as gendered-language as English so it is inevitable when some microaggression expressions cannot be maintained. Further research can focus on how to solve the problem related with gendered-language in Indonesian media.

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