TECHNIQUES OF TRANSLATION OF CULTURAL WORDS AND ITS QUALITY IN *THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY* NOVEL

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Abstract

This research analyzed the translation of cultural words in The Midnight Library novel. The purpose of this research is to find out the cultural words based on Newmark's theory (1988). Which translation technique is used to translate the cultural words according to the theory of Molina and Albir (2002). Quality assessment of cultural words by using the theory Nababan (2013). This analysis used a qualitative descriptive approach to considering data of words and phrases contained in the novel. In this study, researchers used some techniques to collect and analyze data. The result showed that there were 5 types of cultural words in the novel, which were; ecology (28%), material culture (46%), social culture (8%), social organization and customs (8%) and gestures and habits (10%). There are 9 out of 18 translation techniques applied to cultural words; borrowing (38%), amplification (10%), adaptation (6%), generalization (4%), particularization (4%), established equivalent (26%), descriptive (2%), reduction (6%), and variation (4%). The cultural words included in the translation do not affect the quality of the translation. Therefore, the translation of the cultural words is of decent quality; the translation is accurate, acceptable and readable in the target language.

Keywords: Cultural words, Translation technique, Quality assessment of translation, Novel

1. INTRODUCTION

The translation is the process of transferring language from the SL into the TL and is carried out accurately and correctly without any distortion of meaning by the translator. As we can see, language and culture are two interrelated things, because these two things have characteristics in communication and have a vocabulary in each country. Every country has cultural words in the utterance of its language, but not everyone understands the cultural words themselves.

A novel is one of many literary works. Novels become a translation option for the translator. Although novels have been translated into several foreign languages, sometimes a problem arises when the words, phrases, and sentences cannot be translated. The problem arises is when the reader finds the cultural words but does not understand what it means, because there is a gap between the source language and the target language. According to Newmark (1988) " Most 'cultural' words are easy to detect,since they are associated with a particular lamguage and cannot be literally translated, but many cultural customs are described in

ordinary language, where literal translation would distort the meaning and a translation may included an appropriate descriptive-functional equivalent". (p.95).

Sometimes, the readers it cannot understands the meanings for a cultural words itself, in consequence it is important for the translators to transfer message in order to make it clearly the text SL from TL without any reduction.

Larson (1998) stated, " The goal of the translator is to keep the meaning constant… the receptor language form should be changed in so that the SL meaning not be distorted". (p12).

Catford mentioned that the translation is the replacement of the material textual in a source language (SL) with its equivalent in another language or target language (TL) throughout the translation. (1965) (p20).

The researcher chose The Midnight Library novel as a data source for this study because he wanted to know if word cultural words occurred in the novel. There are elements of cultural words in a novel that cannot be translated or are difficult for readers to understand. The purpose of this research is to classify the cultural words in the novel by using the theory of Newmark (1988), what translation technique is used by translators in the cultural words based on theory Molina and Albir (2002), and the quality assessment translation of cultural words using theory from Nababan (2012). In the process of analyzing the data, the researcher also uses some supporting theories, which are theories from Catford (1965), Bolinger (1983), and Vinay and Darbelnet (1995).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1 Cultural Categories

The word that contains cultural words needs an appropriate translation.

Many countries have sub-cultures in one language. Newmark (1988:94) define, "cultural as the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression."

Here are some cultural categories. Newmark (1988) classified the cultural words into 5 categories.

1. Ecology

Geographical features can be normally distinguished from other cultural terms in that they are usually value-free, politically and commercially. Newmark (1988) defined, that many countries have local words for ecology, such as; *flora, fauna, winds, plains, and hills*. (p.96)

2. Material Culture

There are some types of material culture; food, clothes, houses and towns, building, and transportation. Food is for the most sensitive and important expression of national culture. Clothes as cultural terms may be sufficiently for TL general readers. (p.97).

3. Social Culture

There are two types of social culture; work and leisure. In considering social culture one has to distinguish between denotative and connotative translation. (p.98)

4. Organizations and customs

Political and administrative included categories as cultural words. The political and social life of a country is reflected in its institutional terms. (p.99)

4. Gestures and Habits

There is a distinction between description and function which can be made where necessary in ambiguous cases when gestures and habits are one

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of culture all of which in some cultures and other. Example: *kiss their finger to greet or to praise*.

2.2 Translation Technique

The strategy is important in translation, a translator uses it for comprehension and reformulation overcoming problems in translation. This research used translation techniques to analyze cultural words. Molina and Albir stated that we need the category of translation technique by the translators in each textual micro-units and obtain clear data about the general methodological option chosen".(2002) (p499). Molina and Albir defined the translation technique, as follows:

1. Adaptation

The translation is used to replace a cultural element from the source language with from the target language. (p.509)

2. Amplification

The translation technique is to introduce details that are not formulated in the source language with information explicative paraphrasing. (p.510)

3. Borrowing

Borrowing to take a word or expression straight from another language. Borrowing is divided into two; pure borrowing is translated without any change, while naturalized borrowing is translated to fit the spelling rules in the target language. (p.510)

4. Description

Translation technique to subtitute a term or expression with a explanation of its form and function.(p.510)

5. Establishment Equivalent

To use a terms that is general to make it equivalent from SL into TL and the words based on dictionaries.(p.510)

6. Generalization

The translation to make it more general to use a term in the SL into TL. (p.510)

7. Particularization

The translation technique where the translator used more precise, concrete, or specific terms. (p.510)

8. Reduction

This technique is applied by eliminating a part, because the refining is not supposed to induce distortion. (p.510)

9. Variation

Variation is the technique of realization with the change of a linguistic structure and paralinguistic influence that influence linguistic variations such as textual tone, language style, dialect, social dialects, and geographical dialects This technique is frequently used when translating drama scripts. (p.511)

2.3 Quality Assessment of Translation

According to Nababan (2012), the result of the right translation can be categorized into three aspects that is; accuracy, readability, and acceptability.

Table 1
Translation Accuracy Assessment
Instrument (p.50)

Translation Category	Indication	Score
Accurate	The meanings of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, and sentences in the Bsu were accurately modifiy into the Bsa. There is no distortion of meaning in the translation.	3

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Less Accurate	Mostly, the words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and technical terms in Bsu is modify accurately into Bsa. However, there is a double distortion of the meaning or omitted, so that the message is interrupted.	2
Inaccurate	In the Bsu a meaning of words, phrases, clauses, technica terms, and sentences it was inaccurately redirected into Bsa.	1

Table 2
Translation Readability Assessment
Instrument (p.51)

Translation Category	Indication	Score
High-Readable	In the translation of words, phrases, clauses, sentences and technical terms is easily understood by the readers.	3
Less Readable	The translation are generally can be understood, but there is some partial have to be read more than once.	2
Unreadable	The translation text is difficult for readers to understand.	1

Table 3
Translation Acceptability
Assessment Instrument (p.51)

Translation Category	Indication	Score
Acceptable	A translation seems natural; a terms that used generally familiar to the reader. The phrases, clauses, and sentences used are in accordance with Indonesian language rules.	3
Less Acceptable	In general, the translation seems natural, but there is a problem with the use of technical terms and grammatical errors.	2

Inacceptable	The translation is unnatural because inaccordance with Indonesian language rules.	1

2.4 PREVIOUS STUDIES

Many earlier studies are relevant to this research about cultural words. First, research conducted by Kuswahono, (2019) , analyzed the kinds of cultural terms and translation techniques used by translators to translate cultural terms based on Venuti's theory. Next, research conducted by Nauly (2021), analyzed the translation technique to translate cultural terms by using theory Molina and Albir, and translation quality of assessment accuracy, readability, and acceptability from Nababan. He chose Chef movie subtitles as the source of data. Journal from Hapsari and Setyaningsih, (2013) investigated the types of cultural words and translation procedures based on the theory Newmark (1988) the source data in this research is the Twilight novel. Then, Salsabila's journal (2020) analyzed cultural expression in Magazine of Garuda Indonesia's Inflight using translation strategies based on the theory Baker (1992).

However, this research to find out the types of cultural words, translation technique, and quality translation of cultural words are based on theory Newmark (1988), Molina and Albir (2002), and Nababan (2012). The differences between the previous studies and this research is the source data that was used. This research used the novel The Midnight Library as the source of data.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This research employed a descriptive qualitative method which is used to describe the translation of cultural words and to know the method

used by translators in the Indonesian Version of The Midnight Library Novel. This research aims to analyze cultural words to answer the question. Vanderstoep and Johnston, (2009) Qualitative research examines the meanings of experiences by investigating how people define, describe, and metaphorically make sense of them.. (p.165).

The data of this research are cultural words in The Midnight Library novel written by Matt Haig (2020) since the cultural words appear in the novel. The source of data is an English Novel written by Matt Haig and the Indonesian novel version written by Dharmawati. To analyze the source of data, the research takes data from words or phrases in a novels that contain cultural words. The technique of collecting data by the research; 1.) Reading the Midnight Library novel in English and Indonesian versions; 2.) Highlight the words that contain cultural words in the novel; 3.) Collect and match the data that contain cultural words in English and Indonesian versions; 4.) Classified data using cultural categories; 5.) Analyzed data using translation technique. The next steps are the research analyzing data; 1.) Classified the types of cultural words by using theory Newmark (1988); 2.) Analyzing the translation technique used in the translation of cultural words in the novel theory of Molina and Albir (2002); 3.) Translation assessment quality of translation in cultural words by using theory Nababan (2012).

4. RESULT AND DISSCUSION
4.1 RESULT

This research found 50 data that contain cultural words and that have been classified into 5 types; ecology, social culture, material culture, organization & customs, and gestures

and habits. Translation techniques that applied in this research, which were; borrowing 19 data (38%), amplification 5 data (10%), adaptation 3 data (6%), establishment equivalent 13 data (26%), generalization 2 data (4%), particularization 2 data (4%), description 1 data (2%), reduction 3 data (6%), and variation 2 data (4%). After that, indicators for quality of translation showed that the 8 data analyzed were accurate, acceptable, and highly readable.

4.2 DISCUSSION
A. Ecology

01/TML/SL/22	"…research among **glaciers**…."
01/PTM/TL/28	*"...penelitian diantara gletser-gletser…"*

The word "... **glaciers**…" is translated in SL into "...***gletser-gletser***…" in the TL and it is under the category of **Ecology** (**plains**) for '***gletser***' is an Indonesian ecological feature. Newmark (1988) stated " Many countries have 'local' words… when they become more or less a lexical item in the 'importing' TL- and may be subject to naturalisation." (96-97). According to KII (1976, p.270) '**glacier**' *kb*, means *'sungai es, gletser*. The translation technique applied here is **Variation** since there is a change in textual tone and geographical dialect in the TL. According to Molina and Albir, "To change linguistic or paralinguistic elements (intonation, gestures) that affects aspects of linguistic variation; changes of textual tone, style, social dialect, geographical dialect, etc., e.g., to introduce or change dialectal indicators for characters when translating for the theater, changes in ton…" (2002, p511). Bolinger stated, "The intonation, is commonly found on

yes-no questions in several of languages and dialects, including some dialects of English…" (1983:167).

Looking into the accuracy of the translation, the lexical item is translated accurately into the TL, scored 3 and there is no distortion in meaning (Nababan *et al*., 2012:50). The score for acceptability is also 3 because it follows the rules, norms, or culture of Indonesian languages…(Nababan *et al*., 2012:51). In terms of readability, it is also 3 since the translation is easy to understand without having to read it more than once. (Nababan *et al*., 2012:51)

	02/TML/SL/19	"…catching a glimpse of the clusters of **irises** in Mr. Banerjee's garden as she went."
3		
	02/PTM/TL/36	*"…melirik sekilas ke petak **bunga iris** di kebun Mr. Banerjee sewaktu berjalan masuk."*
0		

The translation of **"…irises…"** (plural) in the SL into **"…*bunga iris*…"** (singular) in the TL has included a category **of Ecology (flora)**. Catford, (1965:80) stated, "… in each language, the system is one of two terms –singular and plural –and these terms may also be regarded as formally corresponding". According to KII (1976, p331) **'iris'** *kb*, means *bunga iris*. The word was translated by using **Amplification** technique translation. Molina and Albir (2002: 510) amplification is to introduce that are not formulated in the SL information, explicative paraphrasing. Amplification is the translation technique whereby a target language unit requires more words than the source language to express the same idea. (Vinay&Darbelnet, 1995:339).

The accuracy of its translation, the SL into the TL scored 3 and no distortion in meaning (Nababan *et al*., 2012:50). The score for acceptability is

also 3 because it follows the rules, norms, or culture of Indonesian languages…(Nababan *et al*., 2012:51). In terms of readability, which also scores 3, the translation is easy to understand without having to read it more than once. (Nababan *et al*., 2012:51).

B. Material Culture

| 03/TML/SL/18 | "…the same seconhand green **corduroy**…" |
| 03/PTM/TL/21 | *"…gaun bekas tanpa lengan berbahan **korduroi**…"* |

The translation of "...**corduroy**…" in the SL into "...*korduroi*…" in the TL and it belongs to the category of Material culture (clothes). Here, the word "...*korduroi*…" has its cultural feature in Indonesian. Newmark (1988: p96-97) stated " Many countries have 'local' words… when they become more or less a lexical item in the 'importing' TL- and may be subject to naturalisation." (1988:97). According to KII (1976: 147) '**corduroy**' *kb*, means *'semacam beledu, korduroi.* The translation technique applied is **naturalized borrowing** because there is a change in spelling in TL. Molina and Albir (2002:510) stated, "Borrowing to take a word or expression straight from another language… (to fit the spelling rules in the TL). Naturalization is transference which is the SL spelling and morphology (and pronunciation) of the TL. Newmark (1988, p82).

The quality of the translation assessment for accuracy is scored 3 because there is no distortion of meaning (Nababan *et al*., 2012:50). The score for acceptable is also 3 because the use follows the rules in accordance with Indonesia language. (Nababan *et al*., 2012:51). Readability also scored 3 because the translated text is easily understood to the reader. (Nababan *et al*., 2012:51).

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04/TML/SL/144	"It was the first time that Dan had expressed his dream of living in a **pub** in the country."
04/PTM/TL/260	*"Saat itulah untuk pertama kalinya Dan mengutarakan mimpinya tinggal di **pub** di pedesaan."*

The word "...**pub**..." is not translated in the SL into TL and it is under the category of **Material Culture (building)**. Newmark (1988:115) stated, "...many languages have a typical house which for general purposes remains untranslated". According to Oxford Dictionary (2008:355) '**pub**' *n*, means a *building where alcoholic drinks are sold and drunk*. The translation technique applied here is **Pure Borrowing** because the word there is no change in SL to TL. According to Molina and Albir (2002: 510) stated " borrowing to take a word or expression straight from language...(without any change)." A word or expression borrowed directly from another language, in its form and meaning. (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995:340).

The accuracy of its translation scored 3 because no distortion in the meaning. (Nababan *et al*., 2012: 50). The acceptability score 3 because it follows the rules, norms, and culture of the Indonesian language…(Nababan *et al*., 2012:51). The readability is also scored 3, the translation text is easy to understand without having to read it more than once. (Nababan *et al*., 2012:51).

C. Social Culture

05/TML/SL/23	" Mr. Blandford, do an **assembly** on you once?"
05/PTM/TL/31	*"Mr. Blandford, pernah mengadakan **apel** sekolah untukmu?"*

The terms '**assembly**' in the SL is translated into "*apel*" in the TL and categorized as **Social culture** and it has a cultural feature in Indonesian. In

considering social culture one has to distinguish between denotative and connotative… this contrasts with the connotative difficulties of the word (Newmark, 1988: 98). The word is connotative because it has the same meaning. According to KII (1976, p41) '**assembly**' *kb*, means *pertemuan, kumpulan*. The synonym of '*apel*' with 2 *n* means *upacara*. (Tesaurus Bahasa Indonesia, 2008:26). The translation technique applied here is **Adaptation** since it replaces the cultural element in the SL into TL. According to Molina and Albir " To subtitute a cultural element in the SL inro TL, since the cultural element SL cannot found in the TL". In addition, Vinay and Darbelnet stated " …it is used in those cases where the type of situation being referred to by the SL message is unknown in the TL culture". (1995:39).

The accuracy of its translation scored 3 because no distortion in the meaning. (Nababan *et al.,* 2012: 50). The acceptability score 3 because it follows the rules, norms, and culture of the Indonesian language…(Nababan *et al*., 2012:51). The readability is also scored 3, the translation text is easy to understand without having to read it more than once. (Nababan *et al*., 2012:51).

06/TML/SL/137	" The dream of her becoming a swimming **champion** belonged to her father."
06/PTM/TL/247	*" Mimpinya untuk menjadi **jawara** renang adalah mimpi ayahnya."*

The translation of '**champion**' in the SL became "*jawara*" in the TL included category of **Social Culture** since the TL has cultural features in Indonesian. Newmark (1988) stated, " In considering social culture one has to distinguish between denotative and connotative..". (p98). According to KII (1976, p106) '**champion**' *kb*, means

juara which is synonymous with 2 *n* **'jawara'** Tesaurus Bahasa Indonesia (2008: 220). The terms were translated by using the **Particularization** technique translation. According to Molina and Albir " To use a more precise or concrete term… it is in opposition to generalization" (2002: 510). According to Vinay and Darbelnet (1995:348) " The translation technique in which a general (abstract) term is translated by a specific (concrete) term".

The translation accuracy was scored 3 since there was no meaning distortion. (Nababan *et al.,* 2012: 50). The acceptability score is 3 because it adheres to Indonesian language rules, norms, and culture... (Nababan *et al*., 2012:51).The readability of the translation text is also scored 3; it is easy to understand without having to read it more than once. (Nababan *et al*., 2012:51).

D. Social Organisation

| 07/TML/SL/19 | " She remembered standing on a podium at the **National Swimming Championships**." |
| 07/PTM/TL/23 | " *Ia ingat berdiri diatas podium* **Kejuaraan Renang Nasional***.*" |

The SL **" National Swimming Championships"** in the TL into **" Kejuaraan Renang Nasional"** included a category of Social Organisation. The word **"…Championships.."** (plural) in SL and into **" …Kejuaraan"** (singular) in the TL. According to Catford (1988:80)"… in each language, the system is one of two terms –singular and plural –and these terms may also be regarded as formally corresponding". According to KII (1976, p106) **'championship'** *kb*, means *kejuaraan*. The translation applied here is **Established Equivalent** since the word exists in the dictionary. According to Molina and Albir " To use a term that

is general as an equivalent in TL based on dictionaries". (2002:510). In addition, according to Newmark (1988, p48) "The main goal of any translation should be to equivalent effect to produce the same effect (or one as close as possible) on the readership of the translation and has obtained on the readership of the orginal".

The accuracy of its translation scored 3 because no distortion in the meaning. (Nababan *et al*., 2012: 50). The acceptability score 3 because it follows the rules, norms, and culture of the Indonesian language…(Nababan *et al.,* 2012:51). The readability is also scored 3, the translation text is easy to understand without having to read it more than once. (Nababan *et al*., 2012:51).

E.Gestures and Habits

| 08/TML/SL/140 | " What are you having today? He asked, sweetly, **nodding** to Nora's launchbox." |
| 08/PTM/TL/252 | " *Kau makan apa hari ini? Tanyanya manis,* **mengangguk** *ke kotak makan siang Nora.*" |

The translation of "...**nodding**...*"* in the SL into "…**mengangguk**…" in the TL and is under the category of **Gesture** because it is a non-cultural language. Newmark (1988:102) stated, " there is a distinction between description and function which can be made where necessary in ambiguous cases". According to KII (1976, p395) **'nod'** *kb*, means *angguk(an), mengangguk*. This word is applied by using the **Established Equivalent** technique translation. Molina and Albir (2002:510) stated " To use a term that is general in the words based on dictionaries". Newmark (1988:83) stated, "…applied to cultural words, it presupposes the use of a culture-free

word, sometimes with a new specific term; this neutralises or generalises the SL word, and occasionally adds a specific term.".

The accuracy of its translation is given a score of 3 because there was no meaning distortion. (Nababan *et al.*, 2012: 50). The acceptability score is 3 since it follows Indonesian language rules, norms, and culture... (Nababan *et al.*, 2012:51). The readability of the translated text is also scored 3, indicating that it is simple to comprehend without having to read it more than once. (Nababan *et al.*, 2012:51).

5. CONCLUSION

Afterward, the result of this research showed 50 data contain cultural words and found 5 cultural categories based on Newmark's theory (1988) in The Midnight Library novel. Data that has been found the most to a category of cultural words are material culture 23 data (46%). Then, the category of ecology 14 data (28%), social culture 4 data 9 (8%), social organization and customs 4 data (8%), and gestures and habits 5 data (10%). As result of translation techniques applied in cultural words, there are 9 out of 18 categories of translation techniques. The most translation technique is used pure borrowing with 19 data (38%), amplification with 5 data (10%), adaptation with 3 data (6%), establishment equivalent with 13 data (26%), generalization with 2 data (4%), particularization with 2 data (4%0, description 1 data (2%), reduction with 3 data (6%), and variation with 2 data (4%). Thereafter, the result of quality translation showed that 8 data has been analyzed and translated with accuracy, acceptable, and highly readable into a target language.

In the conclusion, the researcher would like to give suggestions for readers and translators. For the readers, I recommend those who are interested in studying the use of translation in the cultural words to provide an understanding of each cultural word's meaning. The translator should be familiar with the vocabulary of cultural words to avoid the problem with the translation and distorting the meaning. The researchers hope that this study will assist future researchers to examine each cultural words.

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