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## An Analysis on the Translation Technique in Subtitle of Dialogues in the La La Land Movie

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### Abstract

This study analyzed the translation techniques used in the dialogue subtitles of the “La La Land” movie that was directed by Damien Chazelle. The objectives of this research were to find out the translation technique used in the dialogues, to find out the dominant techniques used by the translator, and to describe the translation technique used by the translator in subtitling. The theory used to analyze the translation technique is the theory of Molina and Albir (2002). This research is classified into qualitative descriptive research. The results of this study indicate that there were seven techniques used by translators. These techniques were borrowing (1,36%), linguistic amplification (6,02%), linguistic compression (8,49%), adaptation (0,28%), description (0,28%), literal translation (80,00%), and reduction (3,57%). From these results, it can be concluded that the translation technique that were dominantly used by translators was a literal translation. Besides, subsequent research can provide knowledge that can be useful for readers and can be the next related research that will be reviewed. Further research is also needed to keep up with the development of translation studies.

**Keywords:** translation technique, subtitle, La La Land, movie.

### Introduction

As we know that English is an international language that has been used since ancient Roman times. English is the oldest language in the world and emerged around the 5th century. Along with the passage of time with the development of global technology, English is also experiencing development. One of which found several versions of the English language used in certain countries. Has many sources of information found in English in it. Such as books, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, etc. Even in the world of education and work today people are required to be able to understand the basic of English. People who understand English also give a chance for others to understand anything in written form or spoken with translation. Therefore, translation is important to make people understand about the meaning in the source language. From the definition, translation is changing the source language (SL) into the target language (TL).

Nida (1964) and Taber (1982) stated that translating consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. Therefore, a translator must have the ability to translate source language (SL) into the target language (TL). Looking for an appropriate equivalent is the foremost vital thing in translation moreover, the meanings passed on from SL to TL involve a move and influence the quality of the translation itself. Translation has an important role in life human communication. Translation also can help people to understand

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the different languages. The activities of translation become a piece of equipment for making the best communication. Such spoken and written, both of them are the configuration of the translation. Communication affects ideas, knowledge, and information. That's why translation has become a role and affects cultural evolution in each country. The translation world has several techniques used to translate from SL into TL.

Nowadays, translation is not only for scientific works, but also for literary works and others. Literary works are translated from foreign languages into Indonesian or vice versa, especially into English such as movies, songs, short stories, novels, biographies, comics, etc. These movies can be enjoyed not only by people who have a certain educational background well but also by those who don't. The movie "La La Land" and its translation can be watched by everybody. People can find or re-watching the old movies that have been released by downloading from legal sites or sources.

Larson in Kamil (2014) said that the goal of a good translator is to translate idiomatically, through making many adjustments in the forms. In another word, the translator's goal is the ability to reproduce a text in the target language which communicates the same idea or message as the source language but use the natural grammatical and lexical choices of the target language. Many works of art face the complexity of problems, one of which is translating movies. Besides, the capability of looking for appropriate meanings, a translator should be able to transfer the moral message of the author to be accepted by the readers of the translation product properly.

The reason for the choice of subject is that the author wants to explain the translation technique used by the translator in the dialog subtitles of the film La La Land. In addition, this film is a film with subtitles consisting of English and Indonesian versions. Therefore, the author wants to know which technique is dominantly used by the translator and which technique is easy to understand by the audience.

Based on the research background, the statements of the problem can be formulated as follows: What are the types of translation techniques used in making La La Land film subtitles. What are the dominant translation techniques used by translators in the La La Land film subtitles and how does the translator describe these translation techniques.

The objectives of this study can be summarized as follows: Identify the types of translation techniques used in the subtitle of the film La Land. To find out the dominant translation technique used in subtitling the film La La Land. To describe the translation techniques used by translators in making subtitles for the film La La Land.

Based on the background of the research above, the importance of this research can be expected to increase knowledge, experience, and perception about translation techniques. Moreover, this research will provide additional information to lecturers and students based on explanations of translation techniques. And lastly, the results of this study can provide a reference for researchers on translation techniques for subtitled films.

## **Literature Review**

### **1. Translation Technique**

Many experts have conducted research on translation techniques. Among others are Molina and Albir (2002:510-511) they stated that translation is translating consists in

reproducing in the receiving language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and second in terms of style. In addition, Newmark (1981:7) declared a translation is a work that aims to replace a written message or a statement from one language to another with the same meaning. Another statement submitted by Pinchuk (1977:38) in his research, he stated that translation is the process of finding the appropriate equivalent between the source language (SL) and the target language (TL). Moreover, Loescher (1991: 8) defines that, translation technique as a method that may be realized to understand the problems encountered in translating the content or any part of it.

From the explanations of several experts regarding the definition of translation, it can be concluded that translation is a process carried out to change and convey a meaning or content stated in the source language to the target language in accordance with existing rules. Molina and Albir (2002:510-511) classified into 18 translation techniques. Those are

a. Adaptation

It is a translation technique that replaces the cultural component of the source language in the target language.

Example:

Source language: as white as snow

Target language: seputih kapas

b. Amplification

It is a technique with information, paraphrase, or additional meaning, but does not change the original meaning of the source language.

Example:

Source language: Ramadhan

Target language: bulan puasa untuk umat muslim

c. Borrowing

Borrowing translation is a technique to take a word or borrow the meaning from source language. This technique can be pure without adaptation or it can be naturalized by the spelling of target language.

Example:

Source language: mixer

Target language: mixer (pure), mikser (naturalized)

d. Calque

Translation technique which doing by phrase translation from source language into target language. It can be lexical or structural.

Example:

Source language: directorate general

Target language: direktorat jenderal

e. Compensation

In general term of compensation it used when something can't be translated into target language.

Example:

Source language: a pair of scissor

Target language: sebuah gunting

f. Description

Description technique is a technique which replace an expression word with expression meaning.

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Example:

Source language: my mother make a *panettone*.

Target language; ibu ku membuat kue tradisional Italia yang dimakan ketika tahun baru.

g. Discursive creation

This technique is to established equivalence that totally upredictable out of context.

Example:

Source language: the godfather

Target language: sang godfather

h. Establish equivalence

This technique is similar with literal translation. It can be use literal utterance in daily life.

Example:

Source language: ambiguity

Target language: ambigu

i. Generalization

This technique uses more general terms in the source language into target language.

Example:

Source language: I go to Surabaya by bus

Target language: saya pergi ke Surabaya dengan angkutan umum.

j. Linguistic amplification

This technique is done by adding the linguistic elements in the translation from source language into target language.

Example:

Source language: everything is up to you!

Target language: semuanya terserah pada diri anda sendiri!

k. Linguistic compression

This technique which is used to synthesize linguistic elements and also used in subtitling.

Example:

Source language: are you hungry?

Target language: lapar?

l. Literal translation

Literal translation is the technique that translate word by word without looking the context.

Example:

Source language: the sooner or later the weather will change.

Target language: lebih cepat atau lambat cuaca akan berubah.

m. Modulation

This technique is to change the perspective and categories that exist in target language.

Example:

Source language: nobody doesn't like it.

Target language: semua orang menyukainya.

n. Particularization

Translation technique which translator use more concrete, precision, or specifics. This technique is opposite with generalization.

Example:

Source language: air transportation

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Target language: pesawat

o. Reduction

This technique employ partial omission that are not thought to change the meaning.

Example:

Source language: my sister like shopping so much.

Target language: kakak ku suka berbelanja.

p. Substitution

This technique is change the elements of linguistic into paralinguistic.

Example:

Source language: I don't agree with you

Target language: (menggelengkan kepala)

q. Transposition

Transposition is a technique where the translator change the grammatical category.

Example:

Source language: he has a luxury car

Target language: dia memiliki mobil yang mewah

r. Variation

This technique is to change the elements of linguistic or paralinguistic which have an impact of language variation.

Example:

Source language: please call 911!

Target language: cepat panggil polisi!

## 2. Subtitling

According to Cintaz (2012:274) state that subtitling is consists of information spoken then changes into written information. The position of the subtitles at the bottom of the screen. In contrast to the dubbing translation, it is only using the audio from the translator. The important thing from subtitling are the process of filtering the language which is impossible to select ten words likened to speech for a second. Moreover, Cowie (1997: 161) declared that subtitling is the process of presenting an explanatory text which harmonized with dialogue in the film.

## 3. La La Land Movie

La La Land is a movie that has a romantic comedy genre that was released in 2016. This film tells about the bittersweet love story between Sebastian (Ryan Gosling) and Mia (Emma Stone) who first meet in LA traffic jam but then get thrown together by chance. Throughout the next four seasons romance blossoms. This film is directed by Damien Chazelle, he is a young director who loves and knows movies. The title refers to the acronym of the city Los Angeles and the phrase which means the dream world. This film got a lot so many compliment about \$90 million in the world, also the American Film Institute put this movie on the list of the top ten best movies in 2016.

## Method

This research is a qualitative descriptive study. In which, the researcher used content analysis to collect the data. The main step taken to conduct this research is observation. The observation made by the researcher was watching a film entitled La La Land with Indonesian subtitles. the

second is the data collection process in which the data is a dialogue from film actors using Indonesian subtitles. the last step is to identify from the data that has been obtained, namely to analyze each translation technique used in the film's dialogue.

## Finding

### 1. The Types of Translation Techniques Used by the Translator in the Subtitle of La La Land Movie.

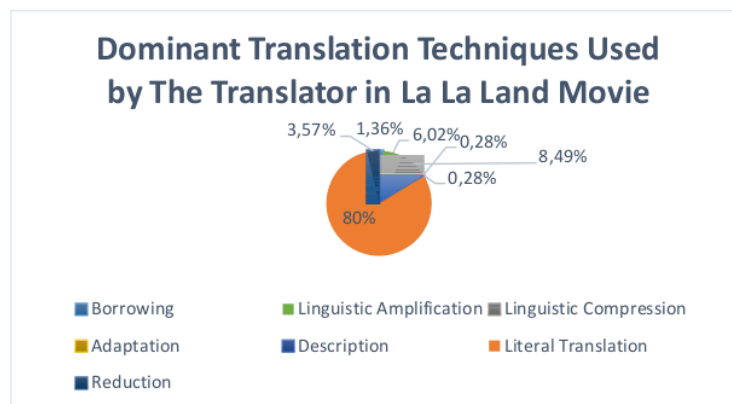
The data shows that there are seven technique found in the data by the translator to translate the subtitles of the movie. They are Literal Translation, Borrowing, Linguistic Amplification, Linguistic Compression, Reduction, Adaptation, and Description.

*Table 1: Types of Translation Technique Used in Dialogues in La La Land Movie*

Translation Technique	F	f %
Borrowing	5	1,36
Linguistic Amplification	22	6,02
Linguistic Compression	31	8,49
Adaptation	1	0,28
Description	1	0,28
Literal Translation	292	80,00
Reduction	13	3,57

### 2. The Dominant Translation Techniques Used by the Translator

After the researcher do the analysis, the researcher concludes with seven techniques used by the translator, and from it, we know the percentage of the data. The frequency of the techniques used in the data and the total frequency of the techniques found can be counted with percentage. The researcher will serve the data on the chart below.



From the chart above, the percentage of each techniques as follows: literal translation (80,00%), linguistic amplification (6,02%), linguistic compression (8,49%), borrowing (1,36%), adaptation (0,28%), description (0,28%), and reduction (3,57%). We can conclude that dominant techniques used by the translator is literal translation, also followed by

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linguistic compression, linguistic amplification, reduction, borrowing, adaptation, and description.

### 3. How the Translator Describing the Translation Techniques Used in Subtitle of La La Land Movie.

How the translator describes translation techniques based on definition every technique is as though the literal translation is that translation is interpreted in words by words without looking at the context of a sentence. Whereas borrowing technique is interpretation of a sentences by borrowing syllables from a source language into the target language. While linguistic amplification is technique that adds the number of syllables of target language. The opposite with linguistic amplification, linguistic compression is a technique that compress the elements of syllables target language. Adaptation technique is a technique that got adaptation of culture between source language and target language. Furthermore, description technique is a technique that have description about source language purpose in target language. And the last is reduction is a technique that has been reduced syllables in the target's language.

### Discussion

The researcher used theory translation techniques by Molina and Albir (2002:510-511). They state that there are 18 types of translation techniques such as Adaptation, Amplification, Borrowing, Calque, Compensation, Description, Discursive Creation, Establish Equivalence, Generalization, Linguistic Amplification, Linguistic Compression, Literal Translation, Modulation, Particularization, Reduction, Substitution, Transposition, and Variation.

In this discussion, the researcher found only seven techniques used by the translator in the La La Land movie subtitle. Including literal translation (80,00%), linguistic amplification (6,02%), linguistic compression (8,49%), borrowing (1,36%), adaptation (0,28%), description (0,28%), and reduction (3,57%). Literal translation was used when the translator translate word by word without looking the context. Furthermore, linguistic amplification is done by adding the linguistic elements in the translation from the source language into the target language. Besides, linguistic compression is used to synthesize or compress linguistic elements and is also used in subtitling. While borrowing technique is a technique to take a word or borrow the meaning from the source language. This technique can be pure without adaptation, or it can be naturalized by the spelling of the target language. Moreover, adaptation is a translation technique that replaces cultural elements from the source language into the target language. And also usually the translator looks for the appropriate equivalent from the source language to the target language. Description technique is a technique that replaces the word expression with the meaning of the description and also explains the meaning briefly and clearly. Whereas reduction is a technique employs partial omission that is not thought to change the meaning. In other words, explicit the meaning.

From the chart pie it can be concluded that the most widely used translation technique is literal translation followed by linguistic compression, linguistic amplification, reduction, borrowing, adaptation, and description.

After conducting the research, the researcher compared it with several previous studies. The first study was done by Yuliasri and Hartono the title is "Translation Techniques and Equivalence in the Indonesian Translation of Humor in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone



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2014.” The objectives of their study are to find out what the translation techniques are used in the translation humor in Harry Potter and Sorcerer and to find out how Indonesian readers view the humor in the Indonesian translation. The result of their study revealed: the dominant translation techniques used in translation humor were literal translation (35.5%), linguistic amplification (10.7%), modulation (9.9%), generalization (9.1%), and amplification (5.3%). The researcher's analysis also showed that some of the humor was successful, but some declined. The second study is research by Fitria (2015) entitled “Translation Technique of English to Indonesian Subtitle in Doraemon STAND BY ME the Movie.” The objective of her study is (1) to classify the types of translation techniques from English to Indonesian subtitles. (2) To determine the most dominant type of translation technique. (3) To describe the translation quality of English into Indonesian subtitle of Doraemon “Stand By Me” movie in the term of acceptability, accuracy, and readability. And the result of this research shows that first, there are eleven translations techniques used by the translator, such as adoption (10.28%), amplification (7.35%), borrowing (8.54%), calque (2.75%), compensation (0.37%), discursive creation (0.18%), established equivalence (27.18%), literal translation (25.34%), modulation (4.41%), reduction (21.58), and transposition (18.27%). Second, the most dominant type of translation technique is Established Equivalence. Third, the translation quality assessment, in translation accuracy, there are 66.38% data. In translation acceptability, there are 64.72% data. In translation readability, there are 72.22% data. It can be concluded that the quality of the translation of "Stand By Me" Doraemon film is accurate, acceptable, and readable.

## Conclusion

After the researcher that has been done about the translation technique in the subtitle of dialogues La La Land movie, and also makes a discussion in chapter IV, the researcher concludes first, there are seven translation techniques based on theory Molina and Albir (2002:510-511) used by the translator to translate the subtitle dialogues. Among them is borrowing (1,36%), linguistic amplification (6,02%), linguistic compression (8,49%), adaptation (0,28%), description (0,28%), literal translation (80%), reduction (3,57%). second is the most dominant translation technique used by the translator is literal translation. afterward, linguistic compression is the second technique that has been mostly used by the translator and is also followed by linguistic amplification, reduction, borrowing, adaptation, and description. Third, after the researcher do the research and show that the translator describes translation techniques based on the definition theory of Molina and Albir (2002:510-511). Subsequent research can provide knowledge that can be useful for readers and can be the next related research that will be reviewed.

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