

Investigating Influential Factors Behind Loss and Gain Meanings in Translation of *Singsot* Movie

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Abstract. In the translation process, culture specific items (CSIs) have become a prominent thing that should be recognized in translating because it relates with a variety of cultural knowledge and background. For instance, Indonesian and English have different culture which some terms may have different concept. The difference cultural background will examine loss and gain meanings in translation. The present study aims to analyze the translation procedure in translating culture specific items (CSIs) that arise on loss and gain meanings amid the translation process, to identify loss and gain meanings in the translation work, and analyze some factors which influence those meanings. The qualitative research design was employed in the current study. The researchers download, observe, and transcribe the conversation in the movie. Then, they analyze the translation procedure (based on Baker's taxonomy 1992), translation meaning (based on Basnett 1991), and some influential factors behind those meanings. The result revealed that 9 loss meanings (4 inevitable loss meanings and 5 avertable loss meanings) and 2 gain meanings were found in the translation work. The dominant translation procedure was omission. Some factors such as insufficiency translation skill, less comprehensive meaning of source language, and safe meaning can influence the translator in translating culture specific items which finally impact on loss and gain in their translation works. In a nutshell, sometimes providing loss and gain meanings by the translator in their translation works is intended to enhance the readability and naturalness in conveying the message of source language into target language.

Keywords: loss meaning, gain meaning, culture-specific items.

1 Introduction

An equivalence of culture specific items such as cultural knowledge and cultural background to the background of culture had become main problem for translator. The meaning of culturally particular words is not easy to be conveyed into another language (Nida, 2015). For instance, the word "nasi" and "beras" as the Indonesian staple are translated into "rice" in English. The word "rice" belongs to loss meaning in translation because it can replace "nasi" and "beras" in Indonesian. In English, the word "rice" refers to small seed of a certain type of grass, cooked, and eaten. Just like the example above, some distinctions also happen in many other countries which have different cultural background.

The difference between “beras”, “nasi”, and “rice” refers to culture specific items (CSIs). CSIs comprise words and phrases which are formed by the diversity of culture. Lewis (2020) argued that translator accepts the massive and tremendous cultural diversity. Dizdar (2014) added that cultural words reflect on cultural entities. Moreover, Baker (1992) defines CSIs as the concept of source language which cannot be recognized in the target language. The concept can be abstract or concrete such as religious beliefs, social customs, and types of food. Some theorists have provided varied procedures in translating CSIs. Besides, Baker (1992) defined eight translation procedures in translating CSIs comprises translation by more general word, translation by cultural substitution, translation using loan word or loan word plus explanation, translation by more neutral/ less expressive word, translation by using paraphrase with related words and unrelated words, translation by omission, and translation by illustration.

The objectives of the present study are to analyze the translation procedure in translating culture specific items (CSIs) that arise on loss and gain meanings, to identify loss and gain meanings, and analyze some factors which influence loss and gain meanings in the translation work. The presence of different culture will produce gain and loss meaning in translation which will be identified by CSIs. The greater cultural differences, the high translation skill that should be applied by the translator in order to construct an acceptable translation work in both sides. Therefore, the translators are suggested to understand customs and the other cultural aspects which bound up with the distinctions of two different languages (Davies, 2003).

Besides, a translator can provide an explanation about particular terms in source language which are unknown in the target language. They mostly select the central meaning, more acceptable and equivalent concept (Bassnett, 2006). As Steiner (2006) argued that by choosing the central meaning, the translators should integrate the matter with the concept which is called “gain” and “loss” in translation.

Loss meaning can be interpreted by incomplete meaning from source language text which is conveyed into target language text (Dizdar, 2014). It is the condition whereas the translator cannot interpret the entire meaning of source text (ST) into target text (TT) which means that the translator has less attention on CSIs and linguistic features of TT. Mostly, loss meaning is greater than gain meaning in translation process. Loss meaning also can be defined as the incompetency of translators in conveying the expressiveness whereas some words or phrases are avoided so that loss meaning happens. Another cause of loss meaning is the difference of linguistic and extra-linguistic between source language and target language. In linguistic differences means that every language has its own ways in expressing the similar concept with varied systems. Another factor is the extra-linguistic discrepancies involve cultural and religious discrepancies that can disturb the equivalence of translation process. Alwazna (2014) argued that this factor becomes a prominent one which showed translator’s incapability to make equivalence of target text.

Meanwhile, gain meaning highlights on the improvement of source language text. As Bassnett (2006) defined gain as the improvement or providing more explanation of source language text in the translation process. Besides, Nozizwe and Ncube (2014) defined gain meaning as the detail explanation about particular term in source text which makes target text is flexible and comprehensive in the environment. As O’ Neil (2006) argued that language is a dynamic. The dynamism of language makes it can produce new terminology in any languages. Gain in translation will enable language to adjust themselves towards speakers. So, the different languages will complete each other.

Gain may arise when new communication is created in order to construct new terminology to explain the particular term of source language. Gain in translations emphasizes on relative expressional ability and creativity of someone to construct something new. The translators are subject which negotiate the different meaning of languages. They tend to analyze the correlation between language and social context in order to provide proper translation work. A translator who enables to construct new terminologies can provide clarity of message and enhance the comprehensibility of target language. Gain in translation highlights on the translator's assumption to create clearer and understandable target text toward readers i.e. conveying unrecognized social context to be expressed (Vinay and Darbelnet, 2004).

A translator needs to pay attention on loss and gain meanings in their translation work, it can be semantic or syntax level. Some numerous studies such as Sholikin (2013) revealed that loss and gain meanings in the bilingual book can be in the form of words and phrases, the purpose of loss meaning in translation is to create more acceptable and understandable meaning to the target text.

Meanwhile, the gain meaning aims to provide detail explanation of entire meaning from source text into target text. Besides, Agustina (2013) investigated on comic that loss and gain meanings can be found in words, phrases, and clauses. The aim of loss and gain meanings is to enhance the readability and naturalness of translation work. Moreover, Tiwiyanti and Retnomurti (2017) revealed loss and gain meanings on a novel. Those meanings are produced in translating culture specific items in order to make communication sounds more fluent.

Based on the theories and some studies above, it is essential to investigate the loss and gain meanings in translation. This present study aims to analyze loss and gain meanings in translation semantically which is different with the previous ones that analyze loss and gain meanings syntactically. The present study emphasizes on analyzing loss and gain meanings that is conveyed in translating culture specific items (CSIs). Besides, the researchers also analyze what factors which affect loss and gain meanings in the translation process. The importance of analyzing culture specific items in translation is essential in order to encourage reader or further translators to recognize basic types of loss and gain meanings also pay attention to some factors which influence loss and gain in their translation works.

2 Methodology

In the present study, the researchers employ descriptive qualitative research design to analyze the data. The subject of the study is a short movie entitled "Singsot" in Javanese language. It can be interpreted as "Whistling" in English language. This movie belongs to horror genre. The origin of this movie comes from Javanese language especially Yogyakarta, central java. This movie is shared on Youtube at September, 10th 2019. This movie is produced by Racavana home production on 2016. The technique of collecting the data are by downloading the short movie from youtube, observing the short movie, and transcribing the conversation of short movie both in source language (Yogayakarta) and target language (English) by note taking.

The technique of analyzing data involves: first, define the translation procedure in particular conversation according to Baker's taxonomy (1992); second, analyze the translation meaning whether it belongs to loss meaning or gain meaning and define what types of loss meaning (inevitable loss meaning or avertable loss meaning) based on the theory of loss and gain in

translation process by Basnett (1991); and third, analyze what factors which affect loss and gain in translation process.

3 Results and Discussion

Data 1

Source Text: Yo genah menangan iki, ra tau ra juara

Target Text: Yes, this one is a singing champion (Loss)

Translation Procedure: Translation by using general word.

The translator employs general word in translating the SL into TL. The unknown of equivalence term in the translation process above from SL into TL, makes translator did not comprehend the meaning very well. The speaker in source language explains that particular bird always wins competition. It never loses. Otherwise, in the target language, the speaker describes that particular bird belongs to singing champion. The word “singing champion” relates to the bird which wins singing competition. This translation process contradicts between source language and target language whereas speaker of source language did not tell what kind of competition, it can be singing, flying, eating, etc. Meanwhile the translator of target language assumes the singing competition because of the tendency of bird’s skill is singing. In short, the avertable loss meaning in translation above implies that translators actually can employ another proper translation procedure which will convey more comprehensible culture specific item of source language.

Data 2

Source Text: Lha liyane ning ndi? Wingi lak akeh to?

Target Text: Where is the other bird? (Loss)

Translation Procedure: Translation by using omission.

The speaker in the target language omits an utterance “wingi lak akeh to”, which provides more explanations towards the previous utterance. It indicates that translator may have insufficient translation process. The translator cannot find the related word which equivalence with source language. Therefore, the translator only translates the first utterance which emphasizes on the main question about the amount of the bird. In a nutshell, the ignorance of translating complete utterance belongs to loss meaning in translation because it cannot interpret the whole meaning of the speaker in source language. The avertable loss meaning is attributed because the insufficiency of translator’s skill to find the proper and accurate the equivalence of culture specific item in the target language.

Data 3

Source Text: Lha wes tak dol, njur dadi siji iki

Target Text: I sold them and then I bought this one. (Loss)

Translation Procedure: Translation by using more neutral or less expressive words.

The difference between source language and target language here is the meaning of “njur dadi siji iki”. In a source language, it means the bird is still that one while the target language describes the bird was bought by the speaker. Both of them have different meaning and impact on different response towards readers. The source language explains the cause and effect relation, while the target language describes the compound sentence comprises independent clause and dependent clause. The loss meaning here differentiates the meaning of source language which emphasizes on

the amount of the bird and the target language that highlights on the speaker's desire to buy the bird. So, the inevitable of loss translation arises because of the extra linguistic differences. The culture specific item is culturally bound up with people in Javanese.

Data 4

Source Text: Mongko wingi iku ono sing nyenengi, ning ora simbah kekke

Target Text: Many people ask me if they can buy it, but I refuse them (Loss)

Translation Procedure: Translation by using more neutral or less expressive words.

The meaning of source language explains that yesterday there was someone who liked the bird, but grandfather did not sell it. Meanwhile, the target language describes that there are many people who aim to buy it. The contradiction meaning happens between source language and target language above because of the word "ono", in source language "ono" refers to someone without paying attention to the quantity. Meanwhile, in the target language, the word "ono" is translated with many people which can be assumed that birds are lovely pet of people mostly like. In a nutshell, the inevitable loss of translation is also attributed because there is discrepancy of extra linguistic.

Data 5

Source Text: Wow sangar, juara iki mesti

Target Text: Wow, that's so cool (Loss)

Translation Procedure: Translation by using omission.

The speaker in the source text explains that the bird is amazing and always be a champion. Otherwise, the target language only emphasizes how amazing the bird through the utterance "cool". The ignorance of "juara iki mesti" decrease the meaning of speaker in the source language because the meaning only describes how does the bird look like without giving any particular reason on their compliment. Thus, the loss meaning happens because of the uncompleted message which is conveyed by the speaker in the source language to the target language. The avertable loss meaning is attributed because the insufficiency of translator' skill to find the proper and accurate the equivalence of culture specific item in the target language.

Data 6

Source Text: Wes surup ora elok

Target Text: Night is coming (Loss)

Translation Procedure: Translation by using cultural substitution.

The word "surup" in the source language does not have an equivalence in the target language. The translator employs "night" as the replacement of "surup". Here, the meaning of source language is the condition of evening which improper for someone to whistle. Parents always ask their children not to whistle in the evening because they will be haunted by the ghost. Whistling in inappropriate moment is like asking a ghost to come. Therefore, the real meaning is the grandmother asks her grandson not to whistle in the evening. Meanwhile, the translator in target text lost the meaning of translation. The interpretation of "night is coming" represents that grandmother tells her grandson about the time of evening. In a nutshell, the difference of the inevitable loss meaning of translation above is the meaning of "night is coming" in the target language explains something without any prohibition, while the real meaning in the source language conveys a message containing prohibition.

Data 7

Source Text: Bocah dikandani kok ngeyel lho, wes karepmu

Target Text: You brat, it's up to you (Loss)

Translation Procedure: Translation by using cultural substitution.

In the target language, the word "brat" has similarity with "naughty" which means someone does impolite thing or makes a particular problem. Meanwhile in the source language, the grandmother is getting angry with her grandson because he is very stubborn. The grandson always ignores the grandmother's advice. So, the grandmother is pocusurante on whatever the grandson will do. The target language only explains that the grandson is naughty without giving any specific reason what kind of grandson's characteristic which refers on naughty itself. Therefore, the inevitable loss meaning of translation arises here.

Data 8

Source Text: Yowes ayo bu siap-siap

Target Text: All right then, come on dear, get dressed up (Gain)

Translation Procedure: Translation by using paraphrase with related words.

In the source language, the grandfather asks the grandmother to get ready to come outside together without asking her to wear something. Meanwhile, the interpretation in the target language has gain meaning "get dressed up" that means grandmother is asked to wear a cloth as soon as possible. The gain meaning in the target language aims to provide an additional explanation or description to support the previous utterance. Here, the translator employs gain meaning in the translation process in order to convey the message more understandable towards target language.

Data 9

Source Text: Lha kuwe ki malah ngajari kok

Target Text: Not taught him how to whistle (Loss)

Translation Procedure: Translation by using paraphrase with unrelated words.

In the source language, the grandmother said that grandfather has told the grandson in whistling which is inappropriate for him. Actually, whistling is allowed but in proper condition, in fact the grandson applied it in the evening which is prohibited to do. Therefore, the grandmother prohibits the grandson to whistle and blames the action as the grandfather's fault. On the other hand, there is contradictive meaning with target language which emphasizes on the prohibition to teach the grandson how to whistle. In a nutshell, the meaning in source language explains the blaming of grandmother towards grandfather that has taught the grandson about whistling. This action belongs to past event. Meanwhile, the meaning in target language highlights on the suggestion for grandfather not to teach whistling towards his grandson. It is a kind of planning which belongs to future event. The avertable loss meaning of the translation process above indicates that translator has difficulty in substituting the equivalence term of culture specific item of source language and insufficiency comprehension of source language.

Data 10

Source Text: Lho mau jare moh melu, kok saiki kepengen melu

Target Text: Didn't you say you won't go with us? What is happen? (Loss)

Translation Procedure: Translation by using omission.

In the source language above the grandfather argued that the grandson is not persistent with his previous argument. The grandfather reminds the grandson's willingness not to follow him. Otherwise, in the target language, the translator employs the utterance "what is happen?" in order to provide an additional explanation beside the replacement of grandson utterance. The translator aims to ask the reason why the grandson changes his mind. The meaning in the target language is different with the meaning in source language whereas the source language did not ask the particular reason of grandson's feeling. The different meaning between source language and target language impacts on loss meaning in translation. Therefore, by providing non-equivalence in translation process, it will arise the avertable loss meaning on it.

Data 11

Source Text: Jane bocahe yo wedi, wong mau tak apusi bocah ki nek ngeyel.

Target Text: He scared because I told him before. The consequences of you to ignore my advice. (Gain)

Translation Procedure: Translation by using paraphrase with related words.

There are diverse meanings both in the source language and target language. In source language, the grandmother said that the grandson is afraid and she lies because the grandson is apathetical. Meanwhile, in the target language, the translator improves the interpretation from "bocah ki nek ngeyel" becomes "the consequences of you to ignore my advice". The translator constructs more understandable meaning by giving some additional words rather than translating it literally. The translation process above belongs to gain meaning in translation process because the translator provides detail explanation in order to be well understood by the interlocutor or viewer in the movie context.

4 Discussion

Based on the analysis above, there are 9 loss meanings in the translation process and 2 gain meanings in the translation process. The presence of loss meaning and gain meaning can impact on the translation process. The dominant translation procedure is omission.

In omission translation procedure, the translator omits the meaning of source language, they replace with the shorter meaning in the target language. The disadvantage of improper omission can be identified by the presence of avertable loss meaning because the insufficiency of translator's skill to find the proper and accurate the equivalence of culture specific item in the target language. There are some factors about the tendency of both loss meaning and gain meanings in the translation process above. The researchers employ loss meaning and gain meaning in translation for some reasons such as in the following;

a. Insufficiency of translation skill (translation limitations)

The translators which mostly have limitation in translation process, they tend to have insufficiency translation skill. In order to become a professional one, we need to have large experience in order to enrich our skills in translating varied domain. By having diverse translation experience, the translators can recognize some culture specific items in varied language domains. The other advantages are they also have more chances to obtain some translation jobs because they can overwhelm many languages. Besides, they become more

confident and provide more accurate data rather than the unprofessional ones. Taking some qualified experiences in translation is not as easy as it seems. It takes time to construct it.

In a nutshell, by having insufficiency of translation skill, the translators have limitation in translating unrecognized culture specific items. So, the translators can only translate a particular language domain e.g. translator (a) is familiar with medical term so there is no hindrance when translating medical term, otherwise the translator (b) does not even recognize the medical term so the obstacle of translation can arise amid the process.

b. Less comprehensive meaning of source language

The second factor is still bound up with the previous one, if the translator cannot define the real meaning of source language, they will employ improper translation procedure which impact on the less comprehensive meaning of target language. Lack of knowledge about source language provides negative impact on translation process. The interlocutor of target language will not understand the real meaning from source language very well. Therefore, the translator should comprehend the meaning of source language or at least recognize the cultural background of target language and never feel shy to ask an important information regarding target language towards some experts of target language in order to avoid misunderstanding in translating.

c. Safe meaning

Mostly, the translators prefer to employ gain meaning amid the translation process in order to construct safe meaning in translating particular term. By providing an additional explanation or description about some loan words in the source language, the reader of target language will derive the information easier. The translator frequently employs paraphrase with related words as the translation procedure in providing gain meaning in the translation process. Because paraphrasing with related words is the easiest and more comprehensible translation procedure, so saving meaning from source language is an alternative way to keep the accuracy and readability of translation work.

5 Conclusions

In the present study, the researchers revealed there are 9 loss meanings (4 inevitable loss meanings and 5 avertable loss meanings) and 2 gain meanings amid translation process. The dominant translation procedures which mostly appear is omission. In omission translation procedure, the improper omission can be identified by the presence of avertable loss meaning because the insufficiency of translator's skill to find the proper and accurate the equivalence of culture specific item in the target language.

There are some factors which affect the tendency of both loss meaning and gain meaning involving the insufficiency translation skill, less comprehensive meaning of source language, and safe meaning. In a nutshell, the translator sometimes lost or gained some words, phrases or even clauses to construct the translation work become acceptable and readable to the target readers and to make it sounds more natural in the target language. The current study can be a basic reference for learners who interest with culture specific items analysis in translation meaning. Besides, the other researchers are suggested to conduct another research regarding another factor which affects loss meaning and gain meaning in the translation process.

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