

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Translation is a process of transferring the meaning and message of a text from a language to another different language. Translation according to Newmark (1991) is “Concerned with moral and with factual truth. This truth can be effectively rendered only if it is grasped by the reader, and that is the purpose and the end of translation.” (p.1). It says that a good translation is the one which can convey the message or the truth from the source language to the target language.

There are many kinds of texts which are translated and we can find the translated texts in our daily life. They can be in forms of book, manual book, poem, advertisement, legal documents, and movie. As for movie, it is usually translated by giving subtitle or make it dubbed.

According to Midjord (2013), long ago when silent movie was introduced in the beginning of the 20th century, translation was not needed. Cardboard signs that

presented key points for the story line of the movie were introduced. These cardboard signs called as Intertitles. Intertitles were inserted between a mute utterance or scene of the movie. They were translated in some languages. After that, the first movie with subtitle was introduced in the late 1920s. *The Jazz Singer* which was released in October 1927, was the first movie that used subtitle translation.

The conversation in movie is not always formal, it is usually casual. The cast sometimes swear. In our daily lives we can find people swear. Swear words are not something new in society. We can find it in our life even in movies. It is because swear words are part of a language. Every language has some form of swear words. In Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2009), a swear word means “a word that is considered to be rude, offensive, and shocking by most people”. Meanwhile, according to McEnery (2006) “Swearing is one example of bad language, yet blasphemous, homophobic, racist and sexist language may also cause offence in modern England.” (p.2). McEnery said this in his book that explain the association of bad language to age, education, sex, and social class.

Swear words are words that are considered rude and offensive. By the definition above we can say that swear words are words which are not nice. However, people still swear. This is because people swear for some reasons. People may swear because they want to relieve the pressure, burden, anger, and frustration feeling. Some people also swear because they are used to it as they swear all the time without being angry.

When it comes to translation which involves two different languages, swear words may become a problem. It is because the language is always related to culture. In English as the source language (SL) used in this thesis, swearing maybe something normal. But when it is translated into Indonesian as the target language (TL) it may be a problem. Every country has different culture in which swearing is considered as a taboo. Karjalainen (2002, p.4) said this is why translating swear words may be a difficult thing to do because the translator acts as a mediator which later convey the message in a text, has to know how to translate the swear words without making the translation sounds taboo too.

A previous study by Karjalainen (2002) shows why the swear words of *The Catcher in the Rye* are gone when it is translated into Swedish. The study compared two books with different translators. Since the translation is translated by Swedish translators, both of the translators have the same tendency to avoid conflicts. He concluded that those swear words are gone because Swedish are not used to swearing. Another study by Bucaria (2009) about translation of forbidden words and the relation with censorship in Italy. The deletion or toning down those words may cause the translator fails to deliver the humour (in some shows) from English version.

In this research, the researcher will analyze the subtitle of a movie directed by Nick Cassavetes titled *Alpha Dog*. The movie is chosen because the casts swear a lot. The researcher will categorize the swear words according to Steven Pinker's categorization of swearing (2007). Pinker is a psycholinguist. He breaks the swearing into five types. They are dysphemistic swearing, abusive swearing,

idiomatic swearing, emphatic swearing and cathartic swearing. Then, the researcher will analyze translation procedures used by the translator to translate the swear words in the movie.

1.2 Statement of Problems

This research is conducted to get the answers of the following questions:

1. What types of swearing found in the movie?
2. What are the procedures used by the translator to translate the swearing?

1.3 Research Objectives

The research objectives based on the problems are:

1. Explain types of swearing found.
2. Describe procedures used by the translator in translating the swearing.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The researcher will only discuss the swearing found in *Alpha Dog* movie.

The research will focus on the types of swearing by Steven Pinker and the procedures used in translating them by Peter Newmark.

1.5 Research Methodology

1.5.1 Method

The researcher uses qualitative method in describing the types of swearing found in *Alpha Dog* English version and its subtitle and also the procedure used by the translator. The researcher uses qualitative method to explain about the type of swearing and translation procedure deeply.

1.5.2 Data Source

The data are taken from the movie and its script titled *Alpha Dog* directed by Nick Cassavetes and first screened at the Sundance Film Festival on January 27th 2006. This movie is distributed by *PT. Duta Cahaya Utama*.

Alpha Dog is an American crime movie. The movie is based on a true story of an abduction and a murder of 15-year-old boy, Nicholas Markowitz. It also shows the involvement of Jesse James Hollywood, a young drug dealer in California.

1.5.3 Data Collection

The researcher did these following steps in collecting the data:

1. Select the subject of the research, *Alpha Dog* movie.
2. Watch the movie *Alpha Dog* and its subtitle.
3. Collect the swear words found.
4. Check the meaning of the swear words in dictionary (*Longman English Dictionary* and *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia Daring*)

5. Write down the swear words found in the movie in data cards.

1.5.4 Data Analysis

There are steps that the researcher did to analyze the data, namely:

1. Analyze the types of the swearing.
2. Check the meaning of the swear words found in the movie by consulting monolingual dictionary, *Longman English Dictionary* and *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia Daring*.
3. Back translate the translated subtitle.
4. Analyze the procedures used by translator in translating the swear word.