CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

People of all ages, including teenagers and older adults, enjoy spending their time watching movies. Many fans seek to immerse themselves in the narratives, visually stunning sequences, and ongoing story arcs of both popular franchises and independent films. Whether it is a blockbuster hit or a niche production, high-quality subtitles are crucial for engaging audiences effectively and enhancing their appreciation of the film's themes and plots (Barros, 2024). That is why translators need to be able to properly understand the context and deliver it to the audience as authentically as possible.

In today's world, subtitles have become prevalent across television shows, videos, and movies. Subtitles are written translations of spoken dialogue and other relevant audio elements in films designed to help viewers understand content in a foreign language (Tumba & Wibowo, 2024). Subtitles allow viewers who do not speak the film's original language to understand and follow the story. They are essential for ensuring that films can reach a wider audience and be enjoyed by people from different linguistic backgrounds. They also offer context for non-verbal sounds, such as sound effects, music, and off-screen voices. This helps viewers fully grasp the auditory elements of the film, contributing to a more immersive experience. These

translations or subtitles are instrumental in helping people fully grasp the narrative and comprehend what each film is about.

Additionally, subtitles facilitate learning new vocabulary words and introduce viewers to unfamiliar terms (Nurfauziah et al., 2023). They also greatly benefit individuals who experience hearing difficulties, thereby enhancing accessibility for all audiences regardless of the original language spoken. Furthermore, when subtitles are included in video content, they make every piece of media more inclusive and easier to understand for everyone involved. Overall, subtitles play a vital role in bridging linguistic gaps and enriching our viewing experiences by providing clear visual representations of dialogue and action sequences, ultimately contributing to a broader understanding of global cinema and cultural diversity.

While subtitle translation serves as a bridge to help viewers understand the content of a movie, mistakes in the translation process are sometimes unavoidable (Xiaohui, 2012). To translate movie subtitles, it requires more effort because subtitles must effectively convey tone and emotion through punctuation, requiring careful management of flow to avoid overwhelming viewers. The goal of translation is to create a sense of equivalence for the reader by conveying the author's ideas, thoughts, and messages in a way that is clear and easy to understand.

During the translation process, both novice and professional translators can make errors, which may stem from insufficient knowledge or a lack of attention and responsibility. According to Nord (2001), from a functional viewpoint, translation errors occur when translators fail to correctly follow the guidelines in the translation brief or choose inappropriate solutions to translation challenges. Viewed from the

standpoint of equivalence between an SL and a TL, according to Koller (1992), a translation error is considered as non equivalence between SL and TL or non-adequacy of the TL. Zhang (2016), in her study Error Analysis of Business English Translation Based on Functional Theory, examines translation errors from the perspective of functionalism, highlighting that translation should be directed not only by equivalence but also by the intended purpose (skopos) of the target text. American Translator Association (2022) divides translation errors into two main types: objective errors and subjective errors. Objective errors are clear mistakes that hurt accuracy, like spelling, omissions, mistranslations, or grammar issues that directly affect the quality of the translation. While subjective errors are more about personal or client preferences, such as choosing less preferred terms or stylistic differences that do not necessarily impact understanding. They are often open to discussion, since what counts as an error can depend on the context or the translator-client relationship. Therefore, according to Hansen (2010), the concept of translation error can vary in meaning depending on the translation theories and norms applied. He also explains that translation errors occur when there is a problem during the transfer from the source language to the target language. The definition of these errors differs depending on the translation theories used, which in turn affects how errors are categorized. Additionally, the specific language pair involved can influence the types of errors that arise.

Such errors may result in misunderstandings, the spread of incorrect information, and a failure to accurately capture the intended meaning of the movie's dialogue. A study by Zhao et al. (2023) found that interpreters with higher

proficiency and better working memory made fewer conceptual and syntactic errors, while anxiety increased the likelihood of errors. Lexical errors, which can stem from vocabulary and knowledge gaps, were also more frequent among those experiencing higher anxiety. These findings confirm that human cognitive limitations—such as restricted working memory and incomplete vocabulary—continue to play a key role in translation errors, regardless of the translator's experience level. Even though translators are more experienced in their field, they still make a couple of errors. The same can be said to the students majoring in translation theory. They are more than likely to make errors than official translators because they are still inexperienced in dealing with it.

Because of this issue, the author is motivated to conduct a study on the types of errors that may commonly occur in Indonesian subtitle translations produced by students. These errors often arise due to insufficient vocabulary or incorrect translations chosen by the translators (Magfiroh, 2021). Such inaccuracies can significantly detract from the viewing experience, disrupting the cohesion and authenticity of the storyline intended by the creators. Therefore, careful attention to translation quality remains essential for preserving the integrity of cinematic works (Wulandari, 2023).

All of the errors found in the students' task are then analyzed using The ATA Framework (2021). This model is a translation assessment rubric of the American Translators' Association (ATA) and provides a simple definition of a translation error. It is written in the form with the title ATA Framework for Error Marking that translation errors have negative impacts on the understanding or use of a Target Text

(TT). Translation errors in this model are also called strategic or transfer errors. Moreover, this rubric also lists pure language and grammatical errors called mechanical errors. This model uses an error analysis approach which focuses on errors found in a translation result.

Previous research has explored translation errors in films, including the study by Arina and Happy on subtitle errors in the 2019 movie Joker available on Netflix, which serves as the main reference for this study. This research aims to identify the types of translation errors in the English-Indonesian subtitles of Joker (2019) on Netflix. The data consist of the English-Indonesian subtitles, and the study uses a qualitative descriptive method. Analysis of error types is conducted using the error categories outlined by the American Translators Association (ATA) framework. They found omission, misunderstanding and faithfulness to be the three most occurring types.

Another previous study, Error Analysis of English to Indonesia Subtitles in the "Way, Way Back" Movie by Dyansah and Evert (2022) aims to find the error and analyze it. The data source was taken from English and Indonesian subtitles of The Way, Way Back Movie. According to James's theory (2008), errors can be classified into substance errors, text errors, grammar errors, and lexical errors, with two main causes: interlingual and intralingual. This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach. Error analysis revealed that errors often arise from limited vocabulary, word choice, and structural knowledge. The data showed 100 errors in total, including 44 lexical errors (44%), 56 text errors (56%), 3 grammar errors (3%), and 1 substance

error (1%). Regarding the causes, 64 errors (64%) were interlingual, while 36 errors (36%) were intralingual.

The third previous study used as a reference is from Pattanapong Wongranu (2017) work's Errors in translation made by English major students: A study on types and causes. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method to describe the translation errors. The objectives of this research were to investigate the types of translation errors made when translating from Thai into English, identify which errors occur most frequently, and explore the possible reasons behind these errors. The data collection technique is to make the students go into a course, where they take tests and be interviewed by the researcher. The data was classified using Pojprasat Models (2007). The researcher found 1000 total data of the research which then classified into 3 main types of errors; syntactic, semantic and miscellaneous error types.

There are similarities found from the previous studies. The theories used from the first previous study are the same as it used ATA (2021) as the parameter for the error identification. While the second previous study used James Theory (2008), it still has some theories regarding translation error. The third study is used because both the third study and this study's main focus are student's works. This study aims first to identify the types of translation errors and determine the most common errors found in English-Indonesian subtitle translations produced by students majoring in Translation. Furthermore, it examines the impact of these errors on the overall quality of the translation. The classification of translation error types are based on the error categories outlined in the American Translators Association (ATA) Framework.

Based on the previous studies mentioned above, this study is researching mistakes made by the translation major student from University of LIA. The main objective of conducting this study is to find out the types of errors in terms of words, phrases, and sentences in subtitle translation of the 6th semester Translation Student works. This study uses qualitative descriptive method.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The statement of the problem that is formulated in this study is:

What kind of translation errors are made by the Translation Major Students in University of LIA?

1.3 Research Objectives

This study aims to investigate the types of errors that were made by the students of translation majors at LIA University.

1.4 Research Methodology

This research uses descriptive qualitative research. Qualitative research serves as a scientific methodology that prioritizes a deep and comprehensive understanding of social phenomena, focusing on context and individual perspectives. This interpretive approach seeks to uncover the intricate details—the "what," "why," "when," "where," "who," and "how"—behind social behaviors and interactions, rather than simply measuring their frequency (Lim, 2023). To explore the subjective experiences, viewpoints, and meanings individuals ascribe to their social world, qualitative

research employs open-ended questions, in-depth interviews, focus groups, and participant observation, ensuring a thorough investigation of the phenomena. The flexibility of qualitative research is crucial, as is its dedication to capturing diverse human experiences and perspectives. Acknowledging the collaborative construction of reality between researchers and participants, qualitative methods strive to cultivate a contextually rich understanding, ultimately providing insights that authentically reflect individuals' experiences (Lim, 2024).

The documents used in this research are subtitles made by translation students in the subtitling class. The data in this research are taken from the subtitle of the movie both in English (as source language) and Indonesian (as the target language) and information which is collected through the process of validating the data and analyzing the types of subtitling errors. Content analysis technique was employed in this study. The ATA Framework was applied to analyze in classifying the error types.

The first group of data was taken from the movie Jungle Cruise (2021). Set during World War I, a riverboat captain named Frank takes a scientist and her brother on a mission into a jungle to find the Tree of Life which is believed to possess healing powers. All the while, the trio must fight against dangerous wild animals and a competing German expedition. A part of the film was taken as the data. In the scene, Frank Wolff as the captain showcased his humorous side by throwing a couple of jokes with the passengers. The passengers did not quite find the jokes to be funny. One kid begged her mom to stop him and Frank Wolff threatened to throw the kid into the Boa snake. The subtitles taken from the movie appeared from 00.11.40 - 00.12.50 on the screen.

The second group of data was taken from the movie Old Dads (2023). "Old Dads" follows three best friends and business partners, Jack, Connor, and Mike, who, after selling their throwback sports apparel company, find themselves facing challenges in their lives and families after a millennial CEO takes over the company. They must navigate a world that seems to have changed drastically since their generation, including progressive preschools and a new generation of business leaders, while also trying to win back their families and regain their self-respect. A part of this film was also taken as the data. In the scene, after Jack Kelly was advised to consult a physiatrist, he was going to pick up his kid in the kindergarten. On the way driving there, he encountered a young man with a scooter, driving recklessly without a care in the world. Furious, he threw a fit and shouted some very inappropriate words at him. The subtitles taken from the movie appeared from 00.11.33 - 00.12.13 on the screen.

The data have been collected using several steps: First, collecting the students mid test exam answer sheet. Second, collecting the original and netflix subtitles used for benchmark. Third, comparing the students' subtitles with Old Dads subtitles from Netflix and Jungle Cruise subtitles from Disney Plus as the benchmark. Fourth, underlining which sentences, phrases, or words that contain errors. Last, analyzing the error found in the students' subtitles work using ATA Framework.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

This research focuses on the subtitling errors made by translation class students of the 2022 students' subtitling exam on subtitling class. ATA Framework is used to identify all the translation errors.

1.6 Organization of Writing

Chapter one, the introduction of the study consists of several sub-headings, such as background of study, statement of problem, research objectives, research methodology, scope and limitations and organization of writing. Background of the study briefly explains about film in general, subtitle definition, three previous studies, and the comparison between those research and this study. Statement of problem discloses the main topic of this research. Research objectives present the goal in which this study is hoping to achieve. Research methodology acts like a guide for a study, helping researchers stay organized and thorough so that the results they get are trustworthy and accurate. Scope and limitations propose certain rules to ensure that the procedure is done as accurately as possible.

Chapter two comprises the theoretical framework of this study, which is about the background theory used as a base to further delve into the theme of the research. In this case, the discussed theories are audiovisual translation, subtitle and translation error. All of the theories are taken from various experts in their own expertise to achieve better understanding of the topic.

Chapter three encompasses an in-depth data analysis of this research and also a thorough discussion surrounding the topic. The data was first compiled into one

main classification in a series of actions and after that, thorough analysis of the data was performed. At the end of chapter 3, it is meticulously reviewed under the discussion section.

Lastly, chapter four summarizes the main results and shows how it answers the main objective. Chapter four also contains new ideas resulting from the study and suggestions for future research.