

The Analysis of Translation Method of Song Lyric “White Flag” by Dido

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the translation method of Dido's song lyrics “White Flag” by using Peter Newmark's translation theory. In this theory, there are eight translation strategies, but this study focuses on three main strategies, namely semantic, faithful, and communicative translation. Five song lyric data were selected to be analyzed based on the application of these three strategies. Semantic translation emphasizes faithfulness to the original meaning of the source text, faithful translation emphasizes more on maintaining the structure and style of the original language, while communicative translation focuses on adaptation so that the message can be understood by the target audience. The research approach is descriptive qualitative, by analyzing the lyric data translated through the three strategies. The result of the research shows that faithful translation is a method that is often used in translating the lyrics of the song “White Flag”. This can be seen in the attempt to maintain the structure, style, and emotional nuances of the original lyrics. However, semantic and semantic and communicative strategies are also used in certain parts to ensure the meaning of the lyrics is maintained and relevant to Indonesian-speaking listeners. This research contributes to understanding of the application of Newmark's theory in the translation of song lyrics and provides insights into how faithfulness to the source text can be prioritized in the translation of musical literature.

Keywords: *Analisis, Translation, Song Lyric*

INTRODUCTION

In the era of rapidly developing globalization, music often becomes a link between cultures and languages, allowing people from various circles to feel the same emotions and experiences. One of the songs that describes this situation is the song sung by Dido, namely "White Flag", since its release the song has managed to gain worldwide popularity, becoming one of the most recognized and appreciated musical works in the last 10 years. The success of this song lies not only in the touching melody but also in the lyrics of the song which are very deep and full of meaning, so that they touch the hearts of many listeners.

Translating song lyrics is a complex and challenging process, which involves not only translating words but also meanings, emotions, and cultural nuances in song lyrics (Widyasari, 2023). Translation is not just about replacing words with words from one language into another, but also includes understanding the context and the ability to process the results of the meaning into the target language (Wardana, 2022).

In the context of song lyrics, translation becomes a very important aspect because lyrics often contain very deep artistic elements so that the translation of song lyrics is important to maintain the authenticity of the message, nuance, and cultural context, which can affect the way listeners from various cultures feel and understand the meaning in the song. However, researchers often face challenges in translating song lyrics such as shifting meaning, losing nuance, and cultural incompatibility that affect the listener's understanding. In addition, the problem that is often found is that the existence of idioms, metaphors, and cultural contexts often do not have direct equivalents into Indonesian, causing changes in meaning. Therefore, the analysis of the translation method of the lyrics of the song "White Flag" by Dido is relevant to understand how translators can maintain the authenticity and beauty of the lyrics while reaching a wider audience.

The influence of culture and language in translating song lyrics cannot be ignored. Each language has its own unique structures, idioms, and conventions, which can affect how meaning

is conveyed (Fitri, 2024). It is emphasized that the importance of considering cultural aspects in translation because every work of art, including songs, is a product of a particular social and cultural context (Wardana, 2023). In the lyrics of the song "White Flag" written by Dido, it not only reflects her personal experiences, but also reflects different values and emotions for listeners from various cultures. Therefore, translators must be able to translate these differences to produce an accurate translation that is acceptable to the listener.

This study aims to analyze the translation Method with Newmark's theory (Newmark, 1988) used in the lyrics of the song "White Flag" by Dido. Through this analysis, researchers are expected to find an effective approach in translating lyrics that are full of meaning and emotion contained in the song lyrics. In the era of music globalization, songs from various cultures can be easily accessed widely, so it is important as a translator to understand how to master the meaning and emotion in the original lyrics. This song raises the theme of loss and longing, which has a deep and universal meaning, making it an interesting object to study. By understanding the theme and meaning of the song, researchers can convey the message that Dido wants to convey in the song lyrics to the listener. Researchers seek to identify effective methods in conveying the nuances and culture of the original lyrics into the target language.

RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, the method used is descriptive qualitative research (Dr. SUGIONO, 2019), this study is to provide an in-depth understanding of the analysis of the translation Method of the lyrics of the song "White Flag" by Dido. According to Creswell (Creswell, 2018) "qualitative research uses information in the form of contextual bonds to lead to patterns or theories that will explain social phenomena". This study seeks to reveal how researchers understand and translate meaning and emotion from the source language into the target language. The sample to be used in this study is the lyrics of the song "White Flag" in English and several translations that have been published into Indonesian. The translations analyzed include official and unofficial translations collected from various sources such as websites. As conveyed by Braun and Clarke (Clarke, 2006) where researchers try to analyze by starting to identify, analyze, and report patterns of themes in data that are presented in detail and completely. After collecting data from song lyrics and their translations, an analysis was carried out referring to the translation theory presented by Newmark, namely that translation is an art and science that involves transferring meaning from one language into another, taking into account the cultural context and existing nuances. As explained by Peter Newmark in his book entitled "A textbook of Translation", there are eight translation strategies, namely word for word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptation, free translation, idiomatic translation and communicative translation (Newmark, 1988).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

"White Flag" is a song written by English singer Dido, and Wilson, former vocalist of the band Semisonic. In the writing process which lasted for two days they focused on the simplicity of the melody and arrangement. Dido brought the initial ideas for the lyrics and melody, they worked together to perfect the song which reflects Dido's emotional experience after a breakup. The song was released in January 2011 as part of Dido's second album, 21.

In conducting the analysis of the translation Method of the lyrics of the song "White Flag" by Dido, the researcher used several strategies from the eight strategies proposed by Newmark. Because this song is famous for its emotional lyrics and deep meaning, so that the right translation

can maintain the original meaning and nuance. In Newmark's Method theory there are eight strategies, but in the translation of the lyrics of the song "White Flag" only three strategies are used in the translation, namely semantic translation, communicative translation, and faithful translation.

Communicative translation Method, explains the readability and understanding of the target audience, the application of this Method ensures that the translated lyrics remain easy to understand for Indonesian language listeners. The right translation Method will have a positive impact on the listener (Gusthini, 2024). In addition, the faithful translation Method is applied to produce contextual meaning while still paying attention to the grammatical structure in the source language. And the semantic Method in translation is used to maintain the emotional nuance and original meaning of the lyrics, considering that this song describes deep feelings about losing love.

Table 1. Verse 1

SOURCE LANGUAGE	TARGET LANGUAGE
I know you think that I shouldn't still love you or tell you that	Aku tahu kamu berpikir bahwa aku seharusnya tidak tetap mencintaimu atau memberitahumu itu.
But if I didn't say it, well I'd still have felt it	Tetapi jika saya tidak mengatakannya, saya masih akan merasakannya.
Where's the sense in that?	Di mana pengertiannya?

The verse 1 used literal translation whereby the translator translated the song lyric by keeping the word sequences of the source language as many as possible. But for the lyric "where the sense that?" the translator used the semantic translation in which the word "sense" was translated into "pengertian" not "makna".

Table 2. Pre- chorus

SOURCE LANGUAGE	TARGET LANGUAGE
I promise I'm not trying to make your life harder	Aku berjanji aku tidak mencoba membuat hidupmu lebih sulit
Or return to where we were	Atau kembali ke tempat kita sebelumnya

The pre-chorus part used the faithful translation. it was indicated by the lyric "or return to where we are". On this lyric, the translator translated tried to translate this lyric as natural as possible but keep the meaning.

Table 3. Chorus

SOURCE LANGUAGE	TARGET LANGUAGE
But I will go down with this ship	Tapi aku akan turun dengan kapal ini
And I won't put my hands up and surrender	Dan aku tidak akan mengangkat tangan dan menyerah
There will be no white flag above my door	Tidak akan ada bendera putih di atas pintuku
I'm in love and always will be	Aku jatuh cinta dan akan selalu begitu

In this part, the song lyrics were translated by using the literal translation because the translator tried to keep the structure of the target language was the equal to the source language.

Table 4. Verse 2

SOURCE LANGUAGE	TARGET LANGUAGE
I know I left too much mess and destruction to come back again	Saya tahu saya meninggalkan terlalu banyak kekacauan dan kehancuran untuk kembali lagi
And I caused nothing but trouble	Dan aku hanya menyebabkan masalah
I understand if you can't talk to me again	Saya mengerti jika Anda tidak dapat berbicara dengan saya lagi
And if you live by the rules of it's over	Dan jika Anda hidup dengan aturan itu sudah berakhir
Then I'm sure that that makes sense	Maka saya yakin itu masuk akal

In this verse 2, the song lyrics were translated by using the literal translation. it was indicated by the words at the target language which were translated equally as the source language either the meaning or the structure.

Table 5. Verse 3

SOURCE LANGUAGE	TARGET LANGUAGE
And when we meet	Dan saat kita bertemu
Which I'm sure we will	Yang saya yakin kami akan melakukannya
All that was then	Semua itu dulu
Will be there still	Akan tetap ada
I'll let it pass	Aku akan membiarkannya berlalu
And hold my tongue	Dan tahan lidahku
And you will think	Dan Anda akan berpikir
That I've moved on	Bahwa aku sudah pindah

For this part (verse 3), the song lyric was translated by using the faithful translation whereby the translator focused to deliver the meaning of source language to target language as exact as possible without changing the main idea of the sentence

CONCLUSION

This study has analyzed the translation strategy of the song lyrics "White Flag" by Dido using a descriptive qualitative research method. Through the analysis of five data taken from the song lyrics, there are two translation method that were applied based on Peter Newmark's theory, namely faithful translation, and literal translation. The results of the translation analysis showed that the literal translation method was more dominant used in the translating the song lyrics, which focusing on maintaining the meaning and sentence structure as accurately as possible without changing the meaning of the original lyrics. However, there are several song lyrics which were translated by using semantic translation whereby the translator tried to maintain the nuances and emotional beauty in the lyrics of the song. Overall, the result of the translation of the song lyric "White Flag" by Dido was successful in conveying the original message while maintaining a balance between fidelity to the source text and clarity for the listener.

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