

## Translation of Weiman Kou's 'Corona Virus' Comic into Indonesian: Covid-19 Prevention Educational Strategy

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**Abstract** - The Covid-19 pandemic having been spreading throughout the world has resulted in the emergence of various literary works with the aim of educating the wider community on how to anticipate it. One form of literary work helping educate and is well responded to by the community, especially school-aged children, is comics. Comics are very effective in attracting people to listen and read since the information is conveyed in attractive pictures and in easily digestible language. The comics written are translated into various languages so that people in the regions and speakers of other languages can receive the messages conveyed through the comics in question. Identifying the advantages of comics in educating the prevention of Covid-19 around the world, this research focuses on examining the process of translating a comic by Weiman Kou into Balinese. Translation is an effective way to develop learning, not only in college but also in the wider community environment. This study examines the procedure for translating comics by graduate students of linguistics. The results showed that the comic was translated by literal, calque, and borrowing procedures. In order to achieve quality translation results, it is suggested that translating does not only apply three types of procedures but also many other types of procedures, including communicative and idiomatic procedures. By applying these procedures, the message conveyed is perceived the same to both the source language reader and the target language reader.

**Keywords:** Equivalent Term; Comic; Covid-19 Pandemic; Translation Procedure

### I. INTRODUCTION

Many literary works from one language have now been reported not only using the language itself but also using other languages through various media, including comics. Comic is a form of literary work that uses immovable images arranged in such a way as to form a storyline (Wafa' & Tjahyadi, 2017). Not only pictures, speech balloons are also included in a comic. These speech balloons are writings about what characters say.

The foreign language comics in

Indonesia are favored by readers. Therefore, several comics written in foreign languages have become best-sold comics. Turning away from comic readers who understand foreign languages, there are also readers who have no idea of the foreign language meanings. As a solution this type of reader understands the meaning of the text in the comic through the interpretation of the meaning of the images therein. However, can the message digested only through images be fully received by the readers? Of course not. Therefore, translation

plays an important role at this level.

Translation is a process of transferring the meaning or ideas from the source language (hereinafter is referred to as SL) into the target language (hereinafter is referred to as TL), including the transfer of style (Soemarno, 1983). Translation is defined as an activity to reproduce messages from SL into TL using the closest, parallel and reasonable equivalent, both in the way of expressing the meaning and the style of writing (Pratama, 2016). Then, a translator refers a person who transfers the meaning or the ideas from the SL into the TL. Translation is certainly more effective in re-delivering messages conveyed through the SL into the TL if it is carried out using certain techniques or procedures (Ndruru, 2017). The translation technique is a way to transfer the meaning of the SL to the TL. This is in line with what was stated by Benjamin (2011) that translation is a mode. More than that, the translation technique is a method used to transfer messages from SL to TL, applied at the level of words, phrases, clauses and sentences by referring to the canonical rules or structures of the TL, and not the structure of the SL (Hasyim, 2015).

Furthermore, technique is not the only thing a translator needs. Translation of comics is carried out with several procedures, including as mentioned by Pratama (2016) in her research that translation of comics is based on procedures such as borrowing, equality, translating person as idiomatic expressions, exclamation words and translations, removing elements in translation, and changing the punctuation in translation.

Apart from the forms of speech balloons, there are also various kinds of onomatopies which are one of the things that need to be taken into account when translating comics (Benjamin, 2011). Another and fundamental problem in translation is obtaining the equivalence between SL to be translated and TL which is the result of the translation process. Equivalence can only be obtained if the translator understands the true meaning of the SL text and is able to re-convey it with the correct composition and choice of words in the TL (Emzir, 2016). The equivalence is also voiced in the meaning of the translation itself.

Speaking of translation, there are two

types of translation based on global goals, namely adaptation and naturalisation. Naturalisation is one of a number of translation procedures proposed by (Newmark, 1998). Naturalisation as explained is a way of translating by adapting the SL forms especially pronunciation as the first step. Naturalisation appears as a part of the literal translation procedure which is categorised as one of the types of borrowing (Vinay et al. 1995), or naturalised borrowing (Molina & Albir, 2002) namely borrowing in which a term of SL is adjusted to the rules of pronunciation and TL term spelling.

Adaptation in translation is one of the procedures applied in diverting messages from SL into TL idiomatically. Adaptation is "oblique translation", namely the idiomatic translation procedure proposed by Vinay et al. (1995). Several examples of adaptations can be found in a number of translations of Indonesian texts into English and vice versa. For example, in the context of correspondence, 'Dear Sir' (English) has the equivalent *Dengan Hormat* (Indonesian) as a salutation expression in letter writing. Another example can be seen from the introduction of the terms *keanekaragaman hayati* and *ketahanan hayat* to shift the meaning of the English terms 'biodiversity' and 'biosecurity' (Jayantini, 2010).

There is a comic written by Weiman Kou, a painter, a comic being sought by many translators everywhere. The comic is entitled "Corona Virus (COVID-19)". Corona virus disease 2019 or is well known with term Covid-19 is a type of virus that attacks the human lungs. So far, the prevention of the corona virus is still being voiced on TV, YouTube and radio, but only this comic has voiced prevention through a literary work. This comic has been translated into various other local languages, including Balinese.

A number of studies that have been carried out support this research, including the research on the error in the equivalent of words in the translation text of Mini Crime "Dinner ohne Britta!" by students majoring in German Literature (Wulandari, 2018). The research aims to identify the forms of word equivalent in the translation text of Mini Krimi "Dinner ohne Britta!" which is translated by the students and explains the

causes of these errors. The results of this study reveal that there are 3 (three) forms of equivalent word errors in the translated text, including errors in matching words with words, errors in matching words with phrases, and errors in matching words with clauses. Moreover, it was also found that these errors caused a mismatch of contextual meaning between SL and TL and ineffective sentences in TL. Additionally, it is revealed that there are three shortcomings of students, namely the lack of vocabulary in German, a lack of understanding of German and Indonesian culture, and limited time in translating.

Another research is research conducted on translation techniques and the quality of translation of sentences containing satirical expressions in the novel "The 100-Year-Old Man who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared" (Dhyaningrum et al., 2016). This study aims to determine the complexity sentences containing satirical expressions, types of satirical expressions, rhetorical devices in satirical expressions, translation techniques, and the impact of translation techniques on the quality of translation of sentences containing satirical expressions in those words. The results of this study indicated that sentence constructions containing satirical expressions consisted of complex sentences, simple sentences, compound sentences, compound complex sentences, and minor sentences. The types of satirical expression consist of personal, episodic, experimental and textual satires. The rhetorical devices that most often appear in satirical expressions are irony, ridicule, and sarcasm. The translation techniques that have the highest frequency are equivalent, linguistic compression, pure borrowing, transposition, and subtraction. Translation techniques that appear most frequently make a positive contribution to the overall quality of translation. From the assessment of the three quality aspects, the conclusion of the study is that translator is quite capable of applying translation techniques. There is a positive impact of the techniques applied and the total translation quality.

Other research related to this study the one conducted on translation techniques, methods, ideology in the comic entitled "Baby Blues Siaga Satu Anak Pertama by Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott" and its effect

on translation quality (Wafa' & Tjahyadi, 2017). The purpose of this study is to analyse the translation techniques, methods and ideology used by the translator in translating the forms and functions of directive illocutionary speech act in these comics and to assess the quality of the translation of the form and function of the directive illocutionary speech act contained therein. The findings of this study indicate that there are 273 directive illocutionary speech act discovered. The quality of the translation of directive illocutionary speech acts in the comic includes three aspects, namely accuracy, acceptability, and readability. The translation quality of the directive illocutionary speech act in the comic tends to be good. The percentage of translation aspects of accuracy, acceptability, and readability is very high.

Based on this background, the equivalent words in translation of the Weiman Kou's "Corona Virus" (Covid-19) Comic in Balinese are very important to be studied. What's more, the study of this object has never appeared in previous studies. In a specific level, there are two objectives of this research, namely to examine the procedure for translating Weiman Kou's "Corona Virus (Covid-19)" comic in Balinese and the ideology in translating the comic.

## II. METHOD

This study makes use of qualitative research method. The qualitative research method referred to here is a research method used to examine objects and subjects naturally and is not contrived and the role of the researcher is as a key instrument (Sugiyono, 2006). Furthermore, Sugiyono (2006) argued that qualitative design is a research design whose data are in the form of qualitative descriptive, personal documents, field notes, respondent's words and actions, documents, and others. The same thing view was stated by Moleong (1988) that qualitative research is a research in which data are collected in the form of words, pictures, and not numbers.

The data studied in this study are the equivalent words found in the comic Weiman Kou's "Corona Virus (Covid-19)". An excerpt from the text in the comic into Indonesian is shown below.



Fig 1. Excerpt of Text in “Corona Virus (COVID-19)” Comic

The data were collected through content analysis. Content analysis is a variety of forms of document analysis. The data that has been obtained are then analysed qualitatively through content analysis technique. According to (Spradley, 1980), content analysis includes several stages, namely; domain, taxonomy, componential analysis, and finding cultural values. Content analysis was carried out by reading the comic “Corona Virus (COVID-19)”, both the original comic and its translation into Balinese, identifying the equivalent words in the two versions of the comic, giving the data codes, analysing the word equivalents by looking at the words in the comic. Corona Virus (COVID-19) and Balinese comic translation. After the data were analyzed, they are presented descriptively.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section describes the initial stages of the analysis, namely the study of the translation of the comic “Covid-19” from English into Indonesian. The written data of this research were taken from these comics and their translation into Indonesian in the translation class. The data is then grouped based on the problem formulations that have been described.

The analysis in this section is carried out sequentially on each datum, namely explaining the translation procedure and followed by an analysis of the translation ideology used in the translation process of the comic. Translation is carried out by the second grader at the postgraduate students in Linguistics of Universitas Warmadewa in the Translation class.

### Procedures for Translating Medical Terms

Based on the results of data analysis, it was found that in translating medical terms from English to Indonesian various translation procedures were used. Among them are *borrowing*, *literal translation*, *calque*, and *adaptation*.

#### Borrowing

*Borrowing* is a translating technique by taking words directly from SL as the equivalent into TL. Molina & Albir (2002) explained that in the *borrowing* technique, a translator can use two ways, the first is called *pure borrowing* and the second is called *naturalised borrowing*. In *pure borrowing* the translator retains the SL word or term without making any changes into the TL. With the *naturalised borrowing*, the translator borrows SL words or terms, but the pronunciation of the words is adjusted in the TL, mostly at phonological level.

The transfer of terms using the borrowing technique found in the translation of the comic "Corona Virus" is described as follows.

1.	If you just one of them is infected, the virus might spread through you to everyone else	Jika Anda salah satu dari mereka yang terinfeksi, <u>virus</u> mungkin menyebar melalui Anda ke orang lain
2.	Separating Covid 19	Memisahkan <u>Covid-19</u>

Datum (1) shows the application of *pure borrowing* technique, in the occurrence of borrowing the word SL ‘virus’, without making any changes to the TL version. In this case, *borrowing* is used in specific health science.

The application of foreignisation ideology in the translation is used when translating foreign a term. Translator in this case students still retains the foreign term form in TL. The word “virus” in SL is still translated as *virus* in TL, without changing anything; this is where the *pure borrowing* technique works. Meanwhile, the term in the TL still contains foreign element and indicates

the application of foreignisation in the translation.

Likewise with datum (2) which shows *pure borrowing* application. In this translation, there is a borrowing technique applied to the translation of the SL term 'Covid-19', without making any changes to the terms in TL. In this case, *pure borrowing* is used in specific health science. Covid-19, which stands for corona virus disease 2019, is translated directly into the TL in an abbreviated form 'Covid-19'.

The application of foreignisation ideology in translation is realized when translating foreign term. Translators in this case are the postgraduate students, still retain foreign term in TL. The term 'virus' in SL is still translated into a virus on the TL, without making any changes, and the phenomenon is called *pure borrowing* application process. In this process, the application of the foreignisation process in the translation is shown.

3.	People with <i>asthma</i> or poor immunity.	<i>Penderita <u>asma</u> atau kekebalan buruk.</i>
4.	Rubs with 60% to 95% of alcohol are most effective against viruses.	<i>Gosok dengan <u>alkohol</u> 60% hingga 95% <u>paling efektif</u> melawan virus.</i>

Datum (3) shows the realisation of the application of *naturalised borrowing* technique. In the translation results, it can be seen that there is a technique of borrowing to the SL word 'asthma' into the TL but the pronunciation of the word is adjusted to the pronunciation of the TL word sound system, and then it becomes 'asthma'. In this case, the word 'asthma' has undergone an adjustment in pronunciation in the TL, namely Indonesian. This shows the application of the domestication ideology in the translation process, because pronunciation has been adjusted to the TL sound pronunciation system.

Likewise with datum (4), which shows the application of *naturalised borrowing* technique. In SL there is the word 'alcohol' but it is translated as 'alkohol' in TL. In this case, the SL word 'alcohol' has undergone a

pronunciation adjustment in TL due to the different phonological system of the TL, namely the Indonesian phonological system. This shows the application of the domestication ideology in the translation of the term SL into TL.

### Literal Translation

Literal translation is done by translating word for word. Literal translation is also found in the translation of the terms of health in the comic "Covid 19" from English into Indonesian. The following is an illustration.

5.	If you are able to work or study at home and visit only essential places when you need to, it will help to greatly <i>reduce the spread</i>	<i>Jika Anda dapat bekerja atau belajar di rumah dan hanya mengunjungi tempat-tempat penting ketika Anda perlu, itu akan sangat membantu <u>mengurangi penyebaran</u></i>
6	So let's do our part to <i>stay safe</i> and protect others from this virus!	<i>Jadi mari kita lakukan bagian kita untuk <u>tetap aman</u> dan melindungi orang lain dari virus ini!</i>
7	Separating covid-19	<i><u>Memisahkan covid-19</u></i>

Data (5), (6) and (7) show the phrases translated word for word from SL into TL. Among other things, '...reduce the spread' (SL) is translated to *mengurangi penyebaran* (TL), '...stay safe' (SL) is translated into *tetap aman* (TL), and 'separating Covid-19' is also translated word for word into TL to *memisahkan covid-19*. Therefore, the translation in this section applies the literal translation technique. *Loss and gain of information* does not occur in these data.

### Domestication in Translation

Translation of the data (5), (6) and (7) above is done literally. This shows the application of the domestication ideology in the translation. Domestication in this



translation is exposed because the term health is translated into the TL without any foreign elements that are still attached to the TL

8.	keep hands clean	<i>menjaga kebersihan tangan</i>
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Datum (8) shows the translation is done word for word from SL into TL, such as the phrase 'keeps hands clean' (BSu) translated as *menjaga kebersihan tangan* (TL). Hence, this translation is included in the category of literal translation. However, hands clean in SL translates to *kebersihan tangan* in TL. This indicates a shift in translation. The shift can occur because SL and TL have different structures. In datum (5), there is a shift in the structure from SL to TL, in that, the position of the MODIFIER and HEAD in SL and Indonesia in phrase construction is different. In other words, Indonesian has a phrase structure, M-M (modified-modifier), while English has an M-M (modifier-modified) structure.

### Calque

Vinay et al. (1995) explain that an SL word or phrase is translated and used directly in TL. This technique has a special characteristic, in that, the occurrence of SL structural interference in the TL and translation is carried out literally or literally.

9.	<i>alcohol-based hand rub</i>	<i>handrub berbasis alkohol</i>
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Datum (9) show that the SL phrase 'alcohol-based handrub' is translated directly into one TL phrase, namely *handrub berdasarkan alkohol*, so that the translation shows the application of the calque procedure, namely the occurrence of TL structural interference. In this data, it is clear that there is foreignisation in the translation, because foreign terms are retained in the TL.

### Adaptation

Vinay and Darbelnet (in Venuti, 2000) explained that adaptation is a translation technique by replacing SL elements with elements that are accepted and familiar in TL.

In other words, the translator replaces elements of SL culture with cultural elements that have the same characteristics in the TL and those cultural elements are familiar to TL readers. The results of this study also indicate the application of this ideology in translating the comic "Covid-19" as shown in the following illustration.

10.	<i>Stay in touch with them in other ways!</i>	<i>Tetap berkomunikasi dengan mereka dengan cara lain! tetap menjalin komunikasi</i>
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Datum (10) shows the application of adaptation technique, especially in translating the phrase 'stay in touch' which literally means *sentuh* in TL. However, in this context, the use of the phrase 'stay in touch' can contain the meaning of *tetap berkomunikasi* used in the TL. In other words, the translator replaces elements of SL culture with cultural elements that have the same characteristics in the TL and those cultural elements are familiar to the TL readers. In datum 10, it is clear that the element of the domestication ideology is realised, namely in translation by replacing the term with a cultural elements that is familiar to TL readers.

## IV. CONCLUSIONS

The results of the research and discussion that have been presented in the previous sections produce several conclusions to be drawn on in this study. Firstly, there are several procedures implemented by the translator, in this case the second grader of postgraduate students in Linguistics of Universitas Warmadewa in translating the comic "Covid-19" as part of practical work in the Translation class. The translation referred to is the translation of English medical terms. Each of them is *borrowing, literal translation, calque, and adaptation*. In the borrowing procedure, students applied *pure borrowing* and *naturalised borrowing*. In applying the *literal translation* procedure, students translated SL word for word into TL. The *calque* procedure was applied by taking SL elements and reusing them as a substitute for TL elements, causing interference to occur in SL. *Adaptation* was applied when the

translator replaced elements of SL culture with cultural elements that have the same characteristics in the TL and those cultural elements are familiar to TL readers.

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