Title : Textual Analysis on Sherlock Holmes's Translation Book

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INTRODUCTION TO TRANSLATION

TEXTUAL ANALYSIS ON SHERLOCK HOLMES'S

TRANSLATION BOOK

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Translating fictional works is no ordinary task especially when translating the one that was published in a different era. In the late 18th century or rather known as the Victorian era, is where literature entered its golden age & evolved drastically compared to the previous era. The mixture of romanticism and realism in the style of writing is the main element in most of the literary works at this time. The changes are largely due to the dramatic change of the sociocultural of England, the scientific discovery and the technological advances in this era. Thus, it is vital for the translation of the work to retain its cultural value as translations have the ability to shape the representations of foreign cultures (McMurran, 1962).

This study will analyze the translated version of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" which was originally written by the infamous Arthur Conan Doyle back in the 18th century. His canonical Sherlock Holmes stories comprised four novellas and five collections of short stories. The one we will discuss is one of the five collections. Four translators are involved in translating the collection: Syarafuddin Sulaiman, Hidayati Kasuma Binti Abdul Hadi, Nor Azila Zainal Abidin and Fatimah Rodiah Mohd. Yusof. For this study, we will analyse the translated text of the first chapter.

1.1 Synopsis

All stories in this collection are told in the perspective of Dr. Watson with the exception of four of them. Generally, the stories follow Sherlock Holmes in his adventures to solve mysteries that involve social injustices, such as "a king's betrayal of an opera singer, a stepfather's deception of his ward as a fictitious lover, an aristocratic crook's exploitation of a failing pawnbroker, a beggar's extensive estate in

Kent. Holmes is portrayed as a figure of justice to counter the unjust world of the aristocrats and middle-class citizens.

1.2 Why it is translated

Sherlock Holmes has always been the pioneer of detective stories with various films, TV series adaptations that have been done and to a certain extent, featured in a number of video games and other pop cultures. Surely, there are a large number of people who are interested to read the source material but might feel too overwhelmed with its bombastic Middle English style of writing. Thus, the demands warranted all of Doyle's works to be translated into Malay which was published by Penerbit X as of 2020.

2.0 TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES

The truth about translation is undeniable because it does play a vital role in propagating the right information. However, translating between two different languages will never be easy since the possibility of misinterpretation might occur as the end product will not be 100% sharp as the original one. Translation plays a vital role in human daily life in terms of evaluation, designing translator machines, and cultural studies.

However, interlingual translation is often forgotten by most linguistics of language systems which eventually make translate seem impossible. It is said that translation and linguistics will never work together because translation is not a linguistic process but more to a cultural process (Vermeer, 1987). Mounin (1963) on the counter-attack in his writing said, a translation process already portrays the idea of linguistics because it applies the structure of lexicons, morphologies, and syntaxes in different

ways of different languages. As mentioned by him, French word mouton in French resemble the idea of semantic space of English words "sheep" and "mutton" which shows that French and English have different linguistic structure because the word "sheep" does not exactly translate the word mouton.

As we know, translation requires deep thinking in order to convey and deliver the exact meaning from the targeted language. Thus, we have chosen "Sherlock Holmes's book, Chapter 1: Scandal in Bohemia" as our subject research to compare with the translated version " Sherlock Holmes. Bab 1: Skandal di Bohemia" on how translation takes place between these two languages, English and Malay. After skimming through each page, we have identified four translation techniques applied in translating from English to Bahasa Melayu. Direct and oblique translation can be found in the targeted language, English which is literal translation, transposition, modulation and equivalence.

2.1 Direct Translation

2.1.1 Literal translation

The first technique is literal translation, it falls under the direct translation technique. As its name implies, it is a translation that follows closely the form of the source language which is also known as word for word translation. As stated by Newmark (1988), literal translation happens when source language (SL) was translated into their nearest target language (TL) equivalents but the words are again rendered individually. It is the most common technique that has always been used, however, it could not be applied for all occasions since it may bring a different meaning to some parts of targeted texts since syntax, morphology will be affected.

The examples for this technique can be observed from the excerpts of the targeted language, Bahasa Melayu version, page 35

Source Language (English)	Target Language (Bahasa Melayu)
Good night, Mister Sherlock Holmes	Selamat malam, Tuan Sherlock Holmes

From the source language here, we can see that the targeted language sentence was translated without changing the whole meaning of the source text. The translator translated the text with the exact noun and word structure of the line as the same as the source language. In this form, people who did not speak one of the languages may be able to use any of both to acquire a second language.

Source Language (English)	Target Language (Bahasa Melayu)
At present, it is not too much to say that it is of such weight it may have influence upon European history.	Pada masa sekarang, ia terlalu berat untuk diperkatakan kerana ia mungkin akan mempengaruhi sejarah Eropah.

In this sentence, it can again be seen clearly that literal translation is being used to translate the sentence. The word "at present" was translated into "pada masa sekarang"

and "it is of such weight" was translated into "ia terlalu berat". the meaning was maintained and didn't transform into another meaning as it should be.

2.1.2 Transposition

Transposition falls under the oblique category in translation and like its name, in Newmark's opinion (1988) the changes grammatical form from the source language to the target language. According to him, there are four types of transposition which the first is the form change of a single noun in the source language becomes a plural noun in the source language. Second, the form changes because the grammatical structure of the source language is not in the target language. Third, the translation was uncommon in the target language although it can be translated directly. Lastly, the form changes to fill the source language lexical asymmetry with grammatical structure in the target language.

Source Language (English)	Target Language (Bahasa Melayu)
Then, come, I am all impatience to be gone.	Jadi, mari pergi sekarang, kesabaranku sudah semakin menipis.

It can be seen in this example, the sentence was translated using transposition because the level of fairness is lacking in the translation. Thus, equivalent transposition occurs here. The sentence was translated using adequate meaning to relate to the source text most realistically.

Source Language (English)	Target Language (Bahasa Melayu)
You, of course, saw that everyone in the street was an accomplice. They were all engaged for the evening.	Kau tentu sekali menyedari semua orang di jalan tadi sebenarnya rakan subahat untuk peristiwa pada petang ini.

In this example, the targeted language was translated with only one sentence as the outcome when it was supposed to have two sentences just like the source text does. Here, the act of placing pronouns in the target language delivers the message in a much simple way without repeating the same message over and over again.

2.2 Oblique Translation

2.2.1 Modulation

Vinay & Darbelnet (1995, p. 36) describes modulation as the variation of the form of the message, obtained from the point of view. This change can be justified when, although a literal, or even transposed, translation results in a correctly grammatical utterance, it is considered unsuitable, unidiomatic, or awkward in Target Language (TL). Gérard Hardin and Gynthia Picot (1990) describe modulation as "a shift in perspective that allows us to express the same phenomenon in a different way. In a simpler layman language, modulation is where the texts were translated by changing the point of view semantically from one language to another language and still deliver the same meaning of the message.

Source Language	Target Language
I am sorry that I have not been able to bring your Majesty's business to a more successful conclusion."	Patik memohon ampun, setakat ini sahaja yang dapat patik lakukan untuk tuanku

In this example, the process of modulation was used. The author changed the point of view of the sentence from using the negative view to the positive point of view. The source text uses the word "not been able" that if were to be translated literally to the source language, it will bring the meaning of 'tidak boleh' or 'tidak mampu'. These translated phrases are a bit negative and may cause the reader to assume that the persona is a disappointing person. The translator uses the modulation procedure to change the point of view from negative to positive by translating the full sentence to 'patik memohon ampun, setakat ini sahaja yang dapat patik lakukan untuk tuanku'. It still conveys the same meaning and expression of that guy who failed to complete the task but in a bit of a positive way.

2.2.2 Equivalence

Equivalence translation is using words that are commonly acceptable and understandable in the target language during the translation process. Equivalence words are commonly used when translating idioms, proverbs, lexicalized terms and idiomatic expressions. Normally, equivalence is employed in cases where a similar situation is described by different stylistic or structural means (Behtash &

Moghadam, 2017). Arifiani (2016) repeatedly stressed that one and the same situation can be rendered by two texts using completely different stylistic and structural methods.

Source Language	Target Language
Drive like the devil, he shouted.	Pandu selaju-lajunya, dia memberi arahan.

The example above shows that the author uses the equivalence procedure from the source language to the target language. If the sentence is literally translated, "drive like a devil' will brings the meaning 'pandu seperti syaitan'. This is an idiomatic expression so it cannot be translated literally. This will make the reader confused and wondering how a devil would drive; if they can even drive a car. Thus, the translator uses the equivalence procedure and translates it to 'pandu selaju-lajunya'. This is because the idiom brings the meaning to drive quickly, thus it is being translated to 'pandu selaju-lajunya'. Besides, at the end of the sentence, 'he shouted' is also translated as 'dia memberi arahan' as an equivalence to the literally translated text 'dia menjerit'. The former is more suitable in the context because it describes that the order was delivered by shouting it.

Source Language	Target Language
Now carry out my orders to the letter.	Kita bertindak sekarang.

In this example, the translator uses descriptive equivalence to translate the text. The author uses new words to translate the sentence and still deliver the same meaning to the action. If the source text were translated literally, it would be 'sekarang, jalankan arahan saya berdasarkan surat tersebut'. It is very lengthy and does not suit the atmosphere of the scene where urgency is really important. "Kita bertindak sekarang' is indeed the correct choice to use as it really suits the context and atmosphere with a sense of urgency.

Source Language	Target Language
…you will throw into the room what I give you to throw, and will, at the same time, raise the cry of fire.	…kau akan mencampakkan kedalam bilik benda yang akan aku berikan, dan pada masa yang sama berteriak ada kebakaran.

In the example above, the sentence was translated literally. However at the end of the sentence, the equivalence procedure was used. The target text 'the cry of fire' is an

idiom or an expression so it cannot be translated literally. If the phrases are to be translated literally, it will be 'tangisan api' and this will make it a metaphor that shows that the fire is crying. The literal translation is clearly out of context and will make the reader confused. Instead, the translator uses the equivalence translation procedure and translates it to 'berteriak ada kebakaran' as it will make more sense and easier for the reader to understand the context.

3.0 REVIEW

In the translations of high-level literature works such as this, most translators would be divided between retaining the quality of the writings or reducing such quality in favour of readability. In this case, the translators favour readability more so that it is easy to digest and enjoyed by many. It would be best if they are able to strike the balance between readability and quality because words do not convey denotative meanings but also carry the connotative, cultural and stylistic meanings (Rishikesh, 2020).

The strong points of the translated text of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" comes from its readability. Doyle's style of writing is known to be long-winded but the translators were capable of making it understandable without subtracting any of the details.

Source Text (ST)	Translated Text (TT)
"If we could fly out of that window hand in hand, hover over this great city, gently remove the roofs, and peep in at the queer things which are going on, the strange coincidences, the plannings, the cross-purposes, the wonderful chains of events, working through generations, and leading to the most outr´e results, it would make all fiction with its conventionalities and foreseen conclusions most stale and unprofitable."	*"Kalau kita mampu terbang keluar dari tingkap itu, melayang di atas kota yang gah ini, perlahan-lahan memunggah genting-genting atap dan mengintai perkara-perkara pelik yang sedang berlaku, kebetulan-kebetulan yang aneh, rancangan-rancangan yang sedang berlangsung, percanggahan-percanggahan yang terjadi – rantaian kejadian - kejadian yang luar biasa ini berlaku dari generasi ke generasi dan membawa kepada hasil yang pelik. Ini menjadikan karya-karya fiksyen konvensional dan mudah diramal ceritanya akan cepat menjadi basi dan tiada sesiapa yang mahu membacanya lagi."*

Based on the example above, the translators succeeded in translating the long-winded sentence to be readable by utilizing transposition and modulation procedures. The transpositions can be seen on the second half of the sentence which utilized a dash and the final clause was omitted and moved to a new sentence. Meanwhile,

modulation is spotted in the second sentence which translates "unprofitable" to "tiada sesiapa yang mahu membacanya lagi." This translation however, is questionable since "tidak menguntungkan" is enough to translate "unprofitable". It is unnecessary to add more to an already long-winded sentence.

The other strong point is the adaptation such as 'cabinet size' is translated to "saiz 4' x 6' " as the term is only widely used to describe 4 x 6 inches pictures in 1870 onwards and no longer relevant to be used these days. In another instance, the expression "Drive like the devil" is translated to its actual meaning, "Pandu selaju-lajunya". The expression 'like the devil' means doing something with a lot of effort. Since Malay culture only associates devils with derogatory meaning, the translator decided to translate the idiom's meaning itself.

For the most part, the text is translated literally and sometimes it does not read very smoothly in Malay. This is quite a huge flaw on the translators' part.

Source Text (ST)	Translated Text (TT)
""The man who wrote it was presumably well to do," I remarked, endeavouring to imitate my companion's processes. "Such paper could not be bought under half a crown a packet. It is peculiarly strong and stiff."	*"Orang yang menulisnya diandaikan orang yang berada," kataku, berusaha untuk meniru proses temanku itu. "Kertas ini tidak boleh dibeli di bawah harga setengah crown satu paket. Ia kuat dan keras, pelik."*
"Peculiar—that is the very word," said	*"Pelik — itulah yang tepatnya," kata*

Holmes..”	*Holmes.*

The example above is one of the many examples of the translators' flaw when it comes to literal translation. It is very unnatural and not fluid enough because it was translated word-for-word. It would be best if they utilize modulation and transposition procedures to make it sound more fluid. The table below shows our suggested translation to remedy the problem.

Source Text (ST)	Suggested Translation
““The man who wrote it was presumably well to do,” I remarked, endeavouring to imitate my companion's processes. “Such paper could not be bought under half a crown a packet. It is peculiarly strong and stiff.” *“Peculiar—that is the very word,” said Holmes..”*	*“Penulisnya mungkin seorang yang berada.” kataku, dalam usaha untuk meniru pemikiran temanku itu. “Kertas sebegini tidak mungkin boleh dibeli di bawah harga setengah crown sepaket. Kekuatan dan kekerasannya agak luar biasa.”* *“Luar biasa — itulah perkataan yang tepat,” kata Holmes.*

Firstly, we translated "the man who wrote it was presumably well to do" to "penulisnya mungkin seorang yang berada" as opposed to the original translation, "orang yang menulisnya diandaikan orang yang berada". This is because it is rather awkward and rigid to read "orang yang menulisnya diandaikan…." despite its faithfulness to the original text. The four words can simply be shortened to two, "penulisnya mungkin…" and they sound more natural. Then, we translated "It is peculiarly strong and stiff" to "kekuatan dan kekerasannya agak luar biasa" while the original translation, "ia kuat dan keras, pelik". Even with the difference of the grammatical structure of both languages, the translator still utilizes translation which results in an awkward translation. Our suggested translation is more fluid to read even though it is longer. Finally, "peculiar—that is the very word," is translated to "luar biasa — itulah perkataan yang tepat," while the original translation, "pelik — itulah yang tepatnya,". For whatever reason, the translator omitted "word" and chose to translate "peculiar" to "pelik" when there is a better choice for it. The omission of "word" in the original translation might lead readers to confusion regarding what "tepatnya" refers to.

Translators are also tasked to use suitable equivalence to fit within the target language culture. However, some of the equivalence translations are not accurate. For example, "double-edged weapon" is translated to "serampang dua mata". The meaning of "serampang dua mata" is that both sides will benefit from an outcome while "double-edge blade" gives meaning to something that can be both beneficial and harmful. Thus, the discrepancy of the meanings might confuse the readers despite their almost similar literal meaning. In Malay culture, 'serampang' is known as a

spear with multiple edges on its tip, typically used for fishing. The translators chose to adapt the proverb with a term that is fitting in Malay culture literally. Unfortunately, this will lead to misinterpretations of the proverb. According to Sanders (2005), "adaptations are reinterpretations of established text in new generic contexts or with relocations of a source text's cultural and/or temporal setting, which may or may not involve generic shift" (p.19)

4.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, we can agree that translation is a really important field when dealing with foreign languages; both textual and verbal. Translations also act as the bridge to intercultural interactions. Since ancient times, documents have been translated to other languages. For example, documents from France have been to English and also documents from Arabic to Malaysian. Just imagine if the religious Arabic texts were wrongly translated to Malay during the Malacca Sultanates, of course a chaotic era will befall upon us. Thus, a proper and correct translation procedure is really important to prevent misunderstanding and misinterpretations.

Translating a text requires extensive knowledge over the target language's culture, special terms, and taboo words. This is to ensure that the translator will not offend the local language of the target language and also to ensure that the translated text will not deviate far from the source text in delivering its real meaning. Just like this book, the translator managed to translate the book magnificently using the correct translation procedures. The translator did a good job in retaining the quality of Middle English writing styles even after translating it to Malay language. The translation of this book will allow die-hard detective fans to indulge reading the adventures of the
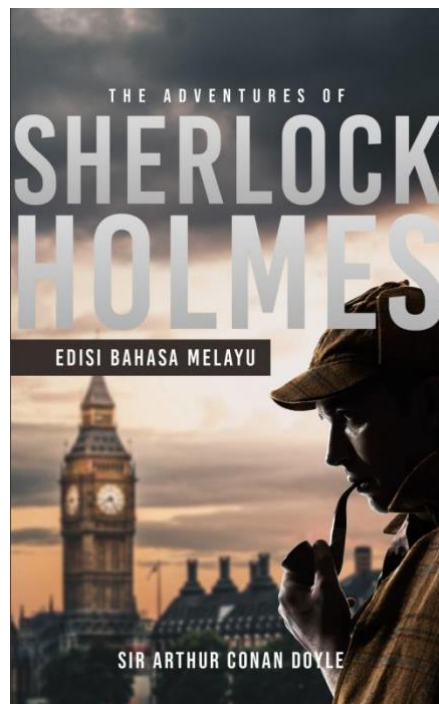
renowned detective, Sherlock Holmes. These die-hard fans will be able to enjoy the aesthetic of Middle English writing styles without missing on any details.

APPENDICES

1. Books that were mentioned in this report
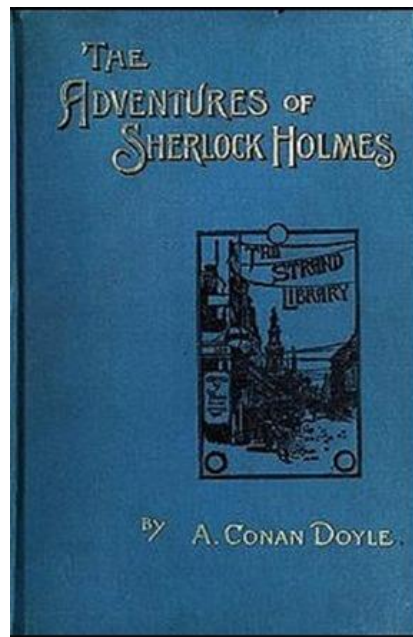
Sherlock Holmes's book English version

Sherlock Holmes's book Malay version

2. A link to Google Drive containing PDFs of both books in online version.

- https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=1ErEcv69Gh2U4fRlTNNY3pCxKGy4-4htV

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