

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Technology has made people live a better life. In accordance with the development of technology, nowadays, people can get entertainment much more easily and frequently than in past times. For instance, it can be seen that almost all people have televisions as one representation of the development of technology. Before television was invented, they could only get entertained by radios. However, with the invention of black and white televisions, their views were broadened as there were many interesting visual programs offered on televisions. Then colour televisions came up to provide the people with better performances.

By watching films either on TV or films, people get more information and entertainments. People like to watch many English spoken films or programs nowadays, nevertheless not all of them have the ability to understand the language uttered directly by the speakers. For viewers whose daily language is not the same as that being spoken in the films, watching the programs without any subtitles or any other transcription of the foreign language will be boring or puzzling for them. It is because they do not know what the speakers in the program are talking about. Thus subtitles or dubbing has to be given. Still by the advancement of technology, subtitles or dubbing has been made to help the viewer understand the language of the foreign programs better. Film translators and dubbers have tried their best to transform the original language of the foreign films into the daily ones of the viewers so that the people can enjoy the entertainments. In fact, there are still a lot of films or any other foreign language programs whose translation is not quite good regarding some mistakes made by the translators or dubbers. Some of the subtitles or utterances do not convey what the original speakers mean. This means that the translators or the dubbers have “manipulated” the work of the filmmakers.

It is not easy to make a good translation. The writer quotes Nida and Taber's (1982) statement stating:

“... In order to get texts which reflect equivalent translation, translators need to change their view of the languages they are dealing with. ... each language has its own genius.”

It turns out that each language has its own characteristics that should be paid attention to by any translators. There are always problems that occur in translating from a language into another since it is not a matter of changing the form of language literally, word by word, phrase by phrase, and so on. Translators sometimes feel satisfied when they are able to translate every sentence they are dealing with in the source language texts. They do not realize that actually there are still more idiomatic forms of language than those they successfully translated. We can take an example of literal translation *bergerak ke belakang*. It seems that these phrases are acceptable in Indonesian, yet the more appropriate form is *mundur*.

It is interesting to learn about slang, that is “very informal words or expressions that are more common in spoken language and are not thought suitable for formal situation” (Oxford Dictionary, 1995) Thus in this project the writer wants to conduct a research on a film entitled *American Beauty*. The research will be about the subtitles given by the previous translators as the result of translating from the English utterances in the motion picture.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

By doing the research the writer intends to answer the following question:

1. What kinds of mistakes appear in the subtitles which do not convey the meaning of the original utterances?
2. Which mistake mostly occurs in the subtitles?
3. What is the quality of the subtitles of the utterances?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

With the guidance of the questions stated in the statement of the problem the writer intends to know what kinds of mistakes appear in the subtitles that do not convey the meaning of the original utterances; which mistake mostly occurs in the subtitles and what the quality of the subtitles of the utterances spoken by the characters is.

1.4. Significance of the study

By doing the research on the subtitles, the writer wants to learn how the translator does the translation in *American Beauty*. After having the research on the Indonesian subtitles and the English utterances, the writer hopes that she knows better how the translator deal with the job in translating the utterances as well as finds out the implications of translation theories.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope for the research is translation. The data for the transcription of utterances are obtained from *American Beauty* taken from VCD (Video Compact Disc). There are totally seventy-six scenes in the film, in which the writer considers having three parts - the beginning, the conflicts, and the ending. The subtitles being analyzed are from twelve scenes of the three parts, having more utterances than the others. She takes the whole utterances and subtitles contained in the film during those sessions.

The analysis is based on the theories of translation. The translation theories are those of Peter Newmark's, about unit of translating, audience criteria, the categorisation of translation mistakes, as well as of Christine Durieux's in Newmark's book (1993) about the justification of a good translation.

1.6. Definitions of Key Terms

There are some terms that the writer uses in this thesis. Before going on further, the writer gives lexical explanation of those terms so that the readers get some understanding concerning their meanings presented in the following:

1. SUBTITLE

Words that translate what is said in a film into a different language and appear on the screen at the bottom.

(Oxford Dictionary, 1995)

2. TRANSLATION

Rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text.

(Newmark, 1987)

3. SOURCE LANGUAGE

The language of the text that is to be or has been translated.

(Newmark, 1987)

4. TARGET LANGUAGE

The language of the translated text.

(Newmark, 1987)

1.7. Organization of the Study

The contents of the research will be organized into five chapters. The first chapter will discuss about the introduction consisting of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Significance of the Study, Scope and Limitation, Definition of Terms, as well as Organization of the Study. The second chapter is about Review of Related Literature whose contents may give the writer the theoretical base for her research. The third chapter contains Methods of Study, that is, the Methodology or the Research Approach, Source of Data, Instrument, Data Collection, and Data Analysis. The fourth chapter will be about the Findings and Discussion. Finally, the fifth chapter contains the conclusion of the analysis done by the writer.