



**THE STRATEGIES IN TRANSLATING SLANG LANGUAGE IN THE
WALKING DEAD COMIC VOLUME 1 DAYS GONE BYE**

JOURNAL ARTICLE

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By:

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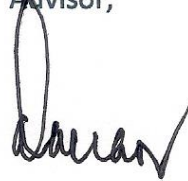
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PAGE OF APPROVAL

This journal has been approved by the advisor on 5 August 2016 to be examined by the board of examiners.

Advisor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Achmad Basari', written in a cursive style.

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ABSTRACT

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Keywords: *Translation Strategies, Slang Language, The Walking Dead Comic Volume 1 Days Gone Bye*

This thesis is entitled *The Strategies in Translating Slang Language in The Walking Dead Comic Volume 1 Days Gone Bye*. This study is aimed at analyzing the strategies used by the translator in the translation of *The Walking Dead Comic Volume 1 Days Gone Bye*. The researcher used descriptive qualitative to analyze the data and used the slang frameworks by Emilia Zotevska (2013) and translation strategies by Butkuiviene and Petrulione (2010). Based on the analysis, the researcher found that the category of slang language used the most in the data proper slang with 80 expressions (57%) followed by taboo words containing 55 expressions (39%), pragmatic marker contains 5 expressions (3%) and proxy words contains only 2 expressions(1%). Literal translation is the strategy used the most with 53% followed by stylistic compensation strategy with 33% and softening strategy with 1%. It can be concluded that proper slang was used the most in *The Walking Dead comic volume 1 Days Gone Bye* describes the close relationship between the main character and other characters. The strategy used the most is literal translation because the translator directly translated slang words and phrases without changing the form and the meaning in target language.

INTRODUCTION

Language is more than just communication. This is the main method that people use to do things together. Language is the accumulation of shared meaning in common. Language gives humans the ability to communicate anything they could imagine. As a tool, the language is much flexible and can be incorporated into a variety of purposes. In this world, there are many languages and one of them is English. As international language, English is spread widely around the world including Indonesia. English becomes one of the important aspects, and people have to learn and know the translation itself to understand the meaning.

Translation is the textual substance in one language (Source Language) that replaces to textual substance in another language (Target Language) by equivalent (Catford, 1969:20). Translation is not easy to do in transferring idea. In order to achieve a good translation, translators should have knowledge about the source and target language (SL and TL). Translators also enrich vocabularies and should know about culture, style, structure and etc in both languages. Translators have to understand those aspects to achieve natural translation, so the readers can read the translated books like the original one.

Both English and Indonesia have two kinds of language; there are formal and informal languages. To decide which category of the language it depends on the degree of politeness that is influenced by the speaker, the person who speaks to and the context of conversation. Formal language is usually used in education aspects, such as in school, the way students talk and behave to their teachers. Another example is at the meeting office, the employees have to respect by using politeness words to the other colleagues and the other way around. Informal language is used in daily conversations between close friends or certain groups by using slang language occasionally.

Slang is, according to Stenström (2000: 89), very difficult to define. Even so, she presents a general definition that Slang is usually used by a particular group or profession below the level of standard language consisting some new special sense and new words. Slang is a kind of language that consists of words and phrases that are considered highly informal. Slang is more common in speech than writing, and is usually limited to a particular context or a group of people (Oxford Dictionary). In (Zotevska, 2013) the use of slang language can be categorized into 4 categories: proper slang, taboo words, proxy words and pragmatic markers.

Slang is words that have a lot of varieties that different from standard language. Slang is fresh and new words that always developing as human try to find different style of language. Slang sometimes can be vulgar, humorous and close to the language of young people. Hence, slang language is commonly used among teenagers. The use of slang can be found in various media such as movie, newspaper, music, novel and comic. In comic, slang can be found in conversations among characters.

The researcher used *The Walking Dead* comic as data of research. *The Walking Dead* is an ongoing comic book series published since 2003 up to present. It received the 2010 Eisner Award for Best Continuing Series at San Diego Comic-Con International. The AMC television series adapted this comic series into serial TV which has same title *The Walking Dead*, and premiered in 2010. The television program follows the storyline of the comic book but sometimes story in TV series not always same with the serial comics. The franchise has also spawned multiple additional media properties, including video games (The Walking Dead video game), webisode series (The Walking Dead: Torn Apart, The Walking Dead: Cold Storage, and The Walking Dead: The Oath), and various additional publications, including books (The Walking Dead: Rise of the Governor).

This research discusses about categorization of slang usage in 'The Walking Dead' comic. The researcher found slang words in this comic and gave examples of slang language in 'The Walking Dead' comic, some of them are:

(SL) Rick: "**Dammit!** Our back-up is probably more than ten miles away!

(TL) Rick: "**Sial!** Bantuan masih jauh,

Rick and Shane have a duty to catch a prisoner who escaped from jail. Rick exclaims *dammit!* because the back-up is still too far from their position. *Dammit!* is a taboo word (expletive/exclamative) from damn it. In this dialogue, *Dammit!* is used to show Rick's emotion that he and his friend, Shane, do not have any back-up. *Dammit!* is translated into *sial!*. *Sial!* is an informal language in Indonesian to exclamation of anger or annoyance.

The reason for selecting 'The Walking Dead' comic as the data of the research because there are many slang words found in the data. For the researcher, it is interesting to analyze especially in categorizing and comparing slang language of the English and Indonesian.

RESEARCH METHOD

Data and Subject

The data were taken from Robert Kirkman's comic ongoing entitled *The Walking Dead*. The English comic published by Image comics was released in October 2003 up to present time. The Indonesian or translated comic which has the same title published by Komikid.net.

Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis of the study is every word or phrase containing slang language and its translation used in the comic entitled *The Walking Dead volume 1: Days Gone Bye*. The source language is English and the target language is Indonesian.

Technique of Data Collection and Analysis

The first step of data collection is searching for the data from the internet. Second is choosing the data of *The Walking Dead* comic. Third is downloading the data from <http://thewalkingdeadcomicsfreedownload.blogspot.co.id/> and the translated one from <http://komikid.com/manga/the-walking-dead>. Forth is reading the English version of *The Walking Dead volume 1 Days Gone Bye* comic and then the Indonesian one. Fifth is finding the slang language in the English version of *The Walking Dead volume 1 Days Gone Bye* comic. Last is identifying the slang translation in the Indonesian version of *The Walking Dead volume 1 Days Gone Bye* comic.

Classifying and analyzing the slang words and the phrases into their categories. Analyzing the meaning of slang translation on *The Walking Dead volume 1 Days Gone Bye* comic by using Butkuvien and Petrulion (2010) translation strategies. Interpreting and drawing conclusions

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. Findings

The categories of slang language are divided into 4 categories; proper slang, taboo words, proxy words and pragmatic markers. Proper slang has the highest number in total with 57% or 80 expressions of slang language. Proper slang is divided into two sub-categories general slang and specific slang. General slang contains vocatives of 31 expressions, term of address 1 expression and general of slang words 28 expressions. Specific slang contains 20 expressions of slang language.

Taboo words are divided into five sub-categories. There are abusive (term of address) contains 1 expression, intensifiers contain 20 expressions, general taboo

slang contains 16 expressions, expletives/exclamations contain 17 expressions and prepositional & phrasal verb contain 1 expression. Taboo words have total 39% or 55 expressions of slang language.

Proxy words have the lowest number in total with 1% or 2 slang language expressions.

The last category is pragmatic markers that have three sub-categories intensifiers, hedges and appealers. Intensifiers contain 3 expressions, hedges contain 1 expression and appealers contain 1 expression. Pragmatic markers have a total of 3% or 5 expressions of slang language.

The translation strategy of slang language used the most in *The Walking Dead comic volume 1 Days Gone Bye* is literal translation with a total number of 53% followed stylistic compensation strategy 33% and the lowest strategy is softening with 14%.

B. Discussion

4.1 Proper Slang

4.1.1 General Slang

4.1.1.1 Vocatives

| Source language | Target language |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Dad! | Ayah!! |

The image shows the situation when Duane hit Rick with a shovel. Duane thinks that Rick is a zombie. After he makes Rick down, he calls his father to come to check that man.

Dad is a slang language referred to father. *Dad* is categorized vocatives in general slang and proper slang because *Dad* is addressing parents especially a father and indicates family relation between daughter/son and father.

Dad is translated into *Ayah* in Indonesian. The translator uses literal translation because the translation is directly transferred from source language. It is also translated in target language without changing the form of sentence and the meaning itself. The researcher thinks this translation is acceptable because the translator choose the word *Ayah* in target language that has the same meaning in target language.

4.1.1.2 Term of Address

| Source language | Target language |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Crazy old man | Dasar orang tuagila |

The situation above shows that Rick abuses Dale indirectly when Rick saw Lory, his wife, laughing around with his partner Shane. Before that, Dale told Rick

that Shane is falling in love with Lory. Hearing that, Rick did not take that so seriously because he knows Shane well. Then, he thinks that Dale is crazy assuming the situation.

The utterance “*Crazy old man*” contains slang expression. *Crazy*, a noun, means crazy person (NTC’S American Slang and Colloquial Expression Dictionary). *Crazy old man* is expression slang categorized term of address in general slang and proper slang. *Crazy old man* is categorized as term of address because it indirectly abuses someone by using slang expression.

Crazy old man is translated into *Dasar orang tua gila*. The translator translates the slang expression above by using Stylistic Compensation strategy because translator adds a word *Dasar* in target language to show that it is abusing person. The researcher thinks this translation strategy is change the structure in target language. However, it still has the same meaning in source language.

4.1.1.3 General of Slang Words

| Source language | Target language |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| I ain’t goin’ back!... | ...dari pada kembali ke penjara! |

The situation from the image above shows that he is a prisoner who escaped from a jail. He yells to the police (Rick and Shane) who try to catch him. The situation is very tightening because the gun fire occurred between prisoner and polices.

The utterance “*I ain’t goin’ back!...*” contains slang expression. The word *ain’t* is informal word from to be (is, am, are, was, were) + not. It is usually used in speaking language rather than in written language. *Ain’t* is categorized general of slang word in general slang and proper slang. *Ain’t* is categorized as general of slang language because it is functioning to replace the standard form of the word or expression into informal language.

The translator uses stylistic compensation strategy to change the slang expression to not slangy expression. The translator changes the structure of the utterance in source language. He or She paraphrases the utterance to make the same meaning and expression in target language. The researcher thinks that this strategy is acceptable because the translator paraphrase the utterance in source language to make the reader easily understand the meaning.

4.1.2 Specific Slang

| Source language | Target language |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| So, you’re a cop , huh? | Jadi kau polisi ? |

The image above shows the situation when Rick invites Morgan and his son, Duane, to the police department. Morgan realizes that Rick is a police. They come to the office to take all weapons to defend themselves from the walkers. Morgan uses informal word, *cop*, to indicate a police.

Cop is shortening from copper. *Cop* has meaning a police officer (NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expression). *Cop* is categorized specific slang in proper slang. It is categorized as specific slang because it is shorten from copper.

Cop is translated into bahasa Indonesia becomes *polisi*. The translator uses literal translation strategy because it is directly translated and there is no changing the form and the meaning in target language. The researcher thinks that this strategy is suitable.

4.2 Taboo Words

4.2.1 Abusives (Term of Address)

| Source language | Target language |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Son of a bitch | Berengsek |

The situation above shows that Rick is in surrounded by a lot of zombies in the middle of a city, Atlanta. Rick is falling down from the horse that he rides. The horse is eaten by the walkers. Rick is shouting "*son of a bitch*" to express his panicking seeing those zombies.

The utterance above contains slang expression. *Son of a bitch* is a noun that has meaning a despicable person usually a male, rude and derogatory (NTC's Dictionary American Slang and Colloquial Expression). *Son of a bitch* is categorized as abusive (term of address) in taboo words. It is categorized as abusive (term of address) because he is pointing the zombies that have eaten his horse with expression *son of a bitch*.

In target language, Bahasa Indonesia, *son of a bitch* is translated to *berengsek*. *Berengsek* itself has meaning useless. The translator uses the stylistic compensation strategy because the translator has not directly translated the phrase *son of a bitch* into *Berengsek*. The researcher this strategy is acceptable because the translator uses the word *Berengsek* to give the equivalence meaning in target language.

4.2.2 Intensifiers

| Source language | Target language |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ...Let's get the hell out of here. | ...kita harus pergi dari sini! |

The image shows the situation when Rick rides a horse in the middle of Atlanta city. On his way, he is surrounded by a lot of zombies or walkers. He surprises that there are many zombies around him. He pulls the helter to get out from crowd of zombies. He yells to the horse "Let's get the hell out of here" to avoid crowd of zombies.

The utterance "...Let's get **the hell** out of here" contains slang expression. *Hell* is used for emphasis or to express anger, contempt or surprises (Oxford Slang Dictionary). The slang expression of *the hell* is categorized as intensifiers in taboo words. It categorized as intensifiers because the character, Rick, uses expression *the hell* to intense that he want to go from that place quickly. The word *the hell* is translated into *harus*. In bahasa Indonesia there is no slang language of *harus*. The translator uses softening strategy because the translator is not directly translated the word *the hell* to *neraka* which means in literal translation. The researcher thinks this strategy is acceptable because it is softening the slang expression *the hell* to *harus* that is more acceptable with the situation.

4.2.3 General Taboo Slang

| Source language | Target language |
|--|---|
| ...you've seen some crazy shit out there... | Bukan hanya kau yang melihat hal gila diluar sana... |

The situation from the image above shows that Morgan tells Rick that he is not the only one who through this chaos situation. Morgan also tells Rick that is better way to keep moving.

The utterance above contains slang expression. *Shit* in this situation means event or circumstances (Oxford Slang Dictionary). *Shit* is a vulgar slang categorized as general taboo slang in taboo words. It is categorized as general taboo words because Morgan describes the chaos situation using expression *crazy shit*.

Shit is translated into *hal* in bahasa Indonesia. In target language, there is no slang language of *hal*. The translator uses softening strategy because the translator gives other expression that more understandable by the readers. Yet, there is a change in form of word of translation. The researcher thinks that this strategy is acceptable.

4.2.4 Expletives/Exclamations

| Source language | Target language |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| This is such bullshit . | Omongkosong! |

The situation from the image above shows that Donna, one of the survivors in the camp, goes to the river with Lory and Carol. They go to the river to wash the clothes. On the way to the river, they have small talks about detergent that was brought by Glenn. Donna pouts about that talking because it is ridiculous discussing about new detergent. She thinks all is just *bullshit*.

Bullshit is applied to unnecessary or routine task...from earlier sense, nonsense, trivial matters (Oxford Slang Dictionary). *Bullshit* is a vulgar slang categorized as expletive/exclamation in taboo words. It is categorized as expletive/exclamation because Donna thinks that the conversation they have is non-sense.

In target language, *bullshit* is translated into *omongkosong!!*. The translator translates the word *bullshit* not to word-for-word because it will unacceptable by the readers. The translator uses stylistic compensation strategy because the translator sees the situation first and understands about the meaning *bullshit* itself and then it is translated into *omongkosong* which has the same expression in source language. The researcher thinks this strategy is suitable that has same meaning in target language.

4.2.5 Prepositional & Phrasal Verb

| Source language | Target language |
|--|--|
| ...my life will surely get my mind off all the messed up shit... | ...membicarakan kenangan indah bisa membuatku melupakan kegilaan ini ... |

The situation from the image above shows that Rick is talking to a horse when he goes to the city. Rick talks about everything that he has been through and his past to the horse. He talks to devote his mind burden.

The utterance above contains slang expression. *Messed up* means a thing or a group of a thing: brought into a disorderly state; untidy, damage (Oxford Slang Dictionary). *Messed up shit* is categorized as prepositional and phrasal verb in taboo slang. It categorized as prepositional and phrasal verb because the phrase consist of verb + prepositional and also the character, Rick, describes the current situation by using the expression *messed up shit*.

Messed up shit is translated into *kegilaan ini* in target language. In bahasa Indonesia *kegilaan* is adjective that used to describe crazy thing or situation. The translator uses stylistic compensation strategy because it has given the same meaning and understandable in target language. The researcher thinks this strategy is acceptable to achieve the equivalence meaning.

4.3 Proxy Words

4.3.1 General Extenders

| Source language | Target language |
|--|---|
| That stuff Dale had in the RV just wasn't working... | Deterjen punya Dale tak begitu wangi... |

The image above shows the situation about Lory, Carol and Donna are going to wash clothes in the river. Lory is feeling happy because Glenn brought new detergent from a city. She is talking and comparing Dale's detergent and the new detergent to Carol and Donna.

The utterance "*That stuff Dale had in the RV just wasn't working...*" contains slang expression. *Stuff* means matter, material or activities of a specified or intermediate kind that are being referred to indicated or implied. The slang expression of that stuff is categorized as general extenders in proxy words. It categorized as general extenders because the expression *that stuff* referrers to indicate detergent.

The slang expression of *that stuff* means a word that is proper substitution for any other word. *That stuff* is translated to *deterjen* in target language. The translator uses stylistic compensation strategy because there is no direct lexical meaning in target language to replace the expression of *that stuff*. The researcher thinks this strategy is suitable because the translator translates the expression *that stuff* directly referred to *Detergen* in target language. *Detergen* is appropriate to cover the slang expression in source language because it can be seen on the situation they are talking about detergent.

4.4 Pragmatic Markers

4.4.1 Hedges

| Source language | Target language |
|--|---|
| ...He just sort of gave up on life... | ...Dia akhirnya tak bisa menghadapinya... |

The situation from the image above shows when people in the camp are all gathering to dinner. They tell about their selves and about what they were in past. The image above is Carol's turn to tell about herself. She tells about her husband that can handle all chaos situations and finally he ended up his life.

The utterance above contains slang expression. *Sort of* is slang expression that means to some extent in some way or other. The slang expression *sort of* is categorized as hedges in pragmatic markers. It categorized as slang expression because it is functioning to imply uncertainty or to make a statement less serious. Carol describes what happened to her husband by using slang expression *sort of*. *Sort of* is used as a harmless thing to say and it is just a filler.

Sort of is not directly translated in target language. The translator uses stylistic compensation strategy because there is no lexical meaning in target

language. The researcher thinks this strategy is acceptable because the translator understands the situation and translates it by paraphrasing.

4.4.2 Appealers

| Source language | Target language |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| So you're Lory's husband, huh? | Kau suaminya Lory kan? |

The situation from the image above shows when Rick meets Dale in the RV after Rick took a bath. Rick surprises by Dale's coming. Dale asks Rick about his status. He emphasizes his question by using tag question *huh?*

The utterance "*So you're Lory's husband, huh?*" contains slang expression. *Huh?* is slang expression that used to express anger or surprise (Oxford Slang Dictionary) with variant of question tag. The slang expression of *huh* is categorized as appealers in pragmatic markers. It is categorized as appealers because Dale requests an answer with his choice of words.

The word *huh* is translated into '*kan* in bahasa Indonesia. In target language '*kan* is also question tag to emphasize the question. The translator uses literal translation strategy because the translator directly translates without changing the meaning and form in target language. The researcher thinks this strategy is acceptable because it has same meaning in target language.

CONCLUSION

The researcher draws the conclusion about slang language and translation strategy in *The Walking Dead comic volume 1 Days Gone Bye* was created by Robert Kirkman and the translation was published by komikid.net.

The researcher concludes that the slang language in *The Walking Dead comic volume 1 Days Gone Bye* can be classified into 4 categories: proper slang, taboo words, proxy words and pragmatic markers. The categories of slang

language found in *The Walking Dead comic volume 1 Days Gone Bye* are proper slang with a percentage of 53%, taboo words with 37%, 2% proxy words and pragmatic markers with 13%.

From the results above, it can be seen that proper slang used the most in *The Walking Dead comic volume 1 Days Gone Bye* describes the closeness among the characters and create relationship among other characters.

The researcher also concludes 3 translation strategies of slang language, they are softening, stylistic compensation and literal translation. The translation strategies of slang language found in *The Walking Dead comic volume 1 Days Gone Bye* are literal translation with a total number of 55% followed stylistic compensation strategy 32% and softening strategy with 13%.

From the results above, it can be seen that the strategy used the most in *The Walking Dead comic volume 1 Days Gone Bye* is literal translation because the translator directly translated slang words or phrases without changing the form and the meaning in target language. However, literal translation is not suitable in translating slang language because the fact slang language in source language does not always have direct lexical meaning in target language that might cause misunderstanding to the readers. The researcher prefers to choose stylistic compensation strategy to translate slang language because it looks suitable to cover the omission in translation by using other words to create the same effect in source language.

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