



**TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES FOUND IN SUBTITLE TEXT OF  
“MONSTER UNIVERSITY” MOVIE**

**A THESIS**

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# **TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES FOUND IN SUBTITLE TEXT OF “MONSTER UNIVERSITY” MOVIE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This article presents how to analyze the translation technique used in the “Monster University” movie by the translator to know what is the most used technique to conveying the message from the SL to the TL. The researcher used a descriptive qualitative technique since the purpose of this article is to analyze whether the translation technique used is proper in the TL situation or not. Else descriptive qualitative method is used when the data is not countable that’s why this method suit this article’s data well since the researcher will use the utterance in the said movie. The data will be taken from the main character’s utterance of this movie, Mike Wazowski, as how to collect the data the researcher download the movie, watch the movie both in English and Indonesian subtitle and write the utterance of the main character and analyzed it by comparing the subtitles and the description and example of the translation techniques that researcher has read before. Based on the analysis that has been done, there are few types of translation techniques used in this movie. The translator mostly use literal translation technique to translate the movie subtitle because of the genre of this movie that mainly aims the child. The researcher needs to pay an attention to the rules of each translation technique to find the correct analysis. Keywords: descriptive qualitative, movie, subtitle, translation, translation technique*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Language is a way to be used as an interaction with other people. The interaction is used in order to tell other’s the message in either written or spoken language. Oxford Dictionary (2008:247) defines language as a communication system used in speech and written that is used by people in certain countries. It means each country have its own language to deal with the communication. Communication itself is the activity occurs between two or more people and involves our five senses whether they are speaking, writing, reading, or listening. English is the most usable language used as a communication in the whole world. Here comes the problem, since not all of the people around the world could understand English well to know the meaning whether it is in written or spoken form. To help them there is a translator whose job is to translate the source language (SL), in this article is English, to target language (TL), in this article is Indonesian.

Translation is one of the competences provided to the English department students in various universities in the world. This skill helps the students to be able to

transfer messages from a foreign language (source language) to local language (target language) or vice versa. This subject provides activities of translating text from English into Indonesian and vice versa.

According to Newmark (1981:7), "Translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language". Translation can't be separated from learning two languages which is English and Indonesian in this article so that the translation could get an equivalent meaning between SL and TL. Pinchuck (1977:38) also stated that "Translation is a process of finding a Target Language (TL) equivalent for a Source Language (SL) utterance.

However, translation is not an easy task; it is not a simple activity of finding the meaning of a word in the dictionary. There are many requirements that must be considered to produce a good translation, such as, type of text, cultural context, and word itself has a bundle of meanings which should be suited to its context. Newmark (1988:21) classified two approaches of translating: (1) start translating sentence by sentence, for say a paragraph or chapter, to get the feel and the feeling tone of the text, and then deliberately sit back, review the position, and read the rest of the SL text; (2) read the whole text two or three times, and find the intention, register, tone, mark the difficult and passages and start translating only when you have taken your bearings.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> point can be read that translator should read the whole text more than once to find the intention. According to the said statement, the researcher try to correlate the understanding about finding the intention with his article about the translation technique used in the "Monster University" movie. This article uses theory for the basic information and shows how it is analyzed in order to get the idea of the translation goal. The activity needs any related literature such as translation, translation technique, and meaning.

In more comprehensive details, Molina & Albir (2002) propose 18 techniques (strategy that has been applied in the translation product) which usually used by the translators. These techniques are also clarification of previous classification of strategy, procedure, and technique of translation. The translation techniques are:

#### Adaptation:

This technique replaces the cultural element of the source text (ST) with one of the element in the target language which is similar. Example : *cycling* for the French, *cricket* for the English and *baseball* for the Americans.

#### Amplification:

Amplification is the technique of introducing the details that are not formulated in the ST: information, explicative paraphrasing, e.g., when translating from Arabic (to Spanish) to add *the Muslim month of fasting* to the noun *Ramadan* (Molina & Albir, 2002).

#### Borrowing:

Borrowing technique is implemented by taking a word or expression straight from another language. e.g., the English word *bulldoze* has been incorporated directly into other languages.

#### Calque:

Literal translation of a foreign word or phrase; it can be lexical or structural, e.g., the English translation *Normal School* for the French *École normale*. This corresponds to SCFA's acceptance (Molina & Albir, 2002).

#### Compensation:

The technique of making up for the translation loss of important ST features by approximating their effects in the TL through means other than those used in ST (Hervey and Higgins 1992:248). The example is the problem of translating nuances of formality from languages that use forms such as Spanish informal *tú* and formal *usted*, French *tu* and *vous*, and German *du* and *sie* into English which only has 'you', and expresses degrees of formality in different ways.

#### Description:

This technique replace a term or expression with a description of its form or/and function in the ST message to make it clear in the target text (Molina & Albir, 2002; Ardi, 2010). For example ST: male clubhouse is translated into "tempat berkumpul para pemuda".

#### Discursive creation:

This technique is implemented by finding a temporary equivalence that is totally unpredictable out of context, e.g., the Spanish translation of the film *Rumble fish* as *La ley de la calle*. (Molina & Albir, 2002).

#### Established equivalent:

This technique is also known as *recognized translation/accepted standard translation* (Newmark, 1988) or "terjemahan resmi" (Hoed, 2006; Suryawinata & Hariyanto, 2003). The implementation is by using common term which has been stated in the dictionary or it has been used in the society.

#### Generalization:

Generalization technique is applied by using a more general or neutral term, e.g., to translate the French *guichet*, *fenêtre* or *devanture*, as *window* in English (Molina & Albir, 2002).

#### Linguistic amplification:

It is the technique of translation process to add the linguistic elements in the TL. E.g; when translating from Arabic to Spanish, to add the muslim month of fasting to Ramadhan.

#### Linguistic compression:

It is the technique of translation to synthesize linguistics elements in the TL. e.g., to translate the English question *Yes, so what?* With *¿Y?*, in Spanish, instead of using a phrase with the same number of words, *¿Sí, y qué?*. It is in opposition to linguistic amplification.

#### Literal translation:

Literal translation is to translate a word or an expression word for word. E.g : book translated as buku in Indonesian

#### Modulation:

This technique is implemented by changing the point of view, focus or cognitive category in relation to the ST; it can be lexical or structural. E.g : *you are going to have a child*, instead of, *you are going to be a father*. First phrase focuses on the child, second sentence focuses on the father

#### Particularization:

This technique is applied by using a more precise or concrete term in the translated text (Molina & Albir, 2002). For example: TT: working in gold is translated into “mendulang emas”.

#### Reduction:

A technique in the process of translation to suppress an SL information in the TL. E.g: “Hu Jintao, the President of China, said yesterday ...” into Chinese as “胡锦涛昨天说...” [Hu Jintao yesterday said...] (note also the change of order of information)

#### Substitution:

The implementation of a translation that bears little or no morphological resemblance or semantic relation to the ST. E.g: to translate the Arab gesture of putting your hand on your heart as *Thank you*. It is used above all in interpreting.

#### Transposition:

Transposition technique is implemented by changing a grammatical category (Molina & Albir, 2002). E.g: *Expéditeur* (Fr) versus *From* on a parcel (Note: some people might consider this a case of established equivalence) *He limped across the street* translated into French as *Il a traversé la rue en boitant. He will soon be back*

translated into Spanish as *No tardará en venir*, changing the adverb *soon* for the verb *tardar*, instead of keeping the adverb and writing: *Estará de vuelta pronto*.

Variation:

To change linguistic or paralinguistic elements (intonation, gestures) that affect aspects of linguistic variation: changes of textual tone, style, social dialect, geographical dialect, etc., e.g., to introduce or change dialectal indicators for characters when translating for the theatre, changes in tone when adapting novels for children, etc. E.g: Think about the film *Trainspotting*, and how you might deal with subtitling it in a foreign language. Exercise: think of a film you have seen in your foreign language that contains the use of dialect, and think about how you would go about rendering it in English.

## **METHOD**

This article used descriptive qualitative method to describe the subject or the object of the research based on the fact and reality. Issac (1981:46) stated; “it describe the population and the evidence of the data systematically, factually, and accurately.”

The data for this article was “Monster University” utterances the main character, Mike Wazowski, which have been taken from “Monster University” movie translated to Indonesia by LG, 2013.

As for the technique of data collection, researcher used the following steps to collect them:

1. Selecting the movie.
2. Downloading the movie
3. Downloading the original source subtitle language from the internet.
4. Watching the movie few times.
5. Mark and type the utterance finds in the movie.

After the data were collected, the researcher used the following steps to analyze them:

1. Watching the movie both in original language and the translated one to analyzed the scene where the utterances occurred.
2. Identifying the translation techniques used in the translated movie.
3. Classifying the translation technique.
4. Making a conclusion.

## **FINDING**

By watching the movie, researcher finds the utterances needed for this article, and makes the data percentage of what translation techniques used that can be seen as follows ;

**TABLE 1.1**  
**Translation Techniques Used In Subtitle Text Of “Monster University”**  
**Movie**

	Technique	Sum	Percentage
1	Literal	165	70,21%
2	Adaptation	8	3,40%
3	Linguistic Compression	8	3,40%
4	Discursive Creative	11	4,68%
5	Borrowing	2	0,85%
6	Transposition	21	8,93%
7	Compensation	6	2,55%
8	Linguistic Amplify	2	0,85%
9	Reduction	12	5,10%
		235	100%

Table 1 shows that the most translation technique used in subtitle text of “Monster University” movie is literal translation which is 70,21% and the less used is borrowing technique which is 0,85% of the whole subtitle text because the main viewer of this movie is children that’s why they need more simple form of words.

## **DISCUSSION**

The discussion shows the classification of the utterances into each translation techniques and the function of the techniques used.

### **Adaptation**

This technique replaces the cultural element of the source text (ST) with one of the element in the target language which is similar.

Excerpt 1

SL: I found a *nickel* !

TL: Aku menemukan *koin* !

The source text above is translated into the target text by using compensation technique. We can read it from the text above, *nickel* is translated into *koin* because in Indonesian *nickel* would mean *a piece of metal* instead of money-coin- therefore the translator made a right choice by translated it into *koin* as it cannot be reflected in the same place as in SL. The scene where this utterance occurred is when Mike getting down from the bus and stated that he found a coin while showing it on his left hand.

Excerpt 2

SL: Marie, *Mr. Right* is out there somewhere.

TL: Marie, *Pasangan yang tepat* ada di luar sana.

Above we also see another example of this technique, *Mr. Right* translated as *pasangan yang tepat*, the utterance occurred when Mike is going to get down from the bus.

Here's a simple example of adaptation technique

Excerpt 3

SL: *Cool*

TL: *Keren*

Above is the more simple form of adaptation, *cool* itself would be mean *dingin* in Indonesian but on the utterance above *cool* refers to something that really catch our eyes. Utterance occurred when Mike is seeing

### **Generalization**

A technique in translating process that is presented in order to use a more general or neutral term.

Excerpt 4

SL: Well, everyone, I don't mean to get *emotional*,

TL: Semuanya, aku tak bermaksud membuat kalian *sedih...*,

The source text above is translated into the target text by using generalization technique. We can read above, *emotional* is translated into *sedih* as the generalization form of emotion. Utterance occurred when Mike is getting down from the bus and say goodbye to his friends.

Excerpt 5

SL: *Hailey? No? Pairing up with Claire? Great choice. She's a good egg*

TL: *Hailey? Tidak? Berpasangan dngan Claire? Pilihan bagus. Dia telur yang bagus.*

Utterance above also translated with generalization technique. Utterance occurred when Mike is getting rejected by his friend when he's trying to get a partner for his fieldtrip.



### **Linguistic Amplification**

It is the technique of translation process to add the linguistic elements in the TL.

Excerpt 6

SL: *Okay. Good catching up.*

TL: *Ya. Pasangan yang bagus.*

Above is another utterance that using linguistic amplification technique, we can read above the gerund catching is translated as pasangan bagus although its originally means menangkap in Indonesia. The utterance occurred when Mike asking Russel, his cousin to become his partner but Russel already chose another for his partner.

### **Borrowing**

It is the technique in the process of translating to take a word or expression in the SL straight from another language in TL.

Excerpt 7

SL: *How do I become a Scarer.*

TL: *Bagaimana aku bisa jadi Scarer.*

Above we can read *Scarer* is translated as it is for *Scarer* here in this movie, refers to a job. *Scarer* is a job on this movie where monsters collecting children's scream by slithering inside the children's room in the midnight and scared them. Thus *Scarer* is left un-translated because it will change the meaning if *scarer* is translated ito lebih menakutkan. Utterance occurred when Mike is being asked after following some *Scarer* done doing their job.

### **Established Equivalent**

A technique in translation process that using a term or expression which is recognized (by dictionaries or language in use) as an equivalent in the TL.

Excerpt 8

SL: *Hey there, freshmen.*

TL: *Hey mahasiswa baru.*

The source text above is translated into the target text by using the established equivalent technique. As we can read above, *mahasiswa baru* is equivalent term in Indonesia with *freshmen* which is a slang word for a *new registered student/collegian*. Therefore, *freshmen* and *mahasiswa baru* has the same meaning. The utterance occurred when Mike stepping his foot for the 1<sup>st</sup> time on the Monster University. The definition of *freshmen* in Indonesia can be seen on the online dictionary on [babla.co.id/bahasa-inggris-bahasa-indonesia/freshman](http://babla.co.id/bahasa-inggris-bahasa-indonesia/freshman)

Excerpt 9

SL: *Just wait, hotshot.*

TL: *Tunggu saja, jagoan.*

Here's another example of established equivalent technique, hotshot translated as jagoan for it is the proper translation. Literally hotshot means tembakan panas, but it will not relay the message if translated as tembakan panas. The utterance occurred when Sullivan is attempting Mike to show him the best Mike can do.

### **Transposition**

A technique in translation implemented by changing a grammatical category

Excerpt 10

SL: *Okay! First thing on my list, get registered*

TL: *Baik ! Pertama, mendaftarkan dulu*

We can read above registered which generally means terdaftar translated as mendaftarkan dulu there for there is a grammatically changes on the text above. The utterance itself occurred when Mike as one of the two main character arrived for the 1<sup>st</sup> times on the Monster University.

### **Literal**

Literal translation is technique of translation where the the translator translate words by words.

Excerpt 11

SL: *Thanks Joe*

TL: *Terimakasih Joe.*

As we can read above the translator translated the utterance word per word. Thanks become terima kasih which is the correct translation for word thanks. The utterance happened when Mike getting down of the bus and said thanks to the bus driver.

Excerpt 12

SL: *Hailey? No? Pairing up with Claire? Great choice. She's a good egg*

TL: *Hailey? Tidak? Berpasangan dengan Claire? Pilihan bagus. Dia telur yang bagus.*

Utterance above also translated with literal technique, however the translator seems to make a mistake by translating good egg as telur yang bagus. Utterance occurred when Mike is rejected by Russel.

### **Linguistic Compression**

It is the technique of translation to synthesize linguistics elements in the TL. Here's the example from the *Monster University* movie utterance.

Excerpt 13

SL: *Listen, it was quite delightful meeting you, and whatever that is,*

TL: *Senang bertemu denganmu,*

Above the translator translated the utterance using linguistic compression technique, *Listen, it was quite delightful meeting you, and whatever that is*, compressed into *senang bertemu denganmu* however it still relay the message. The utterance occurred when Sullivan getting into Mike's room for the 1<sup>st</sup> time by making a mistake that Sulley think if he's on his own room but on Mike's instead.

### **Conclusion**

The conclusion based on the data analysis in the previous chapter. Can be concluded that, there are 235 utterances of Mike Wazowski in subtitle text of "Monster University". Based on Molina and Albir's theory the conclusion can be stated as follows:

There are 9 translation techniques used by the translator of *Monster university movie*. There are 165 data that were translated using literal techniques (70,21%); 8 data translated using adaptation techniques (3,40%); 8 data translated using linguistic compression technique (3,40%); 11 data translated using discursive creative technique (4,68%); 2 data translated using borrowing technique (0,85%); 21 data translated using transposition technique (8,93%); 6 data translated using compensation technique (2,55%); 2 data translated using linguistic amplify technique (0,85%); and 12 data translated using reduction technique (5,10%).

By this journal researcher hopes that people who read this will gain more knowledge about translation technique. As for the last statement, researcher suggest people who will translate either books or movie to read more and learn more about the language they deal with, know the structure, grammar, slang etc.

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