

## AN ANALYSIS OF SWEARING WORD TYPES AND TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES IN *SHAFT* MOVIE SUBTITLES

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### ABSTRACT

*This study aims to describe the types of swearing words and analyze the translation technique. The translation of swearing words is one of the problems encountered by translators due to the cultural differences in terms of whether or not certain expressions used in the Source Language (SL) are acceptable in the Target Language (TL) culture. The data are taken from the movie entitled Shaft on Netflix. The data are collected by identifying the swearing words in the SL and their Indonesian subtitles. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. The main theories used are Pinker's types of swear words and Molina and Albir's translation techniques. There are 61 data collected consisting of abusive swearing (20 data), idiomatic swearing (26 data), cathartic swearing (13 data), and emphatic swearing (2 data). The main theories used are Pinker's types of swear words and Molina and Albir's translation techniques. From this research, it is concluded that there is a significant cultural role in target text that must be taken into account by translators so as to produce a culturally acceptable translation in the TL.*

*Keywords: translation, swear words, translation techniques*

### ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis jenis umpatan and teknik penerjemahan. Penerjemahan kata umpatan merupakan salah satu masalah yang dihadapi penerjemah karena adanya perbedaan budaya. Data diperoleh dari naskah dan takarir film berjudul Shaft di Netflix. Teknik pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini dilakukan dengan mengidentifikasi umpatan yang diujarkan di bahasa sumber dan takarirnya di dalam bahasa Indonesia. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori tentang jenis swear words dari Pinker dan teknik penerjemahan dari Molina dan Albir. Terdapat 61 data yang diperoleh, yang terdiri dari abusive swearing (20 data), idiomatic swearing (26 data), cathartic swearing (13 data), dan emphatic swearing (2 data). Kesimpulan yang didapatkan dari penelitian ini adalah peran budaya yang signifikan pada teks sasaran harus menjadi pertimbangan penerjemah ketika menerjemahkan kata-kata umpatan dalam rangka menghasilkan terjemahan yang berterima dalam budaya bahasa sasaran.*

*Kata kunci: penerjemahan, jenis umpatan, teknik penerjemahan*

## INTRODUCTION

Translation is one of the most crucial aspects of human social life for those who engage directly or indirectly with foreign or distinct languages to comprehend them. In general, translation can be defined as the transfer of a text or voice from one language to another according to the source's intent. This viewpoint is consistent with that of Catford (1965), who defined translation as the replacement of source-language (SL) text with equivalent target-language text (TL). Another translation expert also gave a similar opinion. Newmark (1988) states that “translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text” (p.5). It means the translator must understand the author's thoughts in the text and grasp the meaning conveyed in the SL when translating the text into the TL. There are many aspects that a translator must consider when they translate text from the SL to the TL. Newmark (1988) adds that translators should also pay attention to such translation tensions as sound and meaning, word order, grammar or naturalness, the metaphorical and literal senses, neatness and comprehensiveness, concision and accuracy. Based on the experts' descriptions, translation can be interpreted as an effort to transfer the meaning or message from one language to another by using the most natural and acceptable equivalence. Therefore, the message can be understood by the TL readers.

In the translation process, changes in structures often occur due to several factors, including the translator's writing style, which is definitely different from the original text. According to Molina and Albir (2002), the translation technique as a procedure to analyze and classify translation equivalents can be applied to various units of language. There are 18 techniques to classify translation (Molina and Albir, 2002):

1. Adaptation: The focus of this technique is to confirm that the source meaning is well transferred into the TL. There is a replacement of the cultural element of the source language into the target language to be more familiar or specific to the target reader.
2. Amplification: This technique is used to introduce the details in the TL by paraphrasing. The amplification technique gives a more detailed TL.

3. Borrowing: This translation technique retains the SL word in the TL because there is no equivalence in TL culture.
4. Calque: It is the literal translation of a foreign word or phrase. It can be lexical or structural.
5. Compensation: It is to introduce an SL element of information or stylistic effect in another place in the TL because it cannot be reflected in the same place as in the SL.
6. Description: This technique is used to replace a term or expression in SL with description in the TL.
7. Discursive Creation: This technique is used to establish temporary equivalence outside the context of the translation.
8. Established Equivalent: It is the use of a term or expression recognized by language in use as an equivalence in the TL.
9. Generalization: It is using more general or neutral terms, the. The source language does not have the same meaning as the target language. The translator must translate the SL words into a general word in the target language (TL).
10. Linguistic Amplification: It is the addition of linguistic elements in the TL. This is often used in consecutive interpreting and dubbing.
11. Linguistic Compression: It is meant to synthesize linguistic elements in the TL. This is often used to summarize the meaning of the source language (SL) to make the translation more effective.
12. Literal Translation: It means translating a word or an expression word for word. This translation technique is used by translating SL into TL directly by slightly adjusting the TL.
13. Modulation: This is a translation technique that changes the point of view, focus or cognitive category in the source language text. This technique can be realized either lexically or structurally.
14. Particularization: This technique uses more specific or concrete terms. This technique is contrary to the generalization technique.
15. It is used to suppress text information from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL), thereby compressing the translation results.

16. Substitution (linguistic, paralinguistic): This technique replaces the linguistic elements into paralinguistic elements (intonation, tone, or gesture).
17. Transposition: This translation technique is a technique that changes grammatical categories and parts of speech in the TL.
18. Variation: This technique includes a change of linguistic and paralinguistic elements and aspects. The aspects of linguistic variation such as textual tone, style, social dialect, and geographical dialect are explored.

### Swearing Words

Language has often been called a weapon, and people should be mindful about where to aim it and when to fire it. According to Pinker (2007), free speech is the bedrock of democracy, and it is a legitimate function of the government to punish people who use certain words or allow others. Many people use swearing words just to express their criticism or feelings.

In this era, movies are a tool to convey a message or critique of something, and the role of a translator is needed, especially if swear words are frequently found in movies. However, translators also experience difficulties while translating swearing words. Translators must find an appropriate equivalence that is appropriate in the TL culture, and this can be achieved by comprehending and applying suitable translation techniques.

According to McEnery (2006), “swearing word is one example of bad language that can cause offense” (p.2). The word *swear* is something negative and taboo. Swearing words also mean words that are offensive and insult other people.

Pinker (2008) argued that swear words can be divided according to their functions into five types:

1. Dysphemism Swearing: Dysphemism is a derogatory word right in front of someone's face. It forces the listener to think in a negative or provocative manner. Dysphemistic swearing is used to show disapproval of something and disparage someone, e.g., calling someone a *faggot* in place of homosexual (Wulandari, 2017).
2. Abusive Swearing: This type of swearing is used to intimidate and insult people; it is directed at someone else in a derogatory manner in an argument, rude

behavior, or heated debate (Wulandari, 2007, p. 14). The example is such swearing words as “Fuck you, asshole!”

3. **Idiomatic Swearing:** A type of swearing whose meaning cannot be figured out by individual words because it requires an idiom or phrase. According to Pinker (2007), this gives rise to the countless idioms that incorporate taboo terms. Some examples of idioms that incorporate taboo terms are *clean out your shit* or *she pissed away her inheritance*. Those words are distinctly metaphorical. It means that those words are being used to represent something else.
4. **Emphatic Swearing:** It is a way to emphasize something either by describing its size, stature, or relationship to things around it. The kind of swearing that includes swear words in a sentence increases the value of the words. A person can be emphatic about a point by swearing, such as *this picture is fucking amazing*.
5. **Cathartic Swearing:** It is used to express negative emotions that occur within oneself. It is utilized when something unwanted or out of control occurs. To explain to the audience that you are experiencing a negative emotion. This type of swearing is generally performed in a bad condition, which provokes someone to relieve their strong emotions and frustration. Cathartic swearing words are specific to the occasion and specific to the language. This is the kind of swearing that can be performed with or without any audience, for example, the use of the word *fuck* or *shit*.

There are two previous studies discussing the translation of swearing words. The first is written by Hasibuan. His study, *The Analysis of Swearing Word Translation in Joker Movie Subtitle*, aims to describe the type of swearing word and the procedure used in translating them. A qualitative approach was taken in this study. The theories used are types of swearing words proposed by Swan M. and procedure translation proposed by Newmark. The results revealed that there were 49 swearing words. There are 2 types of swearing words, namely strong and weak swearing words. Strong swearing words are classified into exclamations of annoyance, surprise, insult, surprise question and emphasize the emotion. Meanwhile, the weak swearing words are classified into exclamations of

annoyance, surprise, insult and emotion. The translation procedures used in translating swearing words consists of cultural equivalent, synonymy, through-translation, shift or transposition, and paraphrase.

The second previous research is *An Analysis of Swear Words Used by The Characters in Chips Movie* by Perdana. The researcher uses the theory of Ljung (2011) about typology of swearing words for analyzing the type of swear words used by the characters. The researcher finds couple themes has used, such as religion, scatology, sexual activity, sex organs, and mother. The researcher also uses the theory of Andersson and Trudgill (1990) about the function of swearing in every utterance containing swearing words. The research finds that there are expletive swearing, abusive swearing, humorous swearing, and auxiliary swearing.

Both previous studies and current research are similar in that all of them discuss the translation of swearing words. This research focuses on answering what types of swearing words are used in the movie and what translation techniques are applied in translating those swearing words. The types and kinds of translation techniques are investigated. However, the distinction between the current research and the previous studies lies in the theories used. In analyzing the types of swearing words, this current research employs Pinker's swearing word typology. Meanwhile, the translation techniques are analyzed by using Molina & Albir's translation techniques.

## METHOD

The method of this research is descriptive qualitative. According to Kumar (2018), descriptive qualitative study is research that describes a situation or phenomenon with the use of qualitative measurement scales and the analysis is done to create the variation of the situation without quantifying it. The research data are subtitles from a Netflix original movie entitled *Shaft*. The movie was released in 2019 with a duration of 1 hour and 52 minutes. The data taken are only swear words that are generated from all the characters in the movie.

The researchers conducts the following ways to collect the data:

1. Watching *Shaft* on Netflix.
2. Reading the script comprehensively.

3. Highlighting the swearing words on both English and Indonesian movie scripts.

After collecting the data, the researcher analyzes the data by conducting the following steps:

1. After that, the researcher uses online dictionaries in order to check the meaning of swearing words.
2. Analyzing the swearing words based on Pinker's typologies.
3. Analyzing translation techniques by using Molina and Albir's theory.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

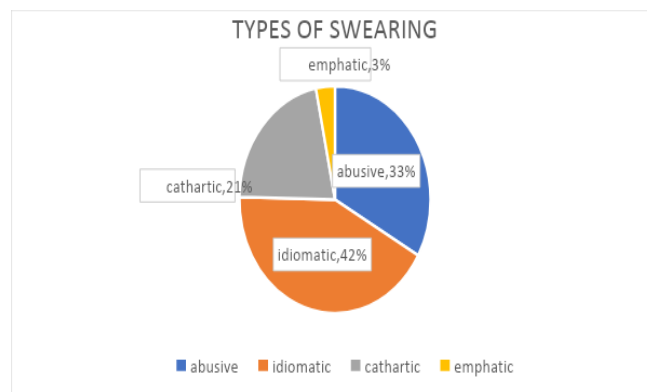


Figure 1. Types of Swearing

As the chart suggests, there are a total of 61 swearing words found in the movie. The most common type of swear word used is idiomatic swearing with a total of 26 data (42%). The type that is rarely used is emphatic swearing with only 2 data out of 61 data (3%). Abusive swearing is used in 20 data (33%) and cathartic swearing occurs in 13 data (22%).

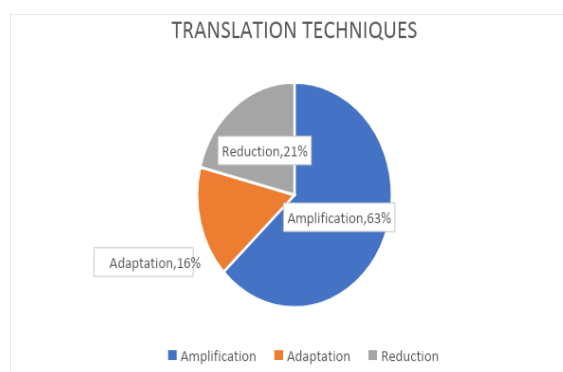


Figure 2. Translation Techniques

The translation techniques found are amplification, reduction, and adaptation. The techniques used are amplification with a total of 38 data (63%), reduction with a total of 13 data (21%), and adaptation is applied to 10 data (16%). Below are the explanation of translation technique and the types of swearing words:

Table 1. Idiomatic Swearing

Time	Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)
1:42:36- 1:42:33	JJ's boss: Hey, Shaft, conference room, now! JJ: Um, it's John, sir. JJ (call Karim): Okay, I gotta go. Karim: Yeah, <i>run shit</i> , huh?	Bos JJ: Shaft, ke ruang konferensi, sekarang! JJ: Namaku John, Pak JJ (menelepon Karim): Oke, aku harus pergi. Karim: <i>Panik</i> , deh.

Idiomatic swearing is used in the dialogue above that happened between JJ and his boss. JJ was talking with Karim on the phone when his boss suddenly called him to the conference room. This dialogue took place in the office.

According to [oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com](http://oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com), *shit* is a swear word that many people find offensive, used to show that you are angry, annoyed, and usually used in negative sentences. The word *run shit* is translated into *panik*. According to KBBI, *panik* means *bingung, gugup, atau takut dengan mendadak (sehingga tidak dapat berpikir dengan tenang)*.

The expression *run shit* is categorized as idiomatic swearing. It is because in this context, the phrase *run shit* is used to explain that JJ was in a hurry to hang up the phone and JJ was surprised because his boss called him. There is a usage of paraphrase. It is because the translator translated the swear words in SL *run shit* using different words in TL.

Based on Molina and Albir translation technique, the translator uses amplification in translating the word. The situation described by using *run shit* is paraphrased by using *panik* which can depict a more detailed situation.

Table 2. Idiomatic Swearing

Time	Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)
1:19:12- 1:19:05	He used to cop from me, but ain't see him in a while, every since he was <i>fucking</i> with the brothers watching brothers.	Dulu dia suka membeli dariku, tapi aku tidak pernah melihatnya sejak dia <i>bergaul</i> dengan <i>brothers watching brothers</i> .



Another idiomatic swearing took place in the above utterance. This happened when JJ came to Manny and interrogated him and asked about Karim. This monologue took place at Manny's apartment.

According to [oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com](http://oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com), *fucking* is a swear word that many people find offensive that is used to emphasize a comment or an angry statement. The word *fucking* is translated into *bergaul*. According to KBBI, *bergaul* means *hidup berteman atau bersahabat*.

The word *fucking* is categorized as idiomatic swearing. Moreover, in this context, the phrase *fucking* is used to express Manny's anger when JJ interrogated him.

It can be seen that the translator uses amplification in translating the SL into the TL. The expression *fucking* is translated into *bergaul*. In this context, the word *bergaul* is used as the translation to specifically refer to the activity done by Manny. The SL word *fucking* cannot be literally translated as it does not clearly depict what this word refers to. Thus, amplification allows the translator to use different expressions to convey the message.

Table 3. Idiomatic Swearing

Time	Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)
1:34:56	Boy: oh, God. That's that fool	Boy: Astaga, itu orang yang mati
-	they found laid up, twerking at	overdosis gara-gara <i>obat manny</i> .
1:34:53	<i>mannny shit</i> .	JJ : tunggu, siapa Manny?
	JJ: Wait a minute, who is	
	Manny?	

In the above utterance, JJ and a little boy talked about Karim. JJ showed Karim a photo on his phone, and the little boy was surprised by it. The dialogue took place on the street when JJ was looking for a clue about Karim's death.

According to [oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com](http://oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com), *shit* is a swear word that many people find offensive, used to show that you are angry, annoyed, and usually used in negative sentences. The phrase *Manny shit* is translated into *obat Manny*. According to KBBI, *obat* means *bahan kimia*. In this context, *bahan kimia* refers to a substance which caused Karim's death.

Based on Pinker's theory, *Manny shit* is categorized as idiomatic swearing. In this context, the phrase *shit* is used to explain the cause of Karim's death. Moreover, in the translation above, there is a usage of paraphrase. It is because the

translator translated the swear words *Manny shit* using common words in the TL as *obat Manny* even though it is still suitable with the context.

The translator uses amplification in translating the SL into the TL. In this context, amplification is used to give detail about the information in the SL. The expression *Manny shit* is made specific by paraphrasing it into *obat Manny*.

Table 4. Idiomatic Swearing

Time	Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)
1:33:07- ...	JJ: Come on, guys. I just grabbing my cell phone. I'm gonna show you something, give me one second. I hate the new update. <i>This shit</i> is stupid.	JJ: Tenang. Aku hanya mau mengambil ponselku. Aku akan menunjukan kau sesuatu, tunggu sebentar. Aku benci pembaruan ini. <i>Benda ini konyol.</i>

This part shows JJ's monologue when he was talking with Manny's geng. JJ wanted to ask about Karim and tried to show Karim's photo on his phone. She looked annoyed with the new update on his phone. This monologue happened in Manny's flat.

According to oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com, *shit* is a swear word that many people find offensive, used to show that you are angry, annoyed, or surprised. The words *this shit* are translated into *benda ini*. According to KBBI, *benda* means *segala yang ada dalam alam yang berwujud atau barang*.

Based on Pinker's theory, *this shit* is categorized as idiomatic swearing. In this context, the phrase *shit* is used to explain that JJ was annoyed because of his phone. Thus, the word *shit* refers to JJ's phone. In the TL, there is a usage of paraphrase. It is because the translator translated the swear words in the SL into different words in the TL even though it is still suitable with the context.

Based on Molina and Albir translation technique, the translator uses amplification in translating the word into the TL. It can be seen from how *this shit* is translated into *benda ini*. In the SL, it is not clear what the word *shit* refers to. However, by using amplification, the detail is given in the TL through *benda ini*.

Table 5. Idiomatic Swearing

Time	Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)
1:18:55- 1:18:50	Shaft: Anything you wanna tell me? JJ: What? No. Shaft: You sure? Cause that damn sure would explain <i>a whole lot of shit</i> .	Shaft: Bisa beri penjelasan? JJ: Apa? Tidak. Shaft: Kau yakin? Karena itu pasti menjelaskan <i>banyak hal</i> .

This part is JJ and Shaft's dialogue. Shaft already has a clue from Manny and asks JJ about the problem. This dialogue happens at Manny's flat.

According to [oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com](http://oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com), *shit* is a swear word that many people find offensive, used to show that you are angry, annoyed, or surprised. A whole of *shit* is translated into *banyak hal*. According to KBBI, *banyak hal* means *perkara, urusan, soal; masalah yang besar*.

A whole of *shit* is categorized as idiomatic swearing. In this context, the phrase *a whole of shit* is used to explain JJ's problem. In the TL, there is a usage of paraphrase. It is because the translator translated *a whole of shit* into different words in the TL as *banyak hal* even though it is still suitable with the context.

The translator uses amplification in translating the SL into the TL. The amplification is used to explain the detail of information from the SL *a whole lot of shit*. The translated words in the TL have the same concept as the original words in the SL.

Table 6. Emphatic Swearing

Time	Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)
1:18:18-1:18:11	Manny: You broke <i>my whole fucking hand!</i> Shaft: I broke two fucking fingers! This Manny: Arghh... Shaft: Is me breaking your whole fucking hand. I hate it when you exaggerate.	Manny: Kau meremukan <i>tanganku!</i> Shaft: Aku hanya meremukan dua jari! Ini Manny: Argh... Shaft: Baru namanya aku meremukan tanganmu. Aku benci saat kau melebih-lebihkan.

According to [oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com](http://oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com), *fucking* is a swear word that many people find offensive that is used to emphasize a comment or an angry statement. The words *my whole fucking hand* are translated into *tanganku*. According to KBBI, *tangan* means *anggota badan dari siku sampai ke ujung jari atau dari pergelangan sampai ujung jari*.

Based on Pinker's theory, the phrase *my whole fucking hand* is categorized as emphatic swearing. In this context, the phrase *my whole fucking hand* is used to explain a whole hand and *fucking* explains the context of pain. The emphatic used in a sentence to increase the value of the word utter or written.

The translator uses reduction in translating the SL into the TL. The reduction is a technique to omit a text from the SL. It can be seen that the expression *my whole fucking* is omitted.

Table 7. Abusive Swearing

Time	Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)
1:30:06- 1:29:54	JJ: Hey... Um... I'm looking for... Woman: Shaft? JJ: Is he here? Shaft: I'm here <i>motherfucker</i> . Who's asking? JJ: Oh, <i>shit</i> . It's me JJ.	JJ: Hai... Aku mencari... Woman: Shaft? JJ: Dia ada? Shaft: Aku disini <i>bajingan</i> . Siapa kau? JJ: oh, <i>sial</i> . Ini aku JJ.

The abusive swearing occurs in the conversation above between JJ, Shaft, and Shaft's girlfriend. JJ was looking for Shaft. This conversation took place in Shaft's apartment. Shaft thought one of his enemies had come to his apartment.

According to [oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com](http://oxfordlearneronlinedictionaries.com), *motherfucker* is a very offensive word used to show great anger or dislike towards somebody, especially a man. The word *shit* means a swear word that many people find offensive, used to show that you are angry, annoyed, and usually used in negative sentences. The word *motherfucker* is translated into *bajingan* and the word *shit* is translated into *sial*. According to KBBI, *bajingan* is *penjahat; pencopet* and *sial* means *celaka; jahanam*.

Based on Pinker's theory, *motherfucker* and *shit* are categorized as abusive swearing. In this context, the phrase *motherfucker* and *shit* are used to intimidate or insult people. Pinker states that abusive swearing is directed toward someone else in a derogatory manner in an argument or just plain rude behavior.

In translating *motherfucker* and *shit* in that context, the translator uses adaptation. The adaptation strategy is used to replace the cultural element of source language (SL). The word *shit* is translated into *sial* and *motherfucker* into *bajingan*. This means that the translator used adaptation by using a cultural element in the TL that is more familiar to the target readers.

Table 8. Cathartic Swearing

Time	Source Language (SL)	Target Language
1:48:52	Shaft: <b>Fucking</b> Gordito.	Shaft: <i>Gordito sialan</i> .

This part is Shaft's monologue that talked about Gordito. Shaft was annoyed by Gordito's act. This monologue took place on the street and in a shooting situation when Gordito's geng shot Shaft's car.

According to [oxfordlearnersonline.com](http://oxfordlearnersonline.com), word *fuck* means *a swear word that many people find offensive, used to show that you are angry or annoyed*. The word *fucking* is translated into *sialan*. In KBBI, *sialan* means “*yang mendatangkan sial*”.

In this context, Shaft uses the word *fuck* to show his feeling and condition when Gordito's geng shot Shaft's car. The word *fuck* is categorized as cathartic swearing because in this context the word *fuck* is uttered in a bad condition when something unwanted and out of control occurs.

The translator uses adaptation in translating the word. In the TL culture, the word *sialan* has the same concept as *fuck* in the SL culture. The translator translates the word *fuck* into *sialan* which can describe the same context in the SL, but using a different way to tell the viewers.

## CONCLUSION

There are 61 data that the researchers analyzed. The analysis of the data is conducted to investigate the use of Pinker's typology of swearing words and Molina & Albir's translation techniques. There are four types of swearing words found in *Shaft* such as abusive, idiomatic, cathartic, and emphatic swearing. Idiomatic swearing has 26 data, abusive swearing has 20 data, cathartic swearing has 3 data, and emphatic swearing has 2 data. The swearing word that mostly occurred in the movie is idiomatic swearing. The possible reason why idiomatic swearing mostly occurred may have something to do with the movie genre. *Shaft* is an action comedy movie in which there are words expressed using idiomatic swearing to deliver the character's feeling without having to explicitly state what they mean.

The analysis also shows that there are three translation techniques applied in translating swear words in *Shaft*, such as reduction, amplification, and adaptation. The reduction technique has 13 data, the amplification has 38 data, and the adaptation has 10 data. The translation technique mostly used is amplification since there is a lot of data in the SL that cannot be translated literally to the TL. Therefore,

the translator paraphrases the SL words by using different words in order to get the same meaning in the TL.

In dealing with swearing words, translators should search for the words or expressions equivalent to the SL swear words. If this is not possible, one should search for the actual meaning of the swearing word, examine the context that surrounds it, omit the existing swearing words in the TL, or replace it with another swearing word in the TL that matches the context of the swearing words in the SL. To provide greater emphasis on the meaning, additional vocabulary may be supplied. It is also possible to enhance the emotive meaning of the swearing by using an exclamation mark in the appropriate place. In the event that no other options are available, the translator may also choose to translate the swearing words using their literal equivalence while making notes that all of the meanings provided in the original language, including the emotional and cultural connotations, are maintained.

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