

AN ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSLATION OF TABOO WORDS IN *CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE* MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This study is about an analysis of the translation of taboo words in “Central Intelligence” movie. It is to shed the type of taboo words and the procedures applied to translate the taboo words. The theories used in this study are from Timothy Jay (1992) to classify the types of taboo words and a theory from Peter Newmark (1987) to analyze the translation procedures. The data are taken from the movie entitled Central Intelligence by choosing 20 data out of 65 data of taboo words. The result of the analysis shows that are seven translation procedures employed in the translation of taboo word. They are cultural equivalent (seven data), reduction (four data), functional equivalent (three data), paraphrase (three data), naturalization, through translation and literal translation (one data each). For the types of the taboo words, the result shows that there are eight types of taboo words of the 20 selected data. They are insult and slurs (four data), profanity (one data), taboo (two data), epithets (three data), slang (four data), scatology (one data), vulgarity (three data) and cursing (two data) of ten types proposed by Timothy Jay. From this study, it is concluded that the taboo words from the SL cannot always be translated into the taboo words in the TL because of the cultural differences.

Keywords: taboo words, types of taboo words, translation procedure

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas analisis penerjemahan kata tabu yang terdapat dalam film Central Intelligence. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga membahas tentang jenis kata tabu dan prosedur yang diterapkan dalam menerjemahkan kata tabu tersebut. Teori yang digunakan untuk menganalisis data adalah jenis-jenis kata tabu (Timoty Jay, 1992), dan prosedur penerjemahan (Peter Newmark, 1988). Dari total 65 data, 20 data yang berisi dialog dengan kata tabu didalamnya dianalisis. Dari penelitian ini ditemukan delapan jenis kata tabu, yaitu insult dan slurs, scatology, vulgarity, dan cursing; serta tujuh prosedur penerjemahan yang diterapkan penerjemah dalam menerjemahkan kata tabu, yaitu padanan budaya, pengurangan, padanan fungsional, paraprasa, naturalisasi, penerjemahan langsung, penerjemahan harfiah. Simpulan penelitian adalah

tidak semua kata tabu dalam Bahasa Inggris dapat diterjemahkan menjadi kata tabu dalam Bahasa Indonesia karena adanya perbedaan budaya.

Kata kunci: kata tabu, jenis kata tabu, prosedur penerjemahan

INTRODUCTION

Translation itself is a process of transferring information from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL). "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" (Newmark, 1981, p.7). As stated before, the conclusion is a good translation needs a good translator as well. Not only transfer the idea, message and information from the SL to the TL but translator also establish an equivalent translation from one language or SL to other language or TL. Especially for English to Indonesian translation since both languages have different system and structure, consequently, a growing need to find appropriate screen translation approaches.

When translating a text, the translator has some rules. The translator must able to deliver the message from the SL to the TL, so the readers will be able to get the original message from the SL. Language consists of many aspects of human life that also impacts in human life as well. According to Hyland (2004, p.1), language is seen as central way in which we construct our lives. Language is also used to show our expressions, ideas, opinions and feelings. The phenomenon of language has brought up in many ways especially expressing the language itself. There are bad and good languages used by people to express their feelings, ideas, and emotions. According to Chaika (1982), people use language to reveal or conceal their personal identity, character, and background without realizing that they are actually doing so. Therefore, every person has their own way to choose the language variation which can confirm one's identity. Some people may prefer to use language that has a strong connotation to express certain feeling, for example sad or angry. To achieve this, one sometimes uses certain kind of words that are considered as bad or inappropriate to use such as taboo language.

Taboo terms were firstly introduced by Captain Cook in the late 18th century when he was sent to Tahiti (The British Museum, 2007). According to Allan and

Burridge (2006, p.2-3), taboo or known as *tabu* is a Tongan term that denotes a person, object or act which is dangerous and therefore it must be avoided. The example of this case is the act of incest which is known as taboo, and so is the word *motherf**ker* that denotes incest activity. However, there are other words that are considered taboo while the action they denote is not considered taboo. When people talk about sex, it is often considered taboo while the act itself is not forbidden if it is done by the appropriate person in suitable place and time. Therefore, words that are related or linked to taboo act will automatically become taboo words (Allan and Burridge, 2006, p.2).

Nowadays, we can find taboo words in daily conversation, television, books, songs, social media, etc. The phenomenon of taboo words also can easily found in movies. Movie plays an important role in our life as agents to convey message one language into another. "Cinema has been one of the greatest influences in our modern life, and it is also a form of art. It is the combination of technology, business, entertainment and aesthetics; each and every one of these four has an important role in present day world and is also visible in the variation of its forms." (Istiak, 2013, p.77).

According to Wiadnyana (2012), almost every movie uses taboo words in the dialogue because the use of taboo words in the dialog makes the characters of the film look natural to express their emotion. Taboo words support the representation of a real life in the plot of the story. Pardo (2013) explained how translators face a lot of troubles in translating movie since they should pay attention to cultural elements in order to please their audience (the TL audience) specially when translating taboo words taking the censorship.

There are many related previous study about the translation of taboo words. One of which is a journal entitled *Taboo Words in Their Translation in Subtitling: A Case Study in The Help* by Agus Darma Yoga Pratama from University of Warmadewa in 2016. The study shows the function of taboo words found in *The Help* movie and how the translator translated the taboo words into the target language by analyzing the function of the taboo word, categorizing the types of taboo words and subtitle strategies used to translate the taboo word in the film. This research uses the theory by Ljung (2011) analyzing the function and types of taboo words and the theory from Nida (2002) and Baker (1992) in analyzing the translation strategy. The result from this research is there are 70 taboo words found in the raw data and the functions of

those taboo words are to express sympathy, surprise, disappointment, disbelief, fear, annoyance, metaphorical interpretation, reaction to mishap and etc. The strategies applied in translating those taboo words are omission, transfer, and euphemism.

The subtitle of the English and Indonesia version of the movie entitled *Central Intelligence* are taken as the source of the research. This movie is a 2016 American action comedy film directed by Rawson Marshall Thurber, and written by Thurber, Ike Barinholtz and David Stassen. *Central Intelligence* movies was released on June 10th, 2016. This movie is in the form of original DVD (Digital Versatile Disc). The Indonesian subtitle was translated by *PT Vision Interprima Picture*. The movie is starred by Kevin Hart and Dwayne Johnson. The movie is about two old high school friends who go on the run after one of them joins the CIA in order to save the world from a terrorist who has an intention to sell satellite codes. The movie is chosen because many taboo words are found in the subtitle. As the movie in an American action comedy, thus there many cursing and other taboo words uttered by the characters which makes the movie interested to be analyzed.

Thus, the research intends to analyze the types of taboo words based on Timothy Jay's classification (2002) on taboo and kind of translation procedures used by the translator in translating the taboo words uttered by the characters in the movie.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

There are some definitions of translation from the experts. Some definitions of translation may different as many experts express their own thought or idea about the definition of translation. Crystal (1987, p.334) states that the term 'translation' is the natural terms used for all tasks where the meaning of an expression in one language (SL) is turned into the meaning of (TL), whether the medium is spoken, written, or signed. Translation is defined as the process of transferring the idea or information from the SL to the TL. Bell (1991) writes on his book "translation involves the transfer meaning from a text in one language into a text in another language" (p.8). Moreover, Larson (1998, p.3) defines that basically, translation is a change of form. The form is referring to the words, phrases, clauses, sentences, or paragraph. The change of form is done by replacing the form of the source language to the form of the receptor or the target language. Based on the various ideas about the definition of translation, it can

be concluded that translation is not only the change of form, but also a process of transferring the meaning of the SL to the TL.

Allan and Burridge (2006, p.2-3) examine the issue of taboo refers to a term that denotes a person, object or act which is dangerous, and therefore, it must be avoided. In addition, taboo language is language variation used by people to show their feeling such as angry, disappointment and dissatisfaction. People usually produce taboo words because they are the most powerful ways to express their dissatisfaction. They sometimes emphasize people's real emotion. Supporting the idea, Fairman (2009, p.7) states that every society has its own particular taboo act and words. Taboo acts are related to any activities that should be avoided, while taboo words are related to any words that should not be uttered.

Timothy Jay (1992) on his book suggests ten types of taboo words, i.e. cursing, blasphemy, taboo, obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, slang, epithets, insult and slurs, scatology. First, **cursing**. The intention of cursing is to invoke harm on other person through the use of certain words or phrases and also used as an expression, whether it is happy, shocked, or anger (p.2). The second one is **profanity**. Profanity is based on a religious distinction. To be profane means to be secular or behaving out and to be ignorant to the words in a religious belief which seeks not to denigrate God, religion or holy affairs but would be based more on the ignorance of or indifference to these matters. The third one is **Blasphemy**. Jay (1992, p.3) says that a blasphemy is an attack on religion or religious doctrine. The fourth one is **Taboo**. Taboo operates to suppress or inhibit certain behavior, thoughts, or in the case, speech. The function of taboo is to prohibit the behavior of a speaker and preserve social cohesion. The focus is on the speaker's behavior. Taboo is almost similar to insults and slurs category, the difference is that taboo is not directly offensive. (p.4). Fifth taboo word is **Obscenity**. According to Jay (1992, p.5), Obscene words are considered the most offensive and rarely, if ever, are used in public places. Obscenities are pointed sexual in nature; this kind of expression is indecent. But obscenity is legal. Most of the time, it is offensive and repulsive. The sixth taboo word is called as **Vulgarity**. Vulgarity means the language of the common person, "the person in the street", or the unsophisticated, unsocial zed, or under-educated. It does not serve any particular need or function beyond the normal communication demands of the common human (p.6). The seventh taboo word is

classified as **Slang**. Slang is vocabulary that is developed in certain sub-groups (teenagers, musicians, soldiers, drug users, or athletes) for ease of communication. Slang terms are *pimp*, *dweeb* or *cupcakes*. The next taboo word is Epithets. Jay (1992, p.7) says that epithets are brief but forceful bursts of emotional language. They are powerful in presentation (loudness or duration) and in offensiveness than the other types of cursing for example, joking. The other type of taboo word is **Insult and Slurs**, such as: *pig*, *dog*, *son of bitch*, or based on social deviations like: *whore bastard*, *homo*, *fag*, and *queer*. The last type of taboo word is **Scatology**. Scatological terms refer to human waste product or processes. Such terms are among the early words that children hear and use when they are toilet trained. (p.9).

Meanwhile, the translation procedures that are used in analyzing the translation of the taboo words are taken from Peter Newmark. As Newmark (1981) mentions that there are several translation procedures, such as functional equivalent, descriptive equivalent, cultural equivalent, paraphrase, literal translation, reduction, and through translation. These translation procedures by Newmark are taken to analyze how the translator translating the taboo words because these are the most applicable procedures compared to other strategies in translating taboo words.

METHOD

The method used is descriptive qualitative research. Data are analyzed by referring to Timothy Jay's theories for types of taboo words and the translation procedure by Newmark's theories in translating the taboo words in the subtitle.

The data are taken from the movies entitled *Central Intelligence*, an American action comedy film released on June 10th, 2016. This movie is in the form of original DVD (Digital Versatile Disc). The Indonesian subtitle was translated by *PT Vision Interprima Picture*. The movie is starred by Kevin Hart and Dwayne Johnson. The movie is about two old high school friends who go on the run after one of them joins the CIA in order to save the world from a terrorist who has an intention to sell satellite codes.

The data are collected by finding the dialogues which contain the taboo words in the English and Indonesian subtitles of the movie *Central Intelligence*. After the taboo words are found, then they are categorized based on its types and the translation

procedures are identified.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research analysis the taboo words from the movie *Central Intelligence*. The dialogues with taboo words uttered by the speakers and its Indonesian translation are analyzed by using the theories by Timothy Jay and Peter Newmark. From the dialogues, there are a total of 65 taboo words found. Those taboo words are of different types and are translated by using different procedures. All types of taboo words are identified, such as slang, insult and slurs, cursing, vulgarity, epithets, profanity and scatology. Meanwhile, 10 procedures are used by the subtitler in translating those taboo words. Below are some points that can be concluded from the analysis of the Indonesian translation of taboo words in the *Central Intelligence* movie.

There are eight types of taboo words that occur, namely slang, insult and slurs, cursing, vulgarity, epithets, profanity and scatology.

Table 1. Types of Taboo Words

Types	Total
Cursing	7
Profanity	6
Taboo	12
Vulgarity	12
Slang	13
Epithets	11
Insult and Slurs	3
Scatology	1

From the table above, **slang** is the taboo word type that is mostly uttered in the movie. There are 13 slangs spoken by the characters in *Central Intelligence* movie. Slang becomes one of the most frequently used taboo word. Moreover, the slang words are used by the characters in addressing someone in order to show affectionate and close-relationship. The slang words also used by the character to shows the emotion and express the feeling of the speaker.

The second table below shows the translation procedures applied in translating the taboo words.

Table 2. Translation Procedures

Procedures	Total
Cultural Equivalent	19
Paraphrase	17
Reduction	7
Literal Translation	5
Descriptive Equivalent	5
Functional Equivalent	4
Couplets	3
Naturalization	3
Through Translation	1
Compensation	1

From the table above, it can be concluded there are 10 procedures applied, namely, cultural equivalent (19 data), paraphrase (17 data), reduction (seven data), literal translation and descriptive equivalent (five data each), functional equivalent (four data), couplets and naturalization (three data each), through translation and compensation (one data each). Therefore, the translation procedure mostly used is cultural equivalent.

Slang is the high occurrence taboo words found in the movie. Below is a dialog sample which contains slang and how it is translated by the translator.

Datum 1:

Time	SL	TL
00:14:1 0	Hey, let's get hammered .	Hei, ayo minum sampai mabuk .

The taboo word in this context is *hammered*. Based on oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com, *hammered* means (*slang*) *very drunk*. In other words, *hammered* is a word used when people having drunk so much alcohol that it is impossible to think or speak clearly. The word *hammered* is a slang word used for people who are drunk in the SL. The meaning above is suitable for the context in which the speaker was asking his friend to drink alcohol until they were drunk. To get the closet meaning, the translator translates *hammered* in the SL into *minum sampai mabuk* in the TL.

The taboo word is translated into *minum sampai mabuk* in the TL. Based on kbbi.web.id, *minum* means *memasukan air (atau benda cari ke dalam mulut dan meneguknya.)* which means inserting water (or liquid into your mouth and drink it). *sampai* means *mencapai; berbatas; hingga* which means reach, limited, until. Meanwhile, *mabuk* means *berasa pening atau hilang kesadaran (karena terlalu banyak minum minuman keras, makan gadung, dan sebagainya)* which means losing consciousness or drinking too much. In other words, the phrase *minum sampai mabuk* means drink liquor until losing consciousness. The meaning in the TL can reflect the message from the SL.

The type of taboo word is **slang** because the word has been modified to tell a situation when someone is very drunk. The explanation above shows that the translator uses **paraphrase** in translating the taboo word from the SL to the TL. The taboo word *hammered* has no equivalent in the TL. In this case, the translator replaces the taboo word *hammered* into *minum sampai mabuk* which can describe the same context and does not change the message of the original taboo word.

From 13 slang words found, the procedures used in translating the dialogs with slang in them are varied, namely functional equivalent, descriptive equivalent, paraphrase, literal translation, descriptive equivalent, and reduction.

The second highest occurrence of taboo words found in the subtitles is classified as **vulgarity**. One sample of data which contains vulgarity can be seen in the table below:

Datum 2:

Time	SL	TL
00:34:32	Hey, let's see some titty !	Hei, ayo lihat dada !

According to oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com, the meaning of the word *titty* is a taboo or slang word which means *a woman's breast or nipple*. The meaning above is suitable for the context that the speaker uttered. The word *titty* is an informal word to called one of women's private part which is breast in the SL. To get the closest meaning, the translator translates the word *titty* from the SL into *dada* in the TL.

The taboo word is translated into *dada* in the TL. Based on kbbi.web.id, *dada* has several meanings. The first one is *bagian tubuh sebelah depan di antara perut dan leher*, which means the front part of the body between the stomach and neck. The second is *rongga tubuh tempat letak jantung dan paru-paru*, which means a body cavity where the heart and lungs are located. The first meaning is the closest meaning to the context because *dada* is located on the front of the body between the neck and stomach.

The type of taboo word is **vulgarity** because the statement contains a part of the private body that should not say in front of the public. The data shows that the translator uses **functional equivalent** procedure in translating the taboo word from the SL into the TL. The word *titty* in the SL is translated into *dada* which more culture-neutral word in TL.

Datum 3 below serves as one example of **epithet**. Epithet is translated by using different procedures, namely paraphrase, cultural equivalent, reduction, and literal translation. The most applied procedure is paraphrase, hence, the datum below will show epithet which is translated by using literal translation procedure.

Datum 3:

Time	SL	TL
00:33:07	First of all, fuck Mark Zuckerberg, all right?	Pertama, persetan dengan Mark Zuckerberg.

According to oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com, the word *fuck* means *a swear word that many people find offensive that is used to express anger, disgust or surprise*. The meaning above is suitable for the context that the speaker uttered. In this context, the speaker used the word *fuck* to show that he regretted meeting Robbie on Facebook.

The word *fuck* in the SL is translated into *persetan* in the TL. Based on kbbi.web.id, *persetan* means *kata seru untuk menyatakan tidak mau tahu lagi; masa bodoh; tidak peduli*. It means an exclamation to expressed an ignorance; do not care. *Persetan* in the TL is usually used to express an emotion, such as anger or annoyance.

The type of taboo word in this context is **epithets** because the speaker uses the

taboo word in an angry tone to express his feeling. In this data, the translator uses **literal translation**. The taboo word *fuck* is translated literally from the SL into the TL without changing the actual meaning. The word *persetan* can deliver the message from the SL into the TL.

Datum 4 below will show **cursing** as another taboo words found from the subtitle and its translation.

Datum 4:

Time	SL	TL
00:53:10	Holy shit! Get behind me!	Astaga! sembunyi di belakangku!

Holy and *shit* have different meanings. *Holy* is something connected to God or a particular religion. However, *shit* is a swearing word that many people find offensive and is used when someone is angry or annoyed. The two words, *holy* and *shit*, are combined and become slang. Based on urbandictionary.com, *Holy shit* has two meanings. First, *holysht* literally means *God's poop*. Second, *holysht* means *an expression yelled at something bad or surprising*. In this context, the closest meaning is the second meaning because the word *holysht* said by Robbie was considered a shocking reaction. To get the closest meaning, the translator translates the word *holysht* in the SL into *astaga* in the TL.

According to KBBI (p.95), *astaga* is a shortened version of *astagfirullah*. *Astagfirullah* is the Arabic language which means *I seek forgiveness from Allah*, it is considered one of the essential worship in Islam (Academia, retrieved June 13, 2019). However, the word *astaga* is commonly used by almost everyone. Despite the real meaning of *astaga*, people use to show surprised expression or in an emergency. Therefore, the translator chooses the word *astaga* in the TL as the closest equivalence to *holysht* in the SL.

The type of taboo words is **cursing** because the speaker uses the taboo word to express his shocked feeling. The data shows that the translator uses **cultural equivalent** procedure in the TL to translate the taboo word. The phrase *holysht* is translated into *astaga* since it is a kind of expression to shows a surprised when translated into the TL. In this context, *holysht* as taboo word in the SL rendered

becomes **cultural substitution** in Indonesian language by replacing the term with another term in the TL. In other words, *astaga* can reflect the typical word in Indonesian.

The next sample dialog is **profanity** which has six (6) occurrences in the movie. Profanity is translated by cultural equivalent, literal translation, and natural translation procedures. Below is one example of profanity found in the movie.

Datum 5:

Time	SL	TL
00:33:35	Oh, Jesus!	Ya ampun!

According to oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com, *Jesus* has two meanings. First, the meaning is *the central figure of the Christian religion*. The second meaning is *an exclamation an oath used to express irritation, dismay, or surprise*. The closest meaning to the context is the second one because the word *jesus* here is to express a surprising feeling of the speaker.

In the TL, *jesus* is translated into *ya ampun*. Based on kbbi.web.id, *ya* means *kata untuk memberi penekanan pada suatu pernyataan*, which means a word uses to emphasize a statement. The word *ampun* means *kata yang menyatakan rasa heran (kesal) dan sebagainya; bukan main*, which means a word uses to express astonished feeling (upset) and so on; unbelievable. *Ya ampun* in the TL is used as an expression to express an irritated or astonishing feeling. The phrase *ya ampun* can deliver the message from the SL because the meaning is similar to the SL.

The type of taboo word in this context is **profanity** because the speaker uses a word related to religious matters. The data shows that the translator uses **cultural equivalent** procedure in the TL to translate the taboo word. The translator uses a phrase *ya ampun* in the TL instead of the others. In the culture of Indonesia language, most people use the phrase *ya ampun* to express how irritated they are. In this context, *jesus* as taboo word in the SL rendered become cultural word in Indonesian language by replacing the term with another term in the TL. In other words, *ya ampun* in the TL can reflect the typical expression in the Indonesian.

Insult and slurs is the taboo word which contains the expression of insulting other people and translated by using cultural equivalent procedure. The sample can be found below:

Datum 6:

Time	SL	TL
00:13:03	Yeah. Watch it, punk!	Ya. Awas, berengsek!

The taboo word in this dialog is the word *punk*. Based on oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com, *punk* has several meanings. First, *a type of loud and aggressive rock music popular in the late 1970s and early 1980s*. Second, *a person who likes punk music and dresses like a punk musician, for example by wearing metal chains, leather clothes and having brightly colored hair*. In thefreedictionary.com, *punk* means *an often aggressive or violent young person (slang)*. Despite the meaning of *punk* according to the dictionaries, the use of that word in this statement is to insult other people.

According to kbbi.web.id, the word *berengsek* means, *kacau sekali (tata tertib, pelaksanaan kegiatan, dsh); tidak beres; tidak becus*. It means chaotic (order, implementation of activities, etc.); wrong; incompetent. The word *berengsek* is often used to insult other people. The use of the word *berengsek* in the TL can be accepted.

The type of taboo word in this context is **insult and slurs** because the speaker uses the taboo word to insult or harm other people by the word alone. The data shows that the translator used **cultural equivalent** in translating the taboo words from the SL to the TL. The word *punk* is translated into *berengsek* because in the Indonesian culture the word *berengsek* it is often used for insulting other people. In other words, *berengsek* can reflect the typical word in Indonesian.

There are a total of three (3) data found from the movies contain insult and slur. The procedures for translating insult and slur are various, and one of the procedures is translating by using cultural equivalent.

The least taboo words found from the movie is **scatology**. This taboo word is translated

by using paraphrase procedure. The table below will show the expression and the translation procedure.

Datum 7:

Time	SL	TL
00:50:18	I don't have no shit in my system.	Aku bahkan tidak ingin buang air .

According to OALD (p,1364), the word *shit* has several meanings. First, as a noun, *shit* means *solid waste matter from the bowels*. Second, as an exclamation, *shit* means *a swear word that many people used to show that someone is angry or annoyed* which is considered as a taboo or a slang. In this context, the closest meaning is the first meaning because the word *shit* is used to assume that Calvin tried to look relaxed with the situation, so he did not even think about urinating, the translator translates the word *shit* in the SL into *buang air* in the TL.

According to kbbi.web.id, *buang air* means *berak; kencing* which means feces; urinate. In this context, the uses of the word *buang air* is to express the speaker's feel when usually people tend to urinate in dangerous or nervous. The meaning in the TL can reflect the message in the SL.

In this context, the type of taboo word is **scatology** because the speaker uses a word related to human defecation or excrement. The data shows that the translator uses **cultural equivalent** in translating the word *shit* in the SL into the TL phrase, *buang air*. In Indonesian culture, the phrase *buang air* is chosen as a more polite phrase in expressing someone's desire to urinate.

CONCLUSION

In translating taboo words, the cultural differences between the SL and TL cannot be avoided. The taboo words in the SL cannot always be translated into the taboo words in the TL. As in Indonesian language case as the TL, the use of taboo words is usually avoided or is forbidden to be uttered. As a result, there are many taboo words in the SL which are transferred into the TL by using cultural equivalent. However, the message conveyed in the SL is still retained despite the cultural differences.

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