

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains about the introduction of research. It consists of background of research, statement of problem, purpose and significance of research, and organization of writing.

### 1.1. Background of Research

In daily life, human cannot escape from the essence of communicating and interacting with each other. In communicating or interacting, people definitely need media that we used to know called as language. In his book, Alwasilah (1993: 82) quotes:

1. Language is a system of arbitrary, vocal symbols which permits all people in a given culture, or other people who have learned the system of that culture, to communicate or to interact.
2. A systematic means of communicating ideas or feeling by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures, or marks having understood meanings.

Language is an important aspect of human interaction. With language, (either it spoken, written or gesture) people will do a communication and social interaction. Communication means sharing. We share and mutual exchange our interests, feelings, thoughts, opinions or information with the media circuit codes, which are formed as signals and symbols, which can be understood and used by all communication partners.

To meet the necessities of life, human need the language to be mutually express the ideas, feelings, and desires. Based on Lakoff and Johnson (qtd. in

Nurgiyantoro, 2007: 83) in everyday life to express a variety of purposes, many people use forms of language style. Expression of these phrases are often more appropriately delivered in the form of style rather than literally. Style of language is limited as a way of expressing ideas through language typically showing the spirit and personality of the author or user language (Keraf, 2007: 113). As it is known that the style of language that includes all kinds of other meaningful phrase with the literal meaning of which can be words, phrases, or larger syntactic units.

One style of language that we know is called proverb. The wisdom of proverb has guided people in their social interactions for thousands of years throughout the world. Proverb contains everyday experiences and common observations in succinct and formulaic language, making them easy to remember and ready to be used instantly as effective rhetoric in oral or written communication.

Mieder (2004: 3) says, “a proverb is a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views in a metaphorical, fixed and memorable form and which is handed down from generation to generation”.

Proverb is a group of words that already have the unity of its own meaning based on a specific context, can no longer be defined simply in word-by-word. Proverbs are widely used in daily life of people in the past and handed down from generation to generation, because it is considered as the easiest way for them to give advice, reprimand or innuendo. Vice versa, it easily captured by someone

who is advised. When investigated the content and spirit contained on it, so much material that can be drawn from historical, social and meaning of their lives at that time. A proverb also can be formed in a cultural context and habits of the speakers of a language.

Translation is a process to transfer written or spoken source language (SL) texts to equivalent written or spoken target language (TL) texts. Translating a text is not actually just switching word by word, phrase by phrase or sentence by sentence that contained in SL to TL. Translating also means rearranging and expressing the idea of a narrative of SL into TL. The way of expressing would have to use a language package that is received in accordance with the rules of public policies, as well as in translating proverb.

Gorjian (2006: 6) says in his research journal:

“Translating proverbs, the translator should know the linguistic, pragmatic and cultural properties of the proverbs in SL or TL corresponding to each other. Furthermore, each proverb conveys specific meaning in a specific context of situation. Therefore, a proverb should be rendered with care to carry the same cultural conventions in the original proverb”.

It is not reasonable to translate a proverb while just looking at the first meaning of its words in a dictionary. Continued, Mollanazar (qtd. in Gorjian, *ibid*: 4) emphasizes that “proverbs cannot be translated literally (word-for-word) and they may sometimes have no natural figurative equivalents in TL”. It means that there are several ways or strategies to translate proverb.

Using data of proverbs in caricatures, cartoons, and comics, it is related to the study of translation, it has carried out the initial survey to get the issues that will be discussed further in this study.

The initial survey that was conducted is using three English proverbs that were studied to four students. In the questionnaire that was used as a media of collecting data, the students were asked to translate three English proverbs into Bahasa Indonesia.

Based on the result of initial survey, the data has been analyzed in two aspects that are translation methods and translation strategies that they used in translating those proverbs. From the overall results, in doing proverbs translation it was found that students used various methods, such as word-for-word translation, literal translation, free translation, semantic translation, even communicative translation. And then, the text translation that they produced was comprised of various kinds of proverb translation strategies. Several of them were translated into local proverb that has similar meaning but different form; some were translated directly on its meaning; and even translated straight forwardly.

Noting the description above, there is an interest to find out about the phenomenon of students' translation of proverbs, especially focus on translation methods and translation strategies. Besides that, this research selected the respondents from sixth semester of English Department students because they had been obtained translation studies till last phase, so they were considered already mastering the technique of translation, including translation of one form of verbal folklore genres, such as proverb. Related to the research, the data that was taken is proverbs in *Proverbs: A Handbook* by Wolfgang Mieder, especially the thirteen proverbs in caricatures, cartoons, and comics that already listed in the book.

Those proverbs that would be studied can be considered quite familiar and also those use simple English words so students can understand those words easily.

The research study focuses on the study of translation. It is formulated the title of this research as follow: “The Students’ Translation of Proverbs (A Case Study: Sixth Semester of English Department)”.

## **1.2. Statement of Problem**

This research bases on translation, in this case students’ translation of proverbs. In general, there are a lot of methods in translating a text, but perhaps, not all of them are appropriate to use in translating a proverb. It can be seen that in translating proverb is different from translating other text and there are several strategies to translate the proverb.

Based on the result of initial survey that has been raised in the background of problem and related to phenomena that happened, it can be formulated the research problems, as follows:

1. What kinds of translation methods that the students used in translating proverbs?
2. What kinds of translation strategies that the students used in translating proverbs?

### 1.3. Purpose and Significance of Research

Based on background and statement of problem above, there is purpose and significance that is underlying this research organizes for, as follows:

#### 1.3.1. Purpose of Research

There were some main purposes of this research, as follows:

- a. To find out the methods used by sixth semester English Department students in translating proverbs, especially about the mostly and the least translation method.
- b. To find out the strategies used by sixth semester English Department students in translating proverbs, especially about the mostly and the least translation strategy.

#### 1.3.2. Significance of Research

The significances of this research, as follows:

- a. For researcher, this research gives a develop insight and knowledge about the study of translation, especially translation of proverb.
- b. This research also will explain what kinds of methods and strategies in the translation of proverbs by sixth semester English Department students.
- c. Academically, this research is expected to be able to assist other research or accomplish more research in the use of translation methods of proverb and the strategies of proverb translation.

#### 1.4. Organization of Writing

In writing this paper, the researcher made it in five chapters. They are:

1. Chapter I consists of background of research, statement of problem, purpose and significance of research, and organization of writing.
2. Chapter II is underlying theories; it will be elaborated theories that support and associate with the research problems, as well as serve as a guide in discussing the issue under review. It consists of three sub-chapters that are: (1) translation contains definition of translation, translation process, translation methods; (2) proverb; and (3) translation of proverb.
3. Chapter III consists of research design, source of data, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.
4. Chapter IV contains about data analysis and discussion that relate to research problems, which are the students' translation methods and strategies in translating proverbs.
5. Chapter V contains about report of conclusion from the entire result of the research and also suggestion to anyone who considers this study is important.