

**AN ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION METHODS BASED ON NEWMARK'S THEORY IN
JOHN MCGLYNN'S TRANSLATION OF 'LAUT BER CERITA'
INTO 'THE SEA SPEAKS HIS NAME'**

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the translation methods used in translating the novel *Laut Bercerita* into *The Sea Speaks His Name*. The purpose of this study is to identify the types of translation methods applied by the translator, to find out the most dominant method used, and to analyze the process of transferring the Indonesian text (Source Language) into the English text (Target Language). This study employs a descriptive qualitative research design. The research data were taken from sentences and expressions in Leila S. Chudori's novel *Laut Bercerita* and its English translation *The Sea Speaks His Name* by John McGlynn. The data were collected through observation and document analysis. The data were then classified and analyzed using Peter Newmark's theory (which divides translation methods into eight types: word-for-word, literal, faithful, semantic, adaptation, free, idiomatic, and communicative) through the stages of data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions. The results of the study show that the translator used 8 types of translation methods. The analysis reveals that out of the total 104 data examined, 43 data were translated using the communicative translation method with a percentage of 41.35%, 26 data using the faithful translation method at 25%, 23 data using the semantic translation method at 22.12%, and the remaining data using other translation methods. Of these methods, communicative translation is the most dominantly used method. This indicates that the translator tends to prioritize delivering a message that is natural, easily understood, and acceptable to the target readers (English readers). The translator attempts to convey the contextual meaning and emotion of the story in naturally flowing language, without being rigidly bound to the original language structure. In conclusion, this analysis of translation methods can effectively reveal the language transfer strategies employed by John McGlynn. The findings of this study are expected to provide a deeper understanding of the application of translation theory in literary works and serve as a reference for learners or prospective translators.

Keywords: *translation methods, Newmark's Theory, Laut Bercerita, The Sea Speaks His Name, literary work.*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis metode penerjemahan yang digunakan dalam menerjemahkan novel *Laut Bercerita* menjadi *The Sea Speaks His Name*. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi jenis metode penerjemahan yang diterapkan oleh penerjemah, mengetahui metode yang paling dominan digunakan, serta menganalisis proses pengalihan teks bahasa Indonesia (Bahasa Sumber) ke dalam teks bahasa Inggris (Bahasa Sasaran). Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Data penelitian ini diambil dari kalimat dan ungkapan di dalam novel *Laut Bercerita* karya Leila S. Chudori beserta terjemahan bahasa Inggrisnya *The Sea Speaks His Name* terjemahan John McGlynn. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi dan analisis dokumen. Data tersebut kemudian diklasifikasikan dan dianalisis menggunakan teori Peter Newmark (yang membagi metode penerjemahan menjadi delapan jenis: kata demi kata, harfiah, setia, semantis, adaptasi, bebas, idiomatik, dan komunikatif) melalui tahapan reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil

penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penerjemah menggunakan 8 jenis metode penerjemahan. Analisis menunjukkan bahwa dari total 104 data yang diteliti, ditemukan 43 data diterjemahkan menggunakan metode penerjemahan komunikatif (communicative translation) dengan persentase 41,35%, 26 data menggunakan metode penerjemahan setia (faithful translation) sebesar 25%, 23 data menggunakan metode penerjemahan semantis (semantic translation) sebesar 22,12%, dan sisa data lainnya menggunakan metode penerjemahan lain. Dari metode-metode tersebut, penerjemahan komunikatif (communicative translation) merupakan metode yang paling dominan digunakan. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa penerjemah cenderung mengutamakan penyampaian pesan yang wajar, mudah dipahami, dan berterima bagi pembaca sasaran (pembaca bahasa Inggris). Penerjemah berusaha menyampaikan makna kontekstual dan emosi dari cerita dengan bahasa yang mengalir secara natural, tanpa terikat secara kaku pada struktur bahasa aslinya. Kesimpulannya, analisis metode penerjemahan ini dapat secara efektif mengungkap strategi pengalihan bahasa yang dilakukan oleh John McGlynn. Temuan penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan pemahaman yang lebih dalam mengenai penerapan teori penerjemahan dalam karya sastra serta menjadi referensi bagi pembelajar atau calon penerjemah.

Kata Kunci: *metode penerjemahan, Teori Newmark, Laut Bercerita, The Sea Speaks His Name, karya sastra.*

1. PENDAHULUAN

Background of the Study

Literary works, particularly novels, play a significant role in reflecting human experiences, social realities, and historical events. As a form of long prose narrative, a novel portrays the lives of its characters through conflicts, emotions, and inner struggles. Through this portrayal, readers are able to gain deeper insights into human values and societal conditions. According to Faruk (2014), literature continues to evolve alongside the development of human civilization and responds to changes in social, political, and cultural contexts. Furthermore, novels function as a medium through which authors document historical events and preserve collective memories that might otherwise be forgotten.

One Indonesian novel that strongly represents historical and social realities is *Laut Bercerita* (2017) by Leila S. Chudori. This novel portrays political repression and the forced disappearance of student activists during 1997–1998 in Indonesia, particularly in the New Order era. It centers on the life

of Biru Laut Wibisono and his fellow activists, who actively resisted political oppression by discussing banned books, criticizing the government and military, and advocating for democracy. In addition to highlighting political repression, the novel also depicts the courage, idealism, and solidarity of young people striving for freedom of expression. Due to its emotional depth and historical significance, the novel has attracted considerable attention from both readers and scholars.

To make Indonesian literary works accessible to international audiences, translation plays a crucial role as a bridge between languages and cultures. Peter Newmark (1981) defines translation as the process of reproducing a message from a source language into a target language while preserving its meaning. In literary translation, this process becomes more complex because novels often contain figurative language, idiomatic expressions, cultural references, and emotional nuances that are deeply embedded in the source culture. As explained by Budianto (2010), language carries multiple layers of meaning, including lexical, grammatical,

textual, contextual, and socio-cultural meanings, all of which must be carefully considered by the translator.

The English translation of *Laut Bercerita*, entitled *The Sea Speaks His Name*, was produced by John H. McGlynn. Through this translation, international readers are able to access an important part of Indonesian history and understand the struggles of student activists. However, translating a novel with strong historical, cultural, and emotional elements presents significant challenges. Differences in language structure and cultural background may affect how messages are conveyed and interpreted. Therefore, translators must make strategic decisions, particularly in selecting appropriate translation methods, to ensure that both the meaning and style of the original text are effectively conveyed in the target language.

2. KAJIAN TEORI

Theoretical Background

This study is situated within the discipline of translation studies, particularly focusing on literary translation and descriptive analysis. In this context, translation is understood not only as a process of transferring language, but also as an activity that conveys meaning across cultural boundaries. The transfer occurs from the source language, Indonesian in *Laut Bercerita*, into the target language, English in *The Sea Speaks His Name*, while attempting to maintain both the message and its intended impact.

According to Peter Newmark (1988), translation can be seen as a skill that involves conveying a written message from one language into another. Similarly,

Eugene Nida and Charles Taber (1969) emphasize that translation aims to produce the closest natural equivalent, both in meaning and stylistic form. These perspectives highlight that translation extends beyond linguistic substitution and functions as a form of cultural mediation. This role becomes especially significant when dealing with a historically and politically nuanced work such as *Laut Bercerita*.

The main theoretical foundation of this study refers to the concept of translation methods introduced by Peter Newmark in *A Textbook of Translation* (1988) and *Approaches to Translation* (1981). He proposes eight methods of translation that reflect different orientations in transferring meaning. Some methods tend to preserve the form and structure of the source language, such as word-for-word, literal, faithful, and semantic translation. In contrast, others are more concerned with producing a natural and acceptable expression in the target language, including adaptation, free, idiomatic, and communicative translation.

These categories are used as an analytical framework to examine how John H. McGlynn applies translation strategies in rendering the novel. Each selected data is analyzed to identify which method is predominantly used, allowing the researcher to interpret the translator's overall approach. In this way, the study evaluates whether the translation remains closer to the original text or prioritizes clarity and readability for target readers.

To complement this macro-level analysis, Newmark's eighteen translation procedures are employed as micro-level

analytical tools. These procedures include transference, cultural equivalent, functional equivalent, shifts or transposition, modulation, compensation, paraphrase, reduction, and expansion. They are used to identify specific translation strategies at the level of words, phrases, and clauses. By systematically examining the procedures applied to figurative language, culture-specific expressions, proper names, and complex syntactic constructions, this study aims to explain how John H. McGlynn addresses particular translation challenges within the text.

Furthermore, this framework incorporates the perspectives of Susan Bassnett (2014) and Mona Baker (2018), who emphasize that literary translation must account for aesthetic value, style, tone, and emotional impact, in addition to propositional meaning. In this context, equivalence is viewed as a multi-dimensional concept encompassing lexical, grammatical, textual, and pragmatic aspects. It is pursued functionally rather than mechanically. Therefore, this study does not assess translations in terms of correctness alone. Instead, it examines the extent to which specific methods and procedures achieve comparable effects for target readers while representing Indonesian cultural and historical contexts.

Overall, this research is situated within the descriptive translation studies tradition proposed by James S. Holmes (1988) and Gideon Toury (1995), which focuses on describing actual translation practices. In this regard, Newmark's methods and procedures are employed as descriptive categories rather than prescriptive rules. The analytical process begins with identifying and aligning source and target

text excerpts. It then proceeds to classify the dominant translation methods and specific procedures used. Finally, the analysis interprets emerging patterns in relation to the characteristics of the novel and the translator's assumed priorities, such as fidelity, naturalness, and cultural accessibility. Through this integrated framework, the study aims to provide a systematic account of how *Laut Bercerita* is transformed into *The Sea Speaks His Name* in English.

Translation

Translation has existed for centuries and constitutes a fundamental component of human communication. In principle, a high-quality translation should maintain fidelity to the source text without distorting its original meaning. To achieve this objective, translators employ a variety of strategies in order to produce translations that are both accurate and effective.

Definition of Translation

Translation is generally understood as a process of conveying meaning from a source language into a target language. However, this process is not as simple as transferring words, since it involves interpreting meaning and adjusting it to fit a different linguistic and cultural context.

According to Peter Newmark (1988), translation can be viewed as a skill of rendering a message from one language into another. He also suggests that all parts of a text can, in principle, be translated, as long as the translator is able to find appropriate equivalents. In his earlier work, Newmark (1981) further explains that translation is closely related to communication, meaning that translators must consider not only

language forms but also cultural aspects.

A similar perspective is proposed by Eugene Nida and Charles Taber (1969), who emphasize that translation should aim to produce the closest natural equivalent of the original message. This highlights the importance of maintaining meaning while ensuring that the result sounds natural for target readers.

Based on these perspectives, translation can be seen as an activity that involves reformulating meaning across languages while maintaining both content and effect. To achieve a good translation, several important aspects need to be considered. First is accuracy, which ensures that the original meaning is properly conveyed. Second is clarity, which allows the message to be easily understood by readers. Third is naturalness, which ensures that the translation sounds fluent and appropriate within the target language context.

3. METODOLOGI PENELITIAN

Research Design

This study uses a qualitative approach to analyze the data in line with its objectives, which are to identify, classify, and describe translation phenomena at both word and textual levels. Qualitative research, as explained by Jack R. Fraenkel and Norman E. Wallen (1993), focuses on understanding relationships, activities, and situations through descriptive data rather than numerical measurement. In this approach, data are typically presented in the form of words, categories, and interpretations.

In addition, this research adopts a case study design. Sharan B. Merriam (as cited in David Nunan, 1992) describes case studies as descriptive and focused on a

particular phenomenon, with an emphasis on in-depth understanding. Similarly, Burke Johnson (1992) states that a case study aims to examine a phenomenon within its real-life context.

In this study, the case is the translation of *Laut Bercerita* by Leila S. Chudori and its English version, *The Sea Speaks His Name*, translated by John H. McGlynn. The research focuses on analyzing the translation methods used in this specific work as a single case. Therefore, the findings are limited to this context and are not intended to be generalized beyond the scope of the study.

Data and Source of Data

The data used in this study are taken from the Indonesian novel *Laut Bercerita* by Leila S. Chudori and its English version, *The Sea Speaks His Name*, translated by John H. McGlynn. The Indonesian edition consists of 384 pages, while the English translation contains 308 pages. These texts are chosen because they offer a wide range of examples that reflect different translation methods.

The main data of this research include selected sentences, phrases, and expressions taken from both the source text and its translation. These units are analyzed to identify how translation methods are applied, particularly those proposed by Peter Newmark (1988). The researcher carefully selects relevant segments that represent specific methods in order to support a systematic analysis.

In addition to the primary data, this study also uses secondary data from various theoretical and academic sources. These include Peter Newmark's theory of

translation methods and the qualitative data analysis model developed by Matthew B. Miles, A. Michael Huberman, and Johnny Saldaña (2014). Additional references, such as books, journal articles, and previous studies, are also used to strengthen the analysis.

Research Instrument

In this study, the researcher acts as the main instrument, responsible for planning, collecting, analyzing, and interpreting the data. To support the analysis, several additional tools are used, including data tables for classifying translation methods and note-taking sheets for recording relevant textual evidence. The analytical framework is based on Peter Newmark's (1988) classification of translation methods.

Data Collection Procedures

The data collection process is carried out through several steps. First, both the Indonesian and English versions of the novel are carefully read to understand their content, language use, and context. After that, the researcher identifies and selects relevant textual units that represent translation methods.

These selected data are then compiled into a list consisting of source-language expressions and their corresponding translations. A data sheet is used to organize and document the collected data. Each item is subsequently categorized based on Peter Newmark's (1988) classification, including word-for-word, literal, faithful, semantic, adaptation, free, idiomatic, and communicative translation.

Data Analysis

The data are analyzed using the qualitative model proposed by Matthew B. Miles, A. Michael Huberman, and Johnny Saldaña (2014), which consists of three main stages.

The first stage is data reduction, where relevant data are selected and simplified to focus on important findings related to translation methods.

The second stage is data display, in which the data are organized into tables and supported by descriptive explanations. This step helps the researcher identify patterns, compare data, and interpret the results more clearly.

The final stage is conclusion drawing and verification. At this stage, the researcher interprets the findings, identifies the types of translation methods used, and ensures their validity by comparing them with the data and relevant theories. This process also involves checking patterns, contrasts, and consistency within the data to strengthen the conclusions.

4. HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN

Discussion

This section discusses the findings of the present study in relation to previous research in order to provide a broader understanding of how *Laut Bercerita (The Sea Speaks His Name)* has been translated. The findings show that John H. McGlynn predominantly applies communicative translation (33.65%), followed by free translation (25.00%) and semantic translation (11.54%), based on Peter Newmark's framework. These results indicate a clear effort to balance readability and clarity for target readers with the explication of culture-specific items and the

preservation of the source text's stylistic identity.

These findings both support and extend the results of Kurniawati (2023). Her study highlights that translating figurative language involves complex decisions that may alter meaning while maintaining comprehensibility. The present study confirms this idea but goes further by identifying how such comprehensibility is achieved, particularly through the dominant use of communicative translation. In addition, while Kurniawati emphasizes shifts in meaning, this study shows that John H. McGlynn also maintains the author's stylistic qualities through the use of semantic translation (11.54%). This suggests that, although some meaning shifts occur to achieve naturalness, the translator still works to preserve the aesthetic and emotive aspects of Leila S. Chudori's writing whenever possible.

Furthermore, the findings complement the study conducted by Fitriani (2021), which focuses on translation equivalence and strategies. While Fitriani provides a general overview of how equivalence is achieved, the present study offers a more detailed explanation by applying Peter Newmark's classification. Notably, the significant use of free translation (25.00%) demonstrates how cultural elements—especially regional culinary terms—are handled. Instead of merely transferring or omitting unfamiliar cultural references, the translator frequently paraphrases and adds extensive descriptive explanations for terms like *nasi bungkus*, *buntil*, and *dawet hijau* to ensure the target readers understand the context. Meanwhile, faithful translation (6.73%) is applied selectively to maintain raw cultural authenticity for certain terms

like *gulai tengkleng* and *lurik* without adding modifications. This shows a deliberate, strategic effort to make the text highly accessible to international readers while keeping the rich cultural atmosphere intact.

In conclusion, this study contributes to previous research by providing a more systematic analysis of translation methods. While earlier studies highlight issues of meaning shifts and equivalence, this research demonstrates how different methods work together in practice. Communicative translation supports overall readability, free translation serves to explicate and describe complex cultural elements to a global audience, and semantic translation maintains the novel's stylistic features. Together, these approaches create a translation that is both fluidly accessible and culturally resonant for international readers.

5. KESIMPULAN DAN SARAN

Conclusion

Based on the data analysis using Peter Newmark's (1988) theory of translation methods and the interactive analysis model by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014), the researcher draws the following conclusions regarding John McGlynn's translation of Leila S. Chudori's *Laut Bercerita* into *The Sea Speaks His Name*:

1. The Translation Methods Used:
From the 104 data analyzed, seven out of eight translation methods proposed by Peter Newmark were identified. These include Communicative Translation (35 data / 33.65%), Free Translation (26 data / 25.00%), Semantic Translation (12 data / 11.54%),

Literal Translation (11 data / 10.58%), Idiomatic Translation (11 data / 10.58%), Faithful Translation (7 data / 6.73%), and Adaptation (2 data / 1.92%). In contrast, word-for-word translation was the only method not found in the analyzed data.

2. The Dominant Translation Method:

Communicative translation appears as the most dominant method, followed by free and semantic translation. This indicates that John H. McGlynn tends to prioritize clarity, readability, and cultural accessibility for target readers. The significant use of free translation highlights the translator's strategy to paraphrase and provide extensive explanations for culture-specific items—such as Indonesian culinary terms—rather than leaving them unfamiliar. By doing so, both the rich cultural nuances and the complex socio-political background of Indonesia, particularly the 1998 activist movement, can be more easily understood by an international audience. As a result, the emotional and historical significance of the novel is effectively conveyed despite cultural and linguistic differences.

Suggestions

Drawing on the findings of this study, several suggestions are proposed for different parties involved in translation studies:

1. **For Students of Translation Studies:** Students who study or practice literary translation should

understand that effective translation does not depend on a single method. This study shows that translating a historical and literary work requires flexibility. Translators need to decide when to prioritize general readability for target readers (communicative translation), when to explicate and paraphrase unfamiliar cultural or culinary terms to ensure comprehension (free translation), and when to maintain the author's emotive and stylistic features (semantic translation).

2. **For Translators:** Translators working with literary texts that contain strong cultural and historical elements are encouraged to balance clarity with cultural representation. A target-oriented approach can be applied to make the text more accessible—for example, by providing descriptive explanations for highly specific local terms (free translation). At the same time, certain source-language elements can still be maintained in their raw form (faithful translation) to retain cultural authenticity. Combining these different methods strategically can help produce a translation that is both highly readable and culturally meaningful.

3. **For Future Researchers:** This study focuses on translation methods at the macro level based on Peter Newmark's framework. Given the significant use of free translation to explicate cultural and culinary terms found in this study, further research could specifically explore the micro-level translation procedures

used for Culture-Specific Items (CSIs). Future researchers may also investigate the translation ideology to determine whether the extensive use of paraphrasing and explanation leans towards domestication or foreignization. In addition, applying alternative theories, such as Eugene Nida's concepts of dynamic and formal equivalence, may provide new insights into how the historical and cultural nuances of the text are negotiated.

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