CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Translation plays a crucial role in introducing foreign literary works. It is a technique in substituting source language into target language (Larson, 1984:12). The understanding of literature written in foreign language can be achieved easier through translating the works into the national language of other countries. One of the examples of literary works is novel. Novel is a story filled in a book which has imaginary characters and events. Novel is one of the literary works enjoyed by many people around the world as its content is easier to understand compared to other literary works. It is also the easiest to be spread around the world in modern times, as one best-selling novel in a certain country will almost surely have a good sale in other countries. One of the best-selling novels of all time and also contain many phrasal verbs is Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* (1939) which has been translated into more than 44 languages including Indonesian (Li, 2011). Translating novel has its own difficulties, especially English novels which have many phrasal verbs that may have more than one meaning or different meaning with the individual words that construct it. Phrasal verbs are prevalent in English language, thus it is important to know their meanings. Non-native speakers who wish to sound natural in English should understand the meaning of phrasal verbs and should use the phrasal verbs in their everyday lives. Not only that, phrasal verbs also enriched the language

itself which makes phrasal verbs often used in novel. Therefore, this study is aimed to determine the accuracy of English phrasal verbs translation into Indonesian of Agatha Christie's novel, *And Then There Were None* (1939).

Although Newmark (1988:124) has stated that there is no perfect translation, the importance of translating source language (SL) into target language (TL) in the closest meaning possible has always been the objective of every translator. In order to achieve that, there are various methods and choices for translators in translating (Newmark, 1988:124) which means the translator needs to be careful and thorough in translating which makes the translation takes some time to be produced. Translating SL into TL also means exchanging information from one nation into another that will benefit the advancement of the world as a whole, as information can be transferred and understood easily. In regard of translating novel, Bassnett argued that there is no ultimate translation of a novel (Bassnett, 2002:20). Therefore any assessment of a translation can only be made by taking into account both the success of delivering its message and its function in a given context.

Producing a good translation means that the translation is able to convey the message from the original source language to target language. The meaning and the message from the original text must be conveyed as accurately as possible. Larson (1984:183) stated that the translation meaning must be communicated to the receptor language in its normal language forms and the dynamic of the source text must be maintained. Newmark is in the opinion that accuracy in translation refers to the success of the delivery of the intended meaning of the text, whether it is the author's

intention or the objective of the written text as a whole (1996:30). Hence, it can be summarized from those theories that the accuracy of translation is crucial in delivering the meaning and message to the readers of a novel in their receptor language.

Phrasal verb is prevalent in English and it is generally can be defined as a combination of a verb with adverb or preposition or both and by doing so, creating a new meaning. The preposition that follows after a verb in an English phrasal verb is called as particle, as explained by Jackendoff (2010:228). According to Povey, (1990: 8–11), there are certain features that are common to all phrasal verbs, which are its replace ability by a one-word verb, idiomaticity, passivity, questions, adverbial particle, stress. English phrasal verbs can be quite problematic for non-native speakers to translate (Turton & Masser, 1985:5). Thus, English phrasal verbs which are prevalent in novel may not be comprehended fully by Indonesian people and present a challenge for the translators. Phrasal verbs are very common in novels and therefore understanding them makes the meaning and the message of the novel to be fully conveyed.

The novel that is analyzed is Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* which contains many phrasal verbs and Agatha Christie is also a best-selling novelist of all time with more than 2 billion books sold (Hsu, 2012). She is often referred as "Queen of Crime" or "Queen of Mystery" for her works on novels with crime and mystery genre. She received the first Grand Master Award from The Mystery Writers of America in 1955 (Peterson, 2015) and she was made a Dame by Queen Elizabeth

II in 1971 for her contribution on English literature (Kastan, 2006). One of her novels *And Then There Were None* (1939) is one of the best-selling novels of all time (Li, 2011). The genre of the novel is mystery and it was written by Agatha Christie in 1939 under the title *Ten Little Niggers*, after the British blackface song in which the plot revolves around that rhyme (Peers, Spurrier, & Sturgeon, 1999). Due to the word "Nigger" was already considered offensive in the United States in that era, the publication of the novel in the United States was done under the title *And Then There Were None*, referring to the last line of the rhyme in the American version. The Indonesian translation of the novel also use two titles, *Sepuluh Anak Negro* first published in 1984 and then changed into *Lalu Semuanya Lenyap* first published in 1994. Although the title was changed, the content of the novel still used the translation by Mareta which was first used in 1984.

The level of accuracy of English phrasal verbs translation into Indonesian in *And Then There Were None* may affects the readers understanding of the novel as a whole. Therefore, it is important to examine the accuracy of English phrasal verbs translation into Indonesian in *And Then There Were None*. Phrasal verbs characteristic theory by Povey (1990: 8–11) is used as the guidance in identifying the phrasal verbs from other phrases and words in the novel as well as classifying the phrasal verbs that are going to be analyzed. The instrument that is used to measure the accuracy is the Accuracy Rating Instrument (ARI) proposed by Nababan, Nuraeni & Sumardiono (2012:50).

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background, the research question can be identified as the following:

1. What are the characteristic of the phrasal verbs in Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*?

2. To what extent the translation of English phrasal verbs into Indonesian in *And Then There Were None* is accurate?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the research questions, the purposes of the study are:

1. To identify the phrasal verbs characteristics in the novel.

2. To measure the accuracy of the translation of English phrasal verbs in Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* into Indonesian.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The study is centered on the accuracy of the translation of English phrasal verbs into Indonesian of Agatha Christie's novel, *And Then There Were None* and its Indonesian translation *Lalu Semuanya Lenyap* translated by Mareta from chapter 1 to chapter 3.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to be helpful for the readers who are learning translation and to be useful to understand English phrasal verbs better. It will be useful for the readers in a sense that it will remind them to be careful in translating English phrasal verbs which may have more than one meaning. This research can also be a reference and useful for those who want to study the translations accuracy in literary works.

1.6 Previous Related Studies

There are quite a number of studies on the translation analysis of a novel, such as the studies conducted by Jamil (2013), Septikawati (2015), Arlita (2015) as well as Thalia (2016). The study conducted by Jamil (2013) focused on the translation shift of English phrasal verbs in another novel by Agatha Christie, *Endless Night* (1962) which found that the phrasal verb is mostly shifted into verb in Indonesian translation. Septikawati (2015) studied the translation analysis on idiomatic expression in *The Lost Symbol* novel. She focused on the translation strategies and the accuracy of the translation. The study showed that there are four translation strategies used and the translation of the novel is accurate. Meanwhile, Arlita (2015) found that there are nine types of verb phrase used in *Divergent* novel and the shifting of the translation is mainly shifted into Indonesian noun phrase. The study also determined that the translation was accurate. Thalia (2016) studied the accuracy of idiomatic expression in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* which also showed that the translation is accurate as the conclusion of the study. Those studies did not analyze

specifically about the translation accuracy of English phrasal verbs into Indonesian in

And Then There Were None novel.