

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

People around the world speak with different languages which differ from where they come from. Therefore, should be something to connect people who have different languages so that they can communicate with each other and that is why translation is needed, because of its function to make communication happen and to avoid misunderstanding between one language to another language Bell (1991; p.22).

Translation is an activity of transferring meaning from source language (SL) to target language (TL) as strengthened by Newmark (1988; p.7) who defines translation as “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”. It means that translators cannot make a change the meaning in the written message and/or statement arbitrarily, because the message is supposed to be ‘replaced by the same message’. There are things to consider before a translator starts to translate a text. They have to pay attention to the clarity, accuracy and naturalness of the result of their translation in the target language, so that the readers will not be confused with the translated text.

There are many texts that can be translated; one of them is literary text. Literary is different from any other kind of texts—such as scientific text or legal document—which forbids a hidden meaning in translating them. Literary text

allows the translators to make an implicit meaning in their translation. However, the translators have to make sure that the meaning of the original text is transferred to the target text (Larson, 1984; 3). As one of literary text, a poem is the most challenging text to be translated because a poem has some specific characteristics such as rhyme, meter, metaphor, and tone.

There are some problems that the translators should be aware before they begin to translate poetry text, as Hariyanto (2016) in his article entitled 'Problems in Translating Poetry', had mentioned that there are some problems that occur to the translators when they are translating a poem. The problems he mentioned are some aspects that caused problems for the translators to translate a poem. The aspects are; linguistic, literary and aesthetic, and socio-culture aspects. Iyengar, in Singh (2013) argued that "poetry by very nature is untranslatable". Singh (2013) also stated that it is hard for translators to find one-to-one equivalent when comparing two languages in poetry translation. But then Matiu (2008) argued that poetry is not untranslatable, rather he said that it is "much more difficult to translate". It brings to a conclusion that translators 'can' translate poetry; it is just 'difficult' but it does not mean that poetry is not translatable at all.

There are several strategies that have been developed in order to help translators in translating poetry. One of the strategies is the one that was developed by André Lefevere which explained seven strategies in translating poetry. The strategies involves; Phonemic Translation, Literal Translation, Metrical Translation, Poetry to Prose Translation, Rhymed Translation, Blank Verse Translation, and Interpretation Translation (Bassnett, 2002; p.87). As there

are many other experts who had developed the strategy in translating poetry, the strategies by Andre Lefevere is chosen in this study because Lefevere's strategies had covered all of the poetic features: formal and contextual (Kolahi, 2003).

The study of poetry translation has been conducted by some researchers. The first study was conducted by Kolahi (2012). Kolahi in his journal article entitled "Application of Lefevere's Seven Strategies in English Translation of Sohrab Sepehri's Poems" attempted to analyze poems by using André Lefevere's strategies of poetry translation. The poem he used is seventeen of Persian poems by Sohrab Sepehri which are translated into English. Kolahi wanted to find out which one of the strategies is dominantly used in the poems. In the study, he concluded that the most frequent strategy used in the poems is literal translation. The result confirmed that all the translators have translated the poems as word for word rendering (Kolahi, 2012).

The second study was conducted by Rezeki Lintang Anggana (2012). Anggana in his skripsi entitled *Textual Elements and Translation Methods of Toeti Herarty's Poem Translated by Ulrich Kratz* analyzed the translation strategies used in translating Toeri Herarty's poems in its textual elements. He works by analyzing the textual elements in the poem such as alliteration, rhyme, meter, simile, metaphor, symbolism and theme in the poems. Later, he determined the translation strategies used in the poems. The result of Anggana's study revealed that the textual level between Indonesian and English version of poems are different. Thus, the dominant strategies are both rhyme and interpretation strategies.

This study will also analyze poems by using André Lefevere's seven translation strategies in translating poetry. Different from the first study, which used the Persian poems and its translation to English as the source of data, this study is going to use Indonesian poems and its English translation. This study will analyze the textual element like the second study as well. However, as the purpose of this study is only to find the translation strategies in poems, specifically *literal*, *rhymed*, *blank verse* and *interpretation* translation strategies, hence, the textual element that this study going to analyze are those who will help this study to reach its purpose. The textual element that this study referred to is rhyme.

Meanwhile, the poems that are going to be analyzed are written by Hasan Aspahani. He is a famous Indonesian poet which poems had been published many times. Many blogs has written about him, and stated that most of Hasan Aspahani's works were published in newspapers or books, such as *Jawa Post* (Surabaya), *Riau Pos* (Pekanbaru), *Batam Pos* (Batam), *Sagang 200* (Yayasan Sagang, Pekanbaru 200), *Antologi Puisi Digital Cyberputika* (YMS, Jakarta 2002), and *Dian Sastro for President 2 #Reloaded* (AKY, Yogyakarta, 2003). Hasan Haspahani has written many poems and even had a personal blog as a place where he put his works.

Thus, the title of the book that the writer is going to use is "A Fairy Veil MAHNA HAURI". The book itself was published on 2012, and has been translated to English by Gilda L Sagrado. The English version of the poem is put

inside the book. It is written at the side page of each poem to make it easier to read the original version (in Indonesian) and the translated version (in English).

This study will be using “A Fairy Veil MAHNA HAURI” as the source of the data because the book has not yet be studied in term of poetry translation strategies by André Lefevere. The other reason to choose the book is because it had gotten a poetry award of ‘Kusala Sastra Khatulistiwa Nominee for Puisi - shortlist (2012)’, making the book as the favorite book of the list. As cited in lordofreading.com, the book is also given a positive feedback by the famous person in literature field, Sapardi Djoko Damono. Sapardi stated that the poems in the book has a nice wording and is interesting to read. Hence, the English version of the poems is assumed to have various kind of translation strategies used in the poems.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the study will find out;

1. How the *literal*, *rhymed*, *blank verse* and *interpretation* translation strategies are used in the English version of Hasan Aspahani’s poems?
2. What is the dominant strategy, specifically the *literal*, *rhymed*, *blank verse* and *interpretation* translation strategies used in the English version of Hasan Aspahani’s poems?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the research question, this study has the purpose of;

1. Finding how the *literal*, *rhymed*, *blank verse* and *interpretation* translation strategies are used in the English version of Hasan Aspahani's poems.
2. Finding the dominant strategy specifically the *literal*, *rhymed*, *blank verse* and *interpretation* used strategy in the English version of Hasan Aspahani's poems.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The study focuses on André Lefevere's translation strategies, specifically the *literal*, *rhymed*, *blank verse* and *interpretation* translation strategies, in translating poetry used in the English version of Hasan Aspahani's poems in his book titled "A Fairy Veil MAHNA HAURI". The book itself contains 81 poems and has an English version written beside the poems. The book has three sections in which each section contains different theme; I) *A Few Hair Lines*, II) *A Few Fable Lines*, and III) *We then Exchange A Shoe*. Hence, the poems will analyze 27 poems which is taken from each theme of the book.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to be useful for English literature students who want to do a further research about the translation strategies used in translating poems.