CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

Translation becomes an important skill to learn especially in this recent era where international relationships requiring people to interact with others having different languages increase. There are two meanings related to the term of translation namely translation as a process and a result (Moentaha, 2008). On the first one, translation is defined as the process of human activities in language field to transform texts from SL to TL without changing the essence of the source texts which produces translated texts while on the second one, translation is only defined as translated text, the result of translating process.

Basically, translation is a tool to deliver meaning from source language (SL) to target language (TL) by translating the words from SL to TL and arranging them based on the structures of TL, so the structures of translated texts are suitable with TL and there will be no loss of meaning. Johnson and Whitelock in Bell (1991) state that professional translators have to master five categories of knowledge namely the knowledge of target language (TL), kinds of texts, source language (SL) knowledge, the subject to be translated, and contrastive knowledge. Besides those knowledge, Bell (1991) adds that translators have to possess communicative competence consisting of grammatical competence, the knowledge of the rules of code including vocabulary, word formation, spelling, and sentence structure; sociolinguistic competence including knowledge and

ability to produce and understand utterances appropriately in context; discourse competence including the ability to combine form and meaning to achieved unified spoken or written texts in different genres; and strategic competence including the mastery of communication methods which may be used to improve communication.

Indeed, every translator expects to achieve the target of equivalence as Catford (1978) states that translation is the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL). However in the implementation, even the professional translators face some problems when they are translating texts from SL to TL. Nord in Hurtado Albir (2001) defines translation problems as an objective problem which every translator has to solve during a particular translation task. Problems of translation occur in terms of meaning such as lexical, grammatical, textual, contextual, as well as socio-cultural meaning, and the material of literary texts such as humours, idioms, cultural terms, and figurative languages (Soemarno in Hartono, 2006).

As stated above, one of difficulties in translation comes from the equivalent on cultural words between SL and TL caused by there is no equivalent word or phrase in TL which can be used to directly re-express the message contained in SL cultural words. English words *table*, *chair*, and *house*, for example, can be directly translated because they already have lexical equivalent in Indonesian as *meja*, *kursi*, dan *rumah*. However, the cultural words such as *tuak*, *badik*, *sampan*, and *cobek* as Indonesian cultural words cannot be translated directly to English because those things do not exist in the target culture. It can be

difficult for translators to find the lexical equivalent for things and events unknown in the culture of target language because not only do translators have to find the best way to refer to something which already becomes the part of experience of target readers, but they also have to find the best way to express new concepts to target readers.

Larson (1984) provides three translation methods to obtain the lexical equivalents of things and event which do not occur in target language namely equivalence by modifying generic word with function, form, function and form, and comparison; equivalence by modifying loan words with classifier, function, form, as well as function and form; and equivalence by using cultural substitution. Those methods are recently used in many bilingual dictionaries – the dictionaries providing lexical equivalents between two different languages. Considering there are various methods which can be conducted to obtain lexical equivalents of unknown things and events, the writer is eager to find out the methods in obtaining the lexical equivalents of Indonesian cultural words from two bilingual Indonesian-English dictionaries.

1.2 Research Questions

The question to be answered in this study is:

1. What translation methods are used in defining Indonesian material cultural words from Indonesian to English?

2. How many Indonesian material cultural words are defined using similar methods?

1.3   Purpose of the Study

The study aims at figuring out the translation methods in defining Indonesian material cultural words from Indonesian to English. Besides that, this study also aims at finding out the number of material cultural words defined using similar methods by two dictionaries.

1.4   Limitation of the Study

The study focuses on analyzing the English definitions from one-hundred Indonesian material cultural words from *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (KBBI) divided into five sub categories consisting of twenty cultural words per category namely weapons, cakes, fabrics, vehicles, and buildings. The theory of lexical equivalents for unknown concept by Larson is used to analyze English definitions of Indonesian material cultural words. This study will use two dictionaries titled *The Contemporary Indonesian-English Dictionary* by Peter Salim and *A Comprehensive Indonesian-English Dictionary* by Alan M. Stevens and A. Ed. Schmidgall-Tellings to obtain the English definitions for each of Indonesian cultural words so one cultural word has two English definitions.

1.5   Significance of the Study

Besides can enrich the field of translation in English Department State University of Jakarta, this study is expected to give more information regarding translation methods in defining Indonesian material cultural words to English. Furthermore, the study is also expected to help translators to translate cultural

words whose definitions have not been found yet using the methods discussed in this study.

1.6   Previous Related Study

In August 2012, the study involving cultural words was conducted by Linda Maftuha, the student of English Department State University of Jakarta titled *The Translation of Indonesian Cultural Words into English in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's Novel "Gadis Pantai"*. Her study aimed at finding out the category of cultural words mostly occurred and the translation procedures mostly used in translating cultural words on the novel which resulted in cultural organization as the category of cultural words mostly occurred and literal translation as the procedure mostly used in translating cultural words in the novel. Although she has given clear classification of cultural words and explanation of procedures, she has not yet provided alternative ways to translate cultural words instead of using transference or any other similar methods which only transfer SL word to TL. Therefore in this recent study, the writer is going to give translation methods to obtain English definition of Indonesian cultural words which can be used to facilitate translators in defining of Indonesian material cultural words to English.