Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is undoubtedly one of the most important parts of our everyday life and profoundly impacts the development of human civilization and culture. It is the principal means we use to conduct our social lives and therefore is closely connected with culture. Culture in this sense can be defined as "membership in a discourse community that shares a common social space and history, and common imaginings" and as such its members have a certain common system of standards in perceiving, believing, evaluating, and acting (Kramsch, 1998, p.10). In turn, this standard often manifests itself in the language associated with said culture and various cultural products associated with said language and culture.

One of those cultural products is a novel. A novel is defined as an extended work of narrative fiction that is typically written in the form of prose. It is longer than a short story and *novelette* which in turn allows it to have a greater variety of characters, a deeper exploration of said characters, and a more complicated plot (or even plots) (Abrams & Harpham, 2008, p.226). This in turn allows its writer more liberty in utilizing language to a greater effect than other forms of written works to achieve the above advantages. One such novel is Laskar Pelangi (2005) by Andrea Hirata which was one of the most popular and beloved works in Indonesian literature and as a result, has been translated into various languages and subject of several literary studies. The novel features an inspiring story and likable character, but its setting also provides a window to the less covered part of Indonesia more specifically on the life and culture of East Belitung in 1974 and 1986. This unique setting presents a fresh perspective for novel readers and a challenge for translators, especially those from outside Indonesia. One of the most well-known translations of the novel Laskar Pelangi (2005) is Rainbow Troop by Angie Kilbane which became the subject of this study.

In its most basic form, a translation can be defined as a process of rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way the author intended the text and some experts such as Newmark also do not believe in the existence of an ideal, perfect or even "correct" translation, but only in difference in expression and understandability (1988, p.8). However, it does not mean that no principle or method needs to be considered when the translator is translating a text, nor does it mean that it is impossible to criticize a translation of a particular text.

Translation criticism is a field of study that seeks to bridge translation theory with translation practice. It differs from the common interpretation of criticism since it avoids random, arbitrary, subjective, or blind criticism and instead focuses on observing and analyzing the process and result of the translation in a historical, objective, comprehensive, and systematic way under the guidance of certain theories to be as objective, scientific, and as fair as possible (Yang & Fu, 2022, p.184). As such the purpose of translation criticism is not to determine or label a translated work as "correct" or "incorrect", "good" or "bad" as a whole, but rather to pinpoint specific weaknesses of a translation by exploring its interpretative potential through the degrees of similarity and divergences the translated work has against its source text, because what distinguishes the "good" or "bad" translation is not the choice taken itself, but whether or not the consequence of said choice orients toward the TL of the reader (Nida & Taber, 1969 and Newmark, 1988, as cited in Silalahi, 2009, p.33). As a result, the critic's primary job is not to judge but to observe and examine the chosen choice and its rejected alternative and its consequence (Hewson, 2012, p.6-7). This could improve the translation by allowing communication between the author, translator, and reader of the work.

Translation criticism differs from translation readability in its objective. Translation criticism seeks to observe and analyze the choice taken in translating a text by taking its linguistic and extra-linguistic elements into account and deciding whether the decision taken was justified, while translation readability seeks to analyze and assess to what degree a text is easily read and understood for its meaning.

Translation criticism also differs from translation evaluation in its purpose and scope. Translation evaluation as a practice of judging and placing value upon a translation is limited to the translation pedagogy oriented toward evaluating a specific translation difficulty and the judgment of a translational choice taken in light of said difficulty. As a result, translation evaluation is often limited to only one aspect of interpretation and places the result (which is often negative) as the main focus. On the other hand, translation criticism not only judges the appropriateness of a translation but also to set out the interpretative potential can be seen in the light of already established interpretative framework which originates from the source text. In essence, translation criticism goes beyond implicit or unsubstantiated judgement nor does it try to only pinpoint a specific weakness of a translation, but it also seeks to explores the translation interpretative potential by looking at the similarity and divergence between the source text and the target text (Hewson, 2011, p.6-7).

This paper intends to conduct a translation criticism of similes in *Laskar Pelangi* and its English translation *Rainbow Troop* using Katherine Reiss's theory of translation criticism. The writer chose to employ this theory in the analysis because it is more elaborate and detailed on what aspect to consider compared to Newmark's theory of translation criticism. For example, Newmark's theory of translation criticism will need to cover five topics: a brief analysis of the intention and functional aspect of the SL text, a discussion of the translation method and its readership, a detailed comparison of the source text and the translated text, evaluation of the translation both in translator terms (whether the representation of idea and fact is clear) and critic terms (whether any instance of semantic deficit is inevitable and justified), and lastly the assessment of the translation place within the target language culture.

Reiss's theory of translation criticism echoes similar points but in a more detailed manner. For example, the first topic of Newmarks which stresses the need for a brief analysis of the intention and functional aspect of the SL text involves the analysis of the characterization of the text readership and its category and types.

Still, Newmark did not elaborate in detail on how many categories and types there are or how to distinguish them. In contrast, Reiss classifies a text into either one of the three categories which are content-focused text, form-focused text, and appeal-focused text with each having their own characteristics and standards to achieve an optimal translation which the writer will elaborate more in the literature review section of this paper. The more structured and detailed nature of Reiss's framework is the reason why the writer chose to use Reiss's approach over Newmark's. Nevertheless, Newmark's theory of translation criticism is still useful for this analysis, as it provides a clear and simple instruction to conduct a translation criticism that can be applied within the framework of Reiss's translation criticism.

For the purpose of conducting translation criticism, the writer has collected four studies as examples of analysis using translation criticism. The first study is named "Translation Criticism and Unknown Source Text" by Kreiner 2009. The study used the Cay Dollerup (1999) model which was developed for the analysis of cultural communication in translation. The model itself consists of four textual layers namely structural (textual order of elements, passage, and episodes), linguistic (word, word order, phrases, repetition of word, sound, assonance, euphony, and style), contents (fact and element from structural and linguistic layers that can be used for interpretation), intentional layers. The study intends to find out whether it is possible for readers to systematically and objectively evaluate a translated work without comparing it with the source text. The result of the study found that although few, a tentative conclusion can be reached and that impressionistic comments can be based on demonstrable fact.

The second study is "Examining the Appropriateness of Reiss's Functionalist-Oriented Approach to Transcism" by Abdi in 2021. The study seeks to assess the appropriateness of Reiss's (2002) to the critique of translation and uses J.K Rowling novel titled "Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire" and its Persian translation as corpus. The study itself uses Reiss's model of translation criticism which encompasses three different categories, namely literary, language and pragmatic categories. The results show that the translator was successful in

accomplishing her translation at almost all levels, except some parts of grammatical and punctuation included in the language category in which the translation she produced failed to some extent. This also indicates that Reiss's functionalist approach is mostly appropriate for the critique of translated text, especially expressive text, as it allows the critic to judge two main aspects of translation, linguistic and extra-linguistic.

The third study is titled "Criticizing The Translation Of Gibran's "The Broken Wings": Extra And Intra-Textual Analysis" by Sumiati and Noverino in 2021. The study aims to identify and elaborate on aspects of doing translation criticism from extra-textual and intra-textual aspects as well as to give an evaluation based on translation quality. The data was collected by reading *The Broken Wings* and its Indonesian translation *Sayap-Sayap Patah* which was then analyzed for its extra-textual and intra-textual aspects using Nord and Newmark Translation Criticism theory and its quality is assessed using Larson quality of translation. The findings showed that extra-textually, the Source Text and Target Text show Gibran's intention to write *The Broken Wings* is to depict life during his era when Lebanon was plagued by various problems in the form of a tragic love story set at the end of the 20th century Beirut. Intra-textually the novel is filled with many figures of speech which are dominated by simile, metaphor, and personification as well as various cultural words that depict the beautiful landscape of Lebanon. In terms of translation quality, the study found that the translator managed to perceive and retain the meanings of the source text and translate them to the target text in a clear, accurate, and natural way that fulfilled the criteria of good translation.

The fourth study is titled "Exploring Translation Criticism: A Comparative Analysis of the Translation of the Novella The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1985) as Dr. Jekyll ve Mr. Hyde (2009) in Turkish" by Külünk in 2023. The study aims to comprehensively analyze the quality and effectiveness of the Turkish translation of the novella titled *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by comparing its original text and its Turkish translation. The study employs Katherine Reiss's (2000) framework of translation criticism for the analysis. The author

focuses on the text type within the literary category, various linguistics elements (semantics, vocabulary, grammar, style), and pragmatic aspects (the immediate situation, subject matter, time, place, audience, and speaker characteristics). The study found that in terms of stylistic elements, several areas of the translation failed in maintaining the poetic and expressive nature of the original text, and the translation sometimes deviated from recurring phrase and inverted sentence structure of the original which result in the loss of author stylistic decision. In terms of pragmatics element, the study demonstrated how the translator encounters a challenge in identifying the immediate situation embedded within the narrative, but manages to showcase an understanding of the subject matter by providing chemical terms and footnotes to explain references to history, mythology, and literature.

The fifth study is titled "The Grammatical Shift In Translating Causative Construction From Indonesian Into English In Andrea Hirata's Novel "Laskar Pelangi And The Rainbow Troops" written by Mariam and Vonti in 2020. The study aims to find causative construction in Indonesian and English in the novel Laskar Pelangi and the translation of The Rainbow Troops by Andrea Hirata and to analyze and examine in depth the equivalence and grammatical incompatibility of the translation of the causative construction, and describe the shift in grammatical equivalence of the translation of causative constructs from Indonesian into English. The study found that the shift in the word level occurs at a higher level, namely the phrase, at the phrase level there is no shift, and at the level of the clause, there is a shift at a lower level, namely the phrase or higher level, namely the main clause and sentence. In the sentence level, the shift occurs in the type of sentence, into sentences that are wider or smaller, or into clauses. Although this study is not completely relevant to the goal or method of this paper, it is still helpful for evaluating the grammatical factor of the collected data.

Nevertheless, although some studies such as the ones outlined above have tackled the field of translation criticism, some gaps have not been explored. The first gap is a corpus gap, as none of the first to the fourth studies outlined above have conducted translation criticism on *Laskar Pelangi,* and while the fifth study

uses the same corpus as this study, its focus lies solely on the grammatical shift in the translation of causative construction from Indonesian to English which only encompasses the grammatical elements of Reiss framework of translation criticism. The second gap is the scope, as all of the studies outlined above focus their analysis on criticizing the translation of certain chapters or verses of the source texts, while this study only focuses on criticizing the translation of all similes in *Rainbow Troop* from the first to the last chapters. The writer chose to conduct the translation criticism on the simile in the English version of *Laskar Pelangi, Rainbow Troop*, because it's the most abundant form of figurative language aside from metaphors that are translated from the source text (*Laskar Pelangi*) into the target text (*Rainbow Troop*).

1.2 Research Question

Based on the explanation above, these are the research questions that need to be answered in this paper:

1. How appropriate is the translation of the simile in *Rainbow Troop*?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

Based on the research question above, the writer has one objective for this study:

1. To examine the appropriateness of translation of simile in *Rainbow Troop*

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study evaluates the appropriateness of the translation of simile in *Rainbow Troop,* the English translation of *Laskar Pelangi*.

1.5 Significance of the Study

A study that explores the implementation of translation criticism is rare thus this study can serve as important material for future studies regarding translation criticism around the context of Indonesian or non-Indonesian language.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

This study only seeks to examine the appropriateness of the simile translation in Laskar Pelangi according to the Reiss Framework to Translation Criticism. Future studies may expand on this study by including other figurative languages or subjects or by using different theories regarding translation criticism.