

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

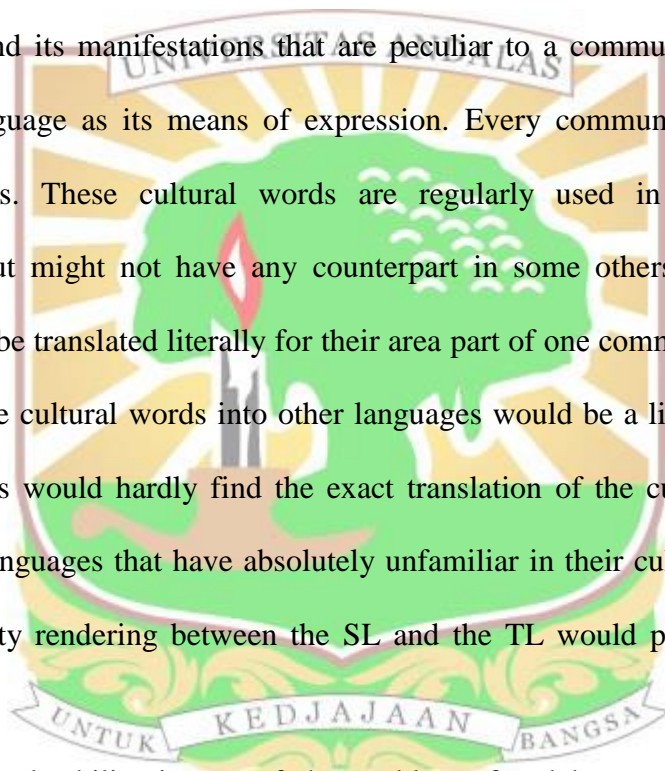
Indonesia is one of the multi-cultural countries in the world. There are varieties of cultures and languages in Indonesia that produce many literatures. In accordance to the literature aspect, Indonesia has many great writers who have produced various genres of literary works. Indonesian literatures usually embody with Indonesian cultural elements. Some famous literatures from Indonesia have become so phenomenal which made their way out worldwide.

To introduce Indonesian literature to the world is not easy. Language and cultural diversity are the two barriers that distinguish Indonesian literary works from the world. Catford (1965, p. 1) described language as a communication tools used by human being to interact in social situations. In accordance, because Indonesian literary works are usually written in either Indonesian language or Indonesian vernacular languages, the only way to introduce them worldwide is to translate them into other languages i.e. English.

Catford (1965) defined translation as a process of substituting a text in one language for a text to other languages. Yet, to substitute one language into another language is not an easy task. In translation the translators do not only substitute the language, but the translators also put their own interpretation of the Source Language (SL) and reproduce it into Target Language (TL) in the very convincing and equal form. Munday (2008, p. 5) described that translation is the process of interpretation between two different written languages involving the translator to change an original written text in the original verbal language into a

written text in a different verbal language. Malinowski (1923) in Duranti (1997) emphasized that translation assumes an ability to match words with the context in which they are uttered. In doing translation, the translator will match the words in SL into the words that can be understood by people in the TL.

However, in translating a text, both professional and amateur translators might find some problems. The common problem in translation is to transfer the cultural differences from SL into TL. Newmark (1988) stated that culture is the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression. Every community has its own cultural words. These cultural words are regularly used in one particular community but might not have any counterpart in some others. Thus cultural words cannot be translated literally for their area part of one community's culture. Translating the cultural words into other languages would be a little bit difficult. The translators would hardly find the exact translation of the cultural words in some target languages that have absolutely unfamiliar in their cultures. Here, the untranslatability rendering between the SL and the TL would probably take its place.



Untranslatability is one of the problems faced by translators. Catford (1965, p. 94) states that untranslatability or translation fails occur when it is impossible to build functionally relevant features of the situation into the contextual meaning of the TL text. In the process of translation, especially in translating cultural words, untranslatability would likely be found because the direct equivalence of the cultural words are not available in the other ones.

While Catford brought the term of untranslatability, Baker named this phenomenon as the problem of non-equivalent. Although the translators might find some problems in doing translation, the translation has to be done. Here, the translators would apply some translation strategies.

In this thesis, the writer concerned on the analysis of Minangkabau cultural words in an Indonesian novel entitled *Negeri 5 Menara* written by Ahmad Fuadi. This novel has been translated into English to *The Land of Five Towers* by Angie Kilbane. The writer chose *Negeri 5 Menara* because it was one of the best Indonesian novels. *Negeri 5 Menara* has been adapted into the movie in 2012 and the movie itself has become a best-seller movie in 2012. The author has also received several awards i.e. Most Favorite Author & fiction book from Anugerah Pembaca Indonesia. In *Negeri 5 Menara*, there are some cultural words from different cultures mentioned, i.e. Minangkabau cultural words, Sundanese cultural words, and Arabic cultural words

### **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Here are several problems to solve in this thesis:

- a) What are the categories of Minangkabau cultural words found in *Negeri 5 Menara*?
- b) What are the translators' strategies in translating Minangkabau cultural words found in *Negeri 5 Menara* into English?

### **1.3 Objective of the Research**

The aims of this research are to find the categories of Minangkabau cultural words in *Negeri 5 Menara* by Ahmad Fuadi, and to analyze the translators' strategies in translating Minangkabau cultural words into English.

#### 1.4 Scope of the Research

In this thesis, the writer focuses on analyzing Minangkabau cultural phrases and words found in the novel *Negeri 5 Menara* written by A. Fuadi. The writer limits the data on 2 units of language, they are phrases and words. The limitation of time and place that is impossible to do an analysis of all units of language, so the writer only focuses on those two units of language. In analyzing the category of cultural words, the writer uses the theory proposed by Newmark (1988), and in analyzing the strategies used in translating the Minangkabau cultural phrases and words, the writer uses the theory proposed by Baker (1992).

#### 1.5 Research Method

Sudaryanto (1993) stated 3 steps in doing linguistic research; collecting data, analyzing data and presenting the result of analysis.

##### 1.5.1 Datasource, data, population, and sample

The source of the data is taken from the two versions of the novel; the original version entitled *Negeri 5 Menara* by Ahmad Fuadi and the translated version entitled *The Land of Five Towers* by Angie Kilbane.

The data of this research are Minangkabau cultural words and phrases found in SL and their translation in TL. The populations are about 21 words and phrases in Minangkabau language found in the SL and the translation version in SL. From the population, 14 samples are chosen and divided into four categories; ecology, material culture, social culture, and customs & concepts.

### 1.5.2 Collecting the Data

In collecting the data, non-participant observation methods and note taking technique were used. There will be no interview or questionnaire involved in this research. The data were purely collected by doing the library research i.e. reading both the original version of the novel in SL and the translated version of the novel in English. There are several steps applied in collecting the data:

- a) Read the novel both in SL and TL for several times.
- b) Collected Minangkabau cultural words and phrases found in SL and their translation in TL.
- c) Selected the samples from the population by using stratified sampling.
- d) Noted 14 data to be analyzed.

### 1.5.3 Analyzing the data

The translational identity method proposed by Sudaryanto (1993) is applied in analyzing the data. Translational identity method is a method used on analyzing the translation of one language into another. This research focused on the translation of Minangkabau cultural words in TL. There are several steps in analyzing the data. First, the writer analyzed Minangkabau cultural word found in *Negeri 5 Menara* and then described the cultural words categories introduced by Newmark (1988). Next, the writer analyzed the strategy of the translator in translating the cultural words. Here, the cultural words must not be literally translated. The writer applied Baker's theory (1992) of *the problem of non-equivalence* for the words that cannot be literally translated.



#### **1.5.4 Presenting the result of analysis**

According to Sudaryanto (1993) there are two methods of presenting the result of analysis: formal and informal. This research will be presented by combining both of the methods. The result will be presented formally in the table form and in informal explanation by using verbal language in giving the explanation of the research.

