

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the research

The rise of translation has proven how important translation is, for science lately. The rise of translation is due to the existence of many languages in the world. Translation is not only used in transferring the meaning of literary works to target language, but also in transferring academic studies' text such as law, psychology, biology and others. It also has become an academic subject, named translation studies (Amirpoor & Ghonsooly, 2015). According to Catford (1965, p.20) translation is "the replacement of textual material in one language by equivalent textual material in another language". It can be inferred that there must be at least two languages involved in it, namely source language and target language.

A translator, as the connector between author of the text and readers in target language, must be faithful in doing a translation. Although there is less possibility that the translation will be exactly corresponded with the source language, translators must make the translation in the target language has closest natural equivalence to the source language. That is why, a translator, sometimes, must face hardships in doing a translation. One of many hardships that translator must deal with is translating swear words.

In English, swearing can be defined in more than a way. The first one is as the oath-taking and swearing in profane sense (Ljung,2011, p.1). Ljung (2011, p. 4) defines swearing into four criteria, which are:

- (1) Swearing is the use of utterances containing taboo words,
- (2) the taboo words are used with non-literal meaning,
- (3) many utterances that constitute swearing are subject to severe lexical, phrasal and syntactic constraints which suggest that most swearing qualifies as formulaic language,
- (4) swearing is emotive language: its main function is to reflect, or seem to reflect, the speaker's feelings and attitudes.

In translating swear words, sometimes a translator finds some swear words that have no direct equivalence in target language. That is why, she/he renders it into another word that is actually not a direct equivalence of the the word in target language, but still, can express the same emotion of the speaker. For example,

Source language: “I was the goddam manager of the fencing team” (Salinger, 1991, p.3).d

Target language: “Aku ini manajer tim anggar sialan itu” (Salinger, 2015, p.4).

In the example above, the translator renders the word *goddam(goddamn)* into *sialan*. The readers can still grasp the emotions of the speaker by translating *goddamn* into *sialan*, although it cannot be said that the translator does her job well by translating the words faithfully. In the source language, the phrase *goddam manager*, with *goddam* functions as modifier and *manager* as modified is seen differently in the target language. In target language, it becomes *tim anggar sialan* with *tim anggar* as the head and modified, which distorts the real meaning.

In another time, a translator might not find any word that can be close to the swear word, in terms of emotions contained in the word, so she/he decides not to translate it in the target language. Hence, the readers in target language cannot feel the emotion that the author intends the readers to feel. So it becomes less expressive than it is in source language. For example,

Source language: “Besides, I'm not going to tell you my whole goddam autobiography or anything” (Salinger, 1991, p.1).

Target language: “Lagipula tidak akan aku beberkan seluruh cerita hidupku atau apalah itu kepada kalian” (Salinger, 2015, p.1).

As seen in the example above, there is the word *goddam* (*goddamn*) in source language, in which it is categorized as a swear word. It is used by the speaker to emphasize his emotion, which in this context is annoyance. In the target language, the equivalence of this word is nowhere to be seen, which means the translator decides not to translate the word. As a result, the emotion of the speaker becomes less expressive than it is in source language. This act of omitting the word in target language done by a translator is called as self-censorship (Santaemilia, 2008, p. 222).

The examples above are taken from a novel by J.D Salinger entitled *The Catcher in the Rye*. This novel is controversial because of the usage of swear words and the fact that this book is mainly read by teenagers. Many critics dismissed this novel as garbage due to the existence of swear words. Even today, this novel has been banned in school districts in Washington, Ohio, Florida and Michigan (Archariyopas, 2012 p.268). Even though it has controversies that are even still debated among critics until now, this novel is listed on Time magazine in 2005 as one of 100 Best English Language novels written since 1923 (*'The Catcher in the Rye'*, 2017). In Indonesia, the translated version of this novel is first published in September 2005, and its latest printing is in June 2015. The translation is done by Gita Widya Laksmi.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing the translation of Salinger's novel *The Catcher in the Rye*. This novel contains many swear words and the work also has become popular among the readers despite the controversies surrounding it. Thus, the writer proposes to analyze the translation of swear words in Salinger's novel *The Catcher in the Rye* from English into Indonesian.

## **1.2 Research questions**

Based on the explanation above, the writer formulates the following research questions:

1. What are the types of swear words found in the novel *The Catcher in the Rye*?
2. What are the techniques applied in translating the swear words from English to Indonesian language?

### **1.3 Objectives of the research**

The writer has two primary purposes in conducting the research, which are:

1. To find out the types of swear words that are used in the English version of the novel.
2. To uncover the techniques applied in translating the swear words from English to Indonesian language.

### **1.4 Scope of the research**

In this research, the types of swear words and the translation techniques as found in the novel from English to Indonesian are analyzed. However, not all of the swear words appear in the novel is included as the data. Swear words that are categorized as idiom are excluded, such as *did not give a shit*, and *for God's sake*.

In total, there are 355 data found. Of 355 data, only 30 data that are taken from variations of each swear word appear in the novel are picked as analyzed data. These thirty data are categorized into five types based on Ljung's (2011) theory. After that, each datum is analyzed to uncover the technique of translation used based on Molina and Albir's (2002) theory.

### **1.5 Methods of the research**

#### **1.5.1 Collecting the data**

The sources of this research are the English version of *The Catcher in the Rye* and its Indonesian version. The main data are all the sentences containing swear words and its translated version (the swear words appeared in idiom form are excluded). The writer reads both two versions of the novel in order to analyze the data later on. The data are gathered by

firstly, reading the novel in both versions several times, then secondly, marking all the swear words appeared in the English version and thirdly, looking for equivalences of the words in the target language. The total swear words found in the novel are 355 words, with details of *goddam(goddamn)* appears 247 times, *damn* appears 96 times, *hell* and *ass* twice, *bastard* three times and *fuck* five times. To simplify the data to be analyzed, only varied translations of each swear words taken as to be analyzed data. For instance, the word *goddamn* is translated into fourteen variations. Then, all the fourteen translated variations are included as the data. However, if a variation appears more than once, than only the first variation that appears in the novel is put as the analyzed data. For example, the word *sialan* as a variation of translation of the word *goddam* appears more than thirty times. In spite of high frequency of appearances, only the first *goddam* appears that is translated as *sialan* that is counted as one datum. In total, there are thirty data to be analyzed.

### **1.5.2 Analyzing the data**

After gathering all the data, the writer groups the data into their types based on Ljung's theory. There are five types of swear words according to Ljung (2011), namely *religious (celestial and diabolical)*, *scatological*, *sexual organ*, *sexual activities* and lastly *mother theme*. The next step is to analyze what kind of techniques used in translating the swear words based on Molina and Albir (2002) theory.

### **1.5.3 Presenting the result of analysis**

In presenting the result, the writer uses percentage to see what type of swear word appears the most and which translation technique is the most used. The synopsis of the novel is enclosed at appendix.