

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Human beings use language to communicate with one another. Through language, they can establish interpersonal relations. This establishment can be achieved if each party has a capability to deliver or receive the meaning well. Nevertheless, since language could be extensively diverse as it depends on its regions, to acquire a mutual understanding when language differences prevail could be rather difficult if those people don't speak the same language. This might inevitably render difficulty to people in their attempt to comprehend each other's intentions during their communication process. Since language differences might meddle in the process of meaning transfer, translation comes to the rescue. Translation enables people who do not speak the same language to communicate with one another.

The act of translating has been applied to various kinds of texts, including literary works. As the interaction and integration among people worldwide has been easily enabled, there are many translations of literary works in every country. Nowadays, foreign books are translated into different languages so that the foreign readers can access the books as well. The English language has been integrated in many countries, especially Indonesia. To distinguish English words in everyday discourse is easy, as the amount of their numbers is abundant. In Indonesia, however, not all people—especially some native people or non-English speakers—possess the capability to comprehend the English language and are able to translate it in accordance. This, undoubtedly, raises numerous problems in the process; like how the structure of sentences in source language and target language could be different and compound words in respective languages might cause confusion if it is translated in literal manner.

Translators should have a competence to transfer all of its linguistic aspects as close as it could to its equivalence; from the conveyance of meaning, syntactic structures, and the grammar the text possesses. English and Indonesian language are known to retain significant linguistic differences, especially in the employment of references—or in this case, personal reference—that ties cohesion to the writing. Since linguistic differences do affect the portrayal of literary works from the style of writing to literary aspects the writers use, the translators might find it challenging to translate literary texts containing references and they ought to be deliberate during the translation process to keep the

naturalness and cohesion intact, aside from its meaning. Part of the cohesiveness of a text has to do with the usage of personal reference.

Consider the examples about different employment of personal references in translation comparison below. The examples that serve as the source text (ST) are extracted from *The Masque of the Red Death*, a short story written by the American author Edgar Allan Poe. While the examples that serve as the target text (TT) are extracted from its Indonesian translation *Setan Merah*, translated by Maggie Tiojakin and published by Penerbit Gramedia Pustaka Utama in April 2022, which is part of the book *Kisah-Kisah Tengah Malam*.

**Example 1**

Example 1	ST	<u>He</u> had directed...
	TT	<u>Sang pangeran sendiri</u> yang telah mengerahkan...
<b>Example 2</b>		
Example 2	ST	<u>He</u> disregarded the decor of mere fashion.
	TT	<u>Ia</u> tidak mengacuhkan popularitas gaya hidup yang diadopsi masyarakat umum.

The example (1) shows that the pronoun *he* is translated into *sang pangeran*, the antecedent of the personal reference known from the previous passage. Such a rendering is done freely. In contrast, in the example (2), personal reference *he*, while referring to the same antecedent ‘Prince Prospero’, is literally translated into *ia*. Both clauses in example (1) and (2) have the same syntactical structure in English language. Nonetheless, it results different references in Indonesian language. The translator alters the original personal reference “He had ...” and translates it into “Sang pangeran sendiri yang telah ...” instead of the literal translation “Ia sendiri yang telah ...”; which causes the difference in the Indonesian translation of personal reference despite of using the same English personal reference.

Owing to their possible translational diversities as well as the creation of translation choices in target language by translator, this study aims to observe more closely the translations of English personal references into Indonesian. Since personal reference is expected to be used frequently in fiction rather than nonfiction as narration often relies on the use of personal references, writer will select the English novel *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller and its Indonesian translation, entitled *Nyanyian Achilles* to be the research data.