CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Minangkabau is an ethnic group of West Sumatera, Indonesia. Minangkabau is famous of its unique culture. The pattern of matrilineal, the custom of *merantau* and unique artificial house *rumah gadang* also become the highlight of Minangkabau. Minangkabau has many historical stories. The histories of Minangkabau are documented in many ways. People write them in books, eternalize them in some pictures or drawings and record them become audios.

Recently, there are many documents of Minangkabau are created in bilingual even multilingual version. For example, it is written in Minangnese, Indonesian and English. Since Minangkabau is famous of its rich culture, it has a lot of words that relates to culture. There are automatically lot of Minangnese cultural words translated into English. Furthermore, the translation of Minangnese cultural words becomes interesting to be discussed.

Translation deals at least with two languages and two cultural traditions (Toury, 1978:200). It means, translation also dealing with culture of those languages, because language and culture appear to be inseparable. It becomes a challenge for the translator to find the equivalent cultural words because there is no exactly same culture. Different region has different ecological and geographical features. It influences the variety of cultural words. It is supported by Nida in Hymes (1964:92) that stated "the lack of topographical feature in one region makes it impossible to present exactly to the feature of

another region". Therefore, there are no exactly same cultural words among regions. Sapir (1956:69) also stated that "no two languages are ever sufficiently similar to be considered as representing the same social reality". It is clearly explained that there are no exactly same cultural word that will represent another culture.

In translating cultural words, the translators should transfer the cultural words so that they sound naturally to the target reader. As Nida (1982:23) stated "translation is transferring idea and form of source text into the target language by finding natural equivalence in meaning and style". The translators should find the closest meaning of a cultural word and transfer it naturally in style.

Another reason why this study is conducted is because the previous studies about cultural words translation have discussed and most of them are Indonesian- English translation. In this study, the orientation of translation is from Minangnese into English. Therefore, there are lots of different cultural words are discussed. Then, most of previous studies take the data from fiction such as novels and short stories. In this study, the writer takes the data from non-fiction genre. The writer takes the data from historical document of Minangkabau.

The data are taken from a document entitled *Album Minangkabau* that published in Switzerland in 2003 .It consists of 3 essays, 7 poems and 35 short descriptions of drawings. Since this document consists of several genres of text, it is written by a group of authors. They are Edy Utama, Musra Dahrizal Katik and Body Dharma. This document is chosen because it contains lot of

Minangnese cultural words and the authors of Minangnese version are natives of Minangkabau, while English version is translated by non native of Minangkabau. The translator is Dr. Bernhard A Batschelet.

In this research, the writer intends to categorize Minangnese cultural words found in document. Then the writer analyzes the translation procedures that applied in translating Minangnese cultural words into English. Since translation procedure is one of translation studies that reveal the process of translation itself.

1.2 Identification of The Problem

This writing deals with the process of translation of Minangnese cultural words in *Album Minangkabau*. This study focuses on two following questions:

1. What are the categories of cultural words found in *Album Minangkabau*?

2. What are the translations procedure applied in translating the Minangnese cultural words in *Album Minangkabau*?

1.3 Objective of The Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the categories of cultural words found in *Album Minangkabau.*

2. To analyze the translation procedure applied in translating cultural words in *Album Minangkabau*

1.4 Scope of The Study

Based on Newmark (1988:94), there are three categories of languages; universal, cultural and personal language. Universal language refers to the language used to cover universal function. Usually there is no translation problem here. Cultural language contains cultural elements peculiar to certain

culture. When it is used in personal way, it is called personal language. From these three categories of languages, cultural language specifically cultural words are the focus of this research. This study tends to find out the categories of the cultural words found in *Album Minangkabau*. Furthermore, the writer wants to analyze the procedures of translation applied by the translator in transferring Minangnese cultural words into English. In analyzing the data, the writer uses theory of cultural words categories and translation procedure proposed by Peter Newmark (1988).

1.5 Method of The Study

In conducting this research, the writer follows three steps:

1.5.1 Collecting Data

The data are taken by using observational method and note taking technique proposed by Sudaryanto (1998: 7). The object of this research is a Minangkabau multilingual document entitled *Album Minangkabau.*The data are Minangnese cultural words and their English translation. Album Minangkabau consists of 3 essays, 7 poems and 35 drawings and their short descriptions. They are written in Minangnese, English and Indonesia. Since this document consists of several genres of text, it is written by a group of authors. They are Edy Utama, Musra Dahrizal Katik and Body Dharma. The translator of this document is Dr. Bernhard A Batschelet.

Album Minangkabau is collected from PDIKM (*Pusat Dokumentasi dan Informasi Kebudayaan Minangkabau*) Sumatera Barat. The writer identifies the data and takes note for the cultural

words found in *Album Minangkabau*. There are fifty Minangnese cultural words translated into English in *Album Minangkabau*. The writer analyzes all of them, but only 25 of them are discussed in chapter 3. They are taken from 50% of each category of cultural words. The writer assumes these 50 % data represent the whole data. Then the writer shows all data in appendix. These 25 data are taken by using theory of selecting the data proposed by Williams and Chesterman (2002:92). They offer representativeness sampling where the data are taken to represent the whole information.

1.5.2 Analyzing Data

The next step is analyzing data. In analyzing data, the writer uses translational identity method proposed by Sudaryanto (1993:13). This method is applicable since the writer uses parameter to determine the category of cultural words and procedure applied. The writer classifies the Minangnese cultural words found in *Album Minangkabau* into their categorization. Then the data are placed in the column. The data that discussed are highlighted in bold in both source and target language.

Then, the writer analyzes the translation procedure applied by translator in translating Minangnese cultural words. Parameter that used to determine the cultural words categories and procedures is proposed by Peter Newmark (1988). The writer also supports the explanation of some data by using pictures to make better understanding. There are 18 data are supported by pictures. Three of them related to ecology, ten of

them related to material culture, three pictures are given in social organization and two pictures in social culture.

1.5.3 Presenting The Result of Analysis

To present the result of the analysis, the writer uses both informal and formal method by Sudaryanto (1993:145). Informal method is used because the writer presents the result of the analysis by using explanatory sentences. Then in formal method, the writer presents the result of analysis by using tables and pictures.