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ANALYSIS OF THE EQUIVALENCE OF MEANING IN THE TRANSLATION OF CHAIRIL ANWAR'S POEM "AKU" INTO ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the equivalence of meaning in the translation of the poem "Aku" into English, focusing on semantic, contextual, and expressive equivalence. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with content analysis methods. The research data consists of the source language poem and its translation into the target language.

Keywords: equivalence of meaning, poetry translation, equivalence, Chairil Anwar

INTRODUCTION

Translation has an important role in bridging communication across languages and cultures, especially in the dissemination of literary works to the global realm. Through translation, a nation's literary works can be accessed by international readers without having to master the source language. However, the translation of literary works, especially poetry, faces complex challenges because poetry not only conveys lexical meaning, but also the emotions, language styles, symbols, and cultural values inherent in the source text (Nisa et al., 2020). Various previous studies have shown that the equivalence of meaning in literary translation is dynamic and contextual, Ali *et al.*, (2022) assert that the translation of poetry demands a balance between meaning and aesthetic effect, while Hanggraningtyas (2022) states that equivalence does not always mean the similarity of linguistic forms, but rather the equality of message and impact on the target language reader.

However, studies that specifically discuss the equivalence of meaning in the translation of Indonesian poetry into English, especially in the poem "Aku" by Chairil Anwar, are still relatively limited (Helmie & Ismiati, 2024). Therefore, this research is important to examine how the equivalence of meaning is manifested in the translation of the poem and the extent to which the translation is able to maintain the message and emotional strength of the source language poem. Based on this background, this research is focused on two questions, namely how the form of equivalence of meaning in the translation of the poem "I" by Chairil Anwar into English and the extent to which this equivalence is able to maintain the message and emotional power of the poem.

METHODS

According to Waruwu (2024), there are three types of approaches in scientific research; namely quantitative approaches, qualitative approaches, and mixed methods. This study uses a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach. The descriptive qualitative method was chosen because this study aims to describe and analyze the equivalence of meaning in the translation of poetry, especially the poem "I" by Chairil Anwar into English. The descriptive approach is used to systematically describe the forms of equivalence of meaning that appear in the translation of the poem and the extent to which these equivalences are able to maintain the message and emotional strength of the original poem (Waruwu, 2024).

The object of this study is the equivalence of meaning in the translation of the poem "I" by Chairil Anwar into English. The research subjects were in the form of the poetry text "Aku" in Indonesian as the source language (BSu) and the translated text in English as the target language (BSa). The data collection technique used in this study is the documentation technique. Data was collected by identifying, reading, and recording the text of the poem "Aku" by Chairil Anwar and its translation in English.

The data analysis technique used in this study is content analysis. The analysis is carried out qualitatively with the following steps:

1. Read and understand the text of the poem "Aku" in Indonesian as the source language.
2. Read and understand the translated text of the poem "I" in English as the target language.
3. Compare the source language text and the target language to identify forms of meaning equivalence.
4. Classify the equivalence of meaning based on the translation theory used, such as formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence.



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5. Analyze the extent to which the equivalence of meaning is able to maintain the message and emotional power of the poem.
6. Draw conclusions based on the results of the analysis that has been carried out.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Berikut adalah lampiran puisi “AKU” (Bahasa Sumber / BSu);

Aku

Karya: Chairil Anwar

Kalau sampai waktuku
'Ku mau tak seorang 'kan merayu
Tidak juga kau

Tak perlu sedu sedan itu

Aku ini binatang jalang
Dari kumpulannya terbuang

Biar peluru menembus kulitku
Aku tetap meradang menerjang

Luka dan bisa kubawa berlari
Berlari
Hingga hilang pedih peri

Dan aku akan lebih tidak peduli
Aku mau hidup seribu tahun lagi

Berikut adalah lampiran Terjemahan Puisi “Aku” ke dalam Bahasa Inggris (Bahasa Sasaran / BSa);

Me

When my time comes
I want no one to coax me
Not even you

No need for those sobs and sighs

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I am a wild beast
Driven out of the pack

Let bullets pierce my skin
I will keep raging and charging

Wounds and poison I carry as I run
Running
Until the pain disappears

And I will care even less
I want to live another thousand years

An Analysis of the Meaning of the Poem "I"

1. Semantic meaning equivalence

Semantically, the translation of the poem "I" into English shows a fairly strong equivalence of meanings. Lexical meanings in source languages can generally be transferred into the target language without significant changes to the basic meaning. For example, the phrase "I'm a bitch" translates to "I am a wild beast." Denotatively, the two phrases have a corresponding meaning, which describes a figure who is wild, free, and not bound by rules (Helmie, 2018). Likewise, the line "I want to live another thousand years" which translates to "I want to live another thousand years", which semantically conveys the same meaning about the desire to live a long and full of struggle. However, there are some words in the source language that have a stronger connotative content than their counterparts in the target language. The word "bitch", for example, has a sharper emotional and social connotation in Indonesian compared to the word "wild" in English. This suggests that even if semantic equivalence is achieved, the nuances of meaning are not entirely identical.

2. Contextual Meaning Equivalence

From a contextual perspective, the poem "I" is loaded with a strong spirit of individualism, resistance, and existentialism. The line "Let bullets pierce my skin / I will keep raging and charging", which contextually still reflects an attitude of unyielding and courage in the face of danger (Newlyn, 2021). The context of resistance to pressure and suffering remains present in the target language. However, the historical and ideological context inherent in the poem "Aku" as a work of Indonesian literature at a certain time is not fully conveyed in the translation. Target language readers may understand the poem as an



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expression of universal individualism, but it does not fully capture the social setting and spirit of the times that underpinned the creation of the poem.

3. Equivalence of Expressive Meanings

Expressive equivalence in the translation of *the poem "I"* is the most challenging aspect. Source language poetry has a harsh, straightforward, and emotionally stressful style of language. In the English translation, the expression is still visible, but the intensity of the emotion tends to decrease (Georgieva et al., 2020). The repetition of the word "Running/Running" translated as "Running/Running" still retains the rhythmic effect, but the power of emotional pressure in the source language feels stronger. In addition, the use of short and sharp words in Indonesian provides an aesthetic effect that cannot be fully replicated in the structure of the English language. Nevertheless, the translation still succeeds in conveying the lyrical character's assertiveness, courage, and indifference to suffering, so that in general expressive equivalence is still achieved even though it is not optimal.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that the translation of the poem "I" has achieved a fairly strong synergy of meaning, but there are several notes on the aspects of nuance and emotional intensity:

1. Semantic Equivalence: In general, lexical and denotative meanings can be switched well. For example, the desire to live a long life in the line "I want to live another thousand years" is accurately expressed in English. However, some words like "bitch" lose their emotional and social nuances when translated to "wild".
2. Contextual Equivalence: Translation manages to maintain the spirit of individualism, courage, and an attitude of unyielding. However, the historical background and spirit of the times (Indonesian social context) inherent in the original poem are difficult to fully grasp by the target language reader.
3. Expressive Equivalence: This is the most challenging aspect. Although rhythmic effects such as the repetition of the word "Running" can be maintained, the emotional intensity and aesthetic effects of the use of sharp short words in Indonesian tend to be reduced in the structure of the English language.



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