



Translation Procedures in Subtitles of *Back To The Outback* Movie

Ni Luh Arintya Sumertiasih ^{1*}, I Nyoman Aryawibawa ², I Gusti Agung Istri Aryani ³

¹⁻³ Universitas Udayana, Indonesia

Email : arintya99@gmail.com ^{1*}, arya_wibawa@unud.ac.id ², istri_aryani@unud.ac.id ³

Abstract, *This research aims to analyze the translation procedures applied in the English-Indonesian subtitles of the animated film Back to the Outback, with a particular focus on how these procedures contribute to conveying meaning appropriately across languages and cultures. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, the study examines utterances and sentences from both the English and Indonesian subtitle versions, which were sourced from the Subscene platform, a site where users collaboratively translate films into various languages. Data collection involved watching the film while observing the subtitles in both languages, followed by identifying and categorizing the translation procedures based on Peter Newmark's theoretical framework. The findings reveal that the subtitles employ ten out of Newmark's nineteen translation procedures: couplet, modulation, paraphrase, reduction, literal translation, cultural equivalent, transfer, functional equivalent, naturalization, and transposition (shift). These procedures reflect the translator's efforts to retain meaning, tone, and cultural nuance, making the film accessible and relatable to Indonesian audiences. Furthermore, the study concludes that the target audience of Back to the Outback includes viewers of all age groups, supported by the universal and comprehensible nature of the subtitle translation.*

Keywords: *audiovisual translation, subtitle translation, Translation procedures*

Abstrak, Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis prosedur penerjemahan yang digunakan dalam subtitle bahasa Inggris-Indonesia film animasi Back to the Outback, dengan fokus pada bagaimana prosedur tersebut membantu menyampaikan makna secara tepat lintas bahasa dan budaya. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif dengan data berupa tuturan dan kalimat dari subtitle versi bahasa Inggris dan bahasa Indonesia yang diambil dari platform Subscene, sebuah situs di mana pengguna secara kolaboratif menerjemahkan film ke berbagai bahasa. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan menonton film sambil mengamati kedua versi subtitle, kemudian mengidentifikasi dan mengategorikan prosedur penerjemahan berdasarkan kerangka teori Peter Newmark. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat sepuluh dari sembilan belas prosedur penerjemahan Newmark yang digunakan dalam subtitle tersebut, yaitu: couplet, modulasi, parafrase, reduksi, terjemahan harfiah, padanan budaya, transfer, padanan fungsional, naturalisasi, dan transposisi (pergeseran). Prosedur ini mencerminkan upaya penerjemah dalam mempertahankan makna, nada, dan nuansa budaya agar film dapat diterima dan dipahami dengan baik oleh penonton Indonesia. Selain itu, penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa target penonton film Back to the Outback mencakup seluruh kelompok usia, didukung oleh gaya penerjemahan subtitle yang bersifat universal dan mudah dipahami.

Kata kunci: penerjemahan audiovisual, subtitle film, Prosedur penerjemahan,

1. INTRODUCTION

Hollywood films are highly popular in Indonesia, attracting audiences across various age groups due to their engaging narratives and global appeal. However, because these films are primarily produced in English, Indonesian audiences rely on subtitles to understand the content fully. Subtitles serve not only as a linguistic bridge but also as a cultural mediator to avoid misinterpretation across different language communities. According to (Newmark, 1988, p. 5), translation is the process of rendering the meaning of a text into another language in a way that preserves the author's intended message. Therefore, the role of subtitles in audiovisual translation becomes essential in ensuring accessibility and clarity.

Back to the Outback is a 2021 animated adventure-comedy film directed by Clare Knight and Harry Cripps. Produced by Weed Road Pictures and Netflix Animation, and featuring voice talents such as Isla Fisher, Tim Minchin, and Eric Bana, the film was released on Netflix on December 10, 2021, after a limited theatrical run. It tells the story of misunderstood creatures escaping from captivity to return to their homeland, combining humor, emotional depth, and family-friendly themes. The widespread accessibility of this film through subtitles allows viewers from different linguistic backgrounds to enjoy the narrative, emphasizing the importance of accurate and natural subtitle translation.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research adopts a qualitative descriptive methodology as outlined by (Saldanha, 2014), focusing on the translation product. According to their framework, product-oriented research aims to describe and explain how translations function as texts, paying close attention to the linguistic features and how they shift from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL). This method is appropriate for this study since it examines the translation procedures applied in the Indonesian subtitles of the animated film Back to the Outback. The analysis emphasizes how verbs, as central elements in expressing actions and intentions, are translated using different procedures. Saldanha and O'Brien categorize this type of research as empirical and product-based, where texts are observed, compared, and analyzed to understand patterns and strategies used in translation.

The data collection process involved several steps. First, the researcher watched Back to the Outback in its original version and then compared the subtitle texts in English (SL) and Indonesian (TL), both sourced from Subscene. The main data sources were subtitle transcriptions that contain verbal expressions. From these, relevant utterances were selected that exhibit clear procedural translation of verbs. Each example was then categorized using (Newmark, 1988) translation procedures such as literal translation, transposition, modulation, reduction, paraphrase, couplets, cultural equivalent, functional equivalent, naturalization, and transference. Following this, each translation instance was interpreted in terms of how it represented shifts or consistencies in form, function, or cultural context. This textual comparison allowed the researcher to uncover not only what procedures were used but also how these choices affected the readability, cultural accessibility, and accuracy of the subtitle translations.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study analyzes the use of translation procedures in the Indonesian subtitles of the film *Back to the Outback*, based on (Newmark, 1988) classification. The results reveal various strategies applied to maintain meaning, fluency, and cultural relevance in the subtitle translation. Below are ten representative examples from the data set:

1. Literal Translation Example 1:

SL	TL
Let him sleep.	Biarkan dia tidur.

This subtitle is translated using the literal translation procedure, which, according to (Newmark, 1988), is applied when both the SL and TL share compatible grammatical structures and lexical meaning. Each component “*let*”, “*him*”, “*sleep*” is transferred directly into the TL without modification. The structure and vocabulary are natural and clearly understood in Indonesian, indicating a successful literal equivalence.

2. Reduction Example 2:

SL	TL
We could just signal them to pull over.	Kita bisa memberi mereka isyarat untuk menepi.

In this case, the word *just* is omitted from the TL. Reduction involves eliminating redundant elements to increase subtitle conciseness without affecting the intended meaning. Although the SL has a more relaxed tone, the translator prioritizes readability by dropping “*just*”, keeping the translation natural and efficient within subtitle constraints.

3. Paraphrase Example 3:

SL	TL
Are you nuts?	Kau gila, kan?

This example shows the use of paraphrasing, where additional lexical elements are introduced to capture conversational tone. The particle “*-kan*” is not present in the SL, but it enhances the naturalness and emotional resonance in the TL. This reflects an effort to replicate

the informal, rhetorical function of the original question in a way that aligns with Indonesian dialogue style.

4. Couplets Example 4:

cultural equivalent + modulation

SL	TL
Break out of here tonight!	Keluar dari sini malam ini!

The translation combines two procedures, cultural equivalence and modulation. The phrasal verb break out is contextually interpreted as “*keluar*” (to exit or escape), while the sentence structure is adjusted slightly to reflect Indonesian rhythm and clarity. This transformation allows the TL to convey urgency and intent with natural flow.

5. Modulation Example 5:

SL	TL
Like mountainy, and burnt sienna-y	Seperti gunung, dan warna cokelat kemerahan.

Modulation is used to change the viewpoint or form of expression. The quirky English adjectives “*mountainy*”, “*burnt sienna-y*”, are rendered with descriptive nouns and adjectives in TL. This ensures clarity and acceptability in the target culture, where abstract, invented descriptors might be misunderstood.

6. Cultural Equivalent Example 6:

SL	TL
You’ve seen me go three weeks without a mani-pedi.	Kau telah melihatku 3 minggu tanpa perawatan kuku.

The culturally specific term “*mani-pedi*” is adapted into the TL as “*perawatan kuku*”, a more general and familiar expression for Indonesian viewers. This technique helps bridge

cultural gaps by replacing a source expression with one that holds equivalent value in the target culture.

7. Functional Equivalent Example 7:

SL	TL
Crikey!	Astaga!

Here, the exclamation “*Crikey!*”, often used to express surprise in Australian English, is translated to “*Astaga!*”, a common Indonesian interjection. This functional equivalence ensures that the emotional effect is preserved, even though the literal word choice differs.

8. Naturalization Example 8:

SL	TL
I heard they let a platypus in.	Ku dengar mereka membiarkan platipus masuk.

The term “*platypus*” is naturalized into “*platypus*” in TL. This method maintains the identity of the animal while adapting its spelling and pronunciation to match Indonesian phonology and orthography. The rest of the sentence is translated literally for simplicity.

9. Transposition/Shifts Example 9:

SL	TL
Probably the first time she’s seen a croc close-up	Ini pertama kalinya ia melihat buaya dari dekat mungkin

Transposition involves altering the grammatical structure without changing the meaning. In this example, the adverb “*probably*”, which appears at the beginning in SL, is shifted to the end in TL. This structural adjustment ensures that the sentence remains grammatically acceptable and natural in Indonesian.

10. Transference Example 10:

SL	TL
----	----

Who ya gonna call? Chaz Hunt!	Siapa yang kau panggil? Chaz
What's the name again? Chaz Hunt!	Hunt! Siapa Namanya? Chaz Hunt!

Proper names such as “*Chaz Hunt*” are transferred unchanged from SL to TL. Transference, or direct borrowing, is appropriate for personal names, ensuring authenticity and avoiding unnecessary confusion by not localizing terms that function as identifiers.

4. CONCLUSION

This research explored the translation procedures applied in the Indonesian subtitles of the film *Back to the Outback*, using the theoretical framework of (Newmark, 1988). The analysis of selected data revealed that the translator employed a variety of procedures, including literal translation, reduction, paraphrase, couplets, modulation, cultural equivalent, functional equivalent, naturalization, transposition, and transference. Each of these procedures was applied with careful consideration of the linguistic, structural, and cultural contexts of both the source and target languages.

The dominant application of literal translation suggests that a significant portion of the English utterances, particularly verbs, could be transferred directly into Indonesian without altering grammatical integrity or meaning. However, when literal translation was insufficient to convey cultural or idiomatic expressions, the translator opted for other strategies such as modulation or paraphrase to maintain naturalness and clarity. The use of cultural equivalent and couplets reflects efforts to adapt culture-specific references to the Indonesian audience. Overall, the translation procedures were applied selectively and contextually, allowing the subtitles to remain faithful to the source while ensuring that the translation was linguistically appropriate, accessible, and culturally relevant for Indonesian viewers.

REFERENCES

- Fitria, T.N., 2020. Translation procedure of English to Indonesian subtitle English Vinglish movie. *Rainbow: Journal of Literature, Linguistics and Cultural Studies*, 9(1), pp.40–48., n.d.

How to write a literature review | guide, examples, & templates., n.d. . How to write a literature review | guide, examples, & templates. URL <https://www.scribbr.com/dissertation/literature-review/>

Kuswardani, Y., 2014. The analysis of English-Indonesian translation at Welcome on Board section on Garuda magazine. *English Teaching Journal: A Journal of English Literature, Language and Education*, 2(1)., n.d.

Newmark, P., 1988. What is translation?, in: *A Textbook of Translation*. p. 5.

Safitri, E. and Ambalegin, A., 2022. Analysis cooperative principle in *Back to the Outback* movie: pragmatic approach. *IDEAS: Journal on English Language Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature*, 10(2), pp.1496–1504., n.d.

Saldanha, G., 2014. *Research methodologies in translation studies*. Routledge, London. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315760100>