Vulgar Language Translation from *Cantik Itu Luka* Novel

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Abstract: This paper analyzes vulgar language translation strategies from an Indonesian novel Cantik Itu Luka by Eka Kurniawan that is translated to English by Annie Tucker to be "Beauty is A Wound". The research aims to observe the methods and techniques used to translate the vulgar language continued with implying the translation ideology. The vulgar language was filtered by criteria that were self-established. The data were classified according to the techniques and methods then analyzed using descriptive comparative method to describe the equivalence of profanities from Indonesian as the source language (SL) to English as the target language (TL). The results show various translation techniques varied from single techniques such as modulation, amplification, and literal translation with the total of 73 techniques, to combinations of double and triple techniques with the total of 17 and 3 technique combinations. The translation methods are dominated by semantic, free, and adaptation translation methods. Furthermore, such methods selection implies that domestication dominates the ideologies with the main purpose of reaching dynamic equivalence to adjust the cultures of TL, this can be seen by the fact that not all translated vulgar language maintained to be vulgar in TL text.

1   INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's background as one of eastern cultured countries that are well-known by their modest societies leads to the limitation use of vulgar language in media such as literary works. Whereas vulgar language is inseparable from language phenomena used by humans to mediate their thoughts in portraying the world. The word *vulgar* in the Great Indonesian Dictionary 2017 means rude (behavior, deed, etc) and impolite. Briefly, vulgar language is defined as language that is uncovered and it tends to be avoided due to the society presuming it as having rude, filthy, impolite, and inappropriate meaning. Because of such definition, vulgar language is also identified to be mostly spoken by uneducated or low-class society. Indonesian literary works which contain vulgar language often receive criticisms, yet many of them are high in quality and then translated to other languages to promote them to other countries. One of those literary works is the novel entitled *Cantik Itu Luka* by Eka Kurniawan that is translated to English to be "Beauty Is A Wound" by a non-Indonesian native speaker Annie Tucker.

Translation is rendering the meaning of a text in one language into another language, or what we call as source (SL) into target language (TL) (Newmark, 1998). Nida and Taber (1982) explained that a good translator should prioritize the equivalence in meaning, and it should be the closest natural equivalence in TL. Furthermore, Hatim (2004) stated that translation areas include three elements, which are the process of transferring a written discourse from SL to TL in a specific sociocultural context, the translation product that must be acceptable in sociocultural way of the target language's speaker societies, and the aspects of cognitive, linguistics, visual, cultural, and ideological phenomena. Therefore, to produce a good translation, a translator should have a comprehended knowledge about the source and target language and also the cultures of both of the language's speakers. This is necessary because language and culture are very associated, differences in cultures would make differences in languages, and it often affects the alterations of vocabularies (Nida, 2001)

Additionally, this research aims to know if the vulgar language in SL is translated to be vulgar language as well in TL, or they lose the vulgar aspects. This research identifies the translation strategy used by the translator of the novel *Cantik itu Luka* who is not an Indonesian. this research is to describe the methods and techniques used in

translating the vulgar language from the novel *Cantik Itu Luka* to "Beauty Is A Wound" and to identify the ideology in translating the vulgar language.

Vulgar language in Indonesian is similar to taboo words or swear words in English. Yet this research chose to use the term vulgar language since the definition of "taboo" or *tabu* in Indonesian is things that are forbidden to touch, do, or say because of dangerous supernatural reasons. Taboo words in English consists of lexicons that are emotionally offensive, are restricted to be spoken because it is assumed to be possibly harmful (Jay, 2009). The list below contains the criteria of vulgar language to filter the data from the novel *Cantik Itu Luka*:

1. The analyzed vulgar language is from various linguistic units from word to clause, and they can be in form of every parts of speech.

2. The analyzed vulgar language aims to swear or curse thus there is a hateful emotion or offensive purposes while speaking it.

3. The analyzed vulgar language is a form of pejoration that specifically aims to lower the condition and social status of a person.

4. The analyzed vulgar language is considered as impolite because it tends to be spoken by lower class society with low education.

Therefore, the types of vulgar language found in the novel are sexual references that are pejorative (*ngentot*), specific limbs that are usually particularly functioned in sexual activities, (*buah pelir, lubang anus*), scatological references (e.g.: *tai*), insulting references to psychological, physical, economic, or social conditions (e.g.: *bodoh, cacat*), swear words to express anger or hatred (e.g.: *sialan, brengsek*), animal references that are considered as filthy (e.g.: *anjing*), entities references that are believed as malicious (e.g.: *setan, iblis*).

2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research used descriptive qualitative approach to observe the data which are the vulgar language classified by the previously explained criteria. A purposive sampling collecting method is applied thus only a few samples were taken for similar vulgar language with similar translation strategy. Descriptive comparative approach is used to analyze the data, since the analyzing is done by comparing the data in two languages.

3 TRANSLATION METHODS, TECHNIQUES AND IDEOLOGIES

Translation strategy includes particular methods and techniques in rendering the meaning of a text from SL to TL. The strategies are the solutions for translators to solve the problem in finding the closest equivalent reference in TL, both in meaning and form. Translation methods are the systematic ways on how to proceed a translation, while the techniques concern on particular ways in translating the micro-units in the SL text. Newmark (1998) constructed a V diagram of translation methods. The diagram is presented below.

Table 1: Newmark's V diagram of translation methods.

SL Emphasis	TL Emphasis
Word-to-word Trans.	Adaptation
Literal Trans.	Free Trans.
Faithful Trans.	Idiomatic Trans.
Semantic Trans.	Communicative Trans.

The methods on the left are applied when the translator aims to render the meaning and the form to be likely similar as the SL text including the cultural elements found in the SL text. Thus, by applying the methods, the translator introduces foreign cultures as well as the language to the readers which are TL speakers. On the other hand, the methods on the right intend to adapt the SL text to suit the TL speakers more in terms of culture and language. Translation methods determine the translation product's ideology, or whether the translator wants to foreignize or domesticate the translation's product.

Foreignization translation practice signifies the linguistic and cultural differences of the foreign text; thus, it sends the reader abroad. Meanwhile domestication translation practice reduces the linguistic and cultural differences from the foreign text to minimize strangeness in TL (Venuti, 2008). Foreignization preserves the linguistic and cultural aspects from the SL text, while domestication produces a TL text that is easy for the readers, who are TL speakers, to understand. Domestication ideology is traditionally applied in translation process in order to reach a more natural TL text. Furthermore, Nida and Taber (1982) stated that the best translation does not sound like a translation, and equivalence in meaning, or what Nida and Taber mentioned as dynamic equivalence, is more important than the correspondence in grammar and lexis, or the formal correspondence.

For translation techniques, Molina and Albir (2002) proposed 18 techniques, or the procedures to analyze and classify how translation equivalence works. The techniques are adaptation, amplification, borrowing, calque, compensation, description, discursive creation, established equivalent, generalization, linguistic amplification, linguistic compression, literal translation, modulation, particularization, reduction, substitution, transposition, and variation. In translation process, more than one technique can be applied to obtain the equivalence, thus there are couplet, triplet, or quadruplet techniques that show the number of techniques applied in the translation.

4   RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are 93 data of the analyzed vulgar language, which is not the total number of all vulgar language in the novel because the research used sampling data collecting technique, hence one sample was taken from several similar vulgar expression with similar translation strategy.

The table below contains the types of vulgar language found in the novel *Cantik Itu Luka*.

Table 2: Types of vulgar language.

Types	Total
Sexual references	22
Specific limbs that are usually particularly functioned in sexual activities	4
Scatological references	4
Insulting references to psychological, physical, economic, or social conditions	25
Swear words to express anger or hatred	20
Animal references	2
Entities references that are believed as malicious	8
Total	93

4.1 Translation Methods and Techniques

The next table lists the translation methods used in translating the vulgar language in the novel. Translation methods will determine the translation ideology.

Table 3: List of the translation methods used in translating the vulgar language.

Language Emphasize	Methods	Total
SL Emphasize (Foreignization Ideology)	Word-to-Word Translation	1
	Literal Translation	12
	Faithful Translation	2
	Semantic Translation	18
	Total	33
TL Emphasize (Domestication Ideology)	Communicative Translation	3
	Idiomatic Translation	3
	Free Translation	28
	Adaptation	26
	Total	60

The result shows that the translator applied methods from both language emphasize, yet domestication ideology dominates, indicating that the translator aims to reduce the linguistic and cultural differences from the foreign text, making the TL text to be more natural by adapting the vulgar language in TL and using different terms that are more recognizable in English (Venuti, 2008). By using this ideology, TL might have inequivalent literal meaning and language structure, yet there is minimal significant changing in the whole context, which will be explained in the usage of translation techniques. Meanwhile, the fact that the translator is a TL native speaker also supports the notion of domestication practice.

The next results are the translation techniques in translating the vulgar language in the novel. Single, couplet, and triplet techniques were found.

Table 4: List of single translation techniques used in translating the vulgar language.

Techniques	Total
Literal Translation	2
Linguistic Amplification	8
Linguistic Compression	2
Established Equivalent	22
Calque	3
Adaptation	1
Modulation	15
Transposition	4
Variation	6
Borrowing	1
Discursive Creation	1
Particularization	2
Deletion	7
Total	73

The table 4 shows that techniques that dominate the vulgar language translation process are established equivalence and modulation. Most of the vulgar expressions in SL text have their equivalent expressions both in meaning and form and those expressions are available in TL, thus established equivalence technique, which is translating by using an expression recognized in TL because it is available in the dictionary or in the language in use as the equivalent in TL text (Molina and Albir, 2002), is preferable. The next table shows an example of established equivalence technique application to translate the vulgar language in from the SL text.

Table 5: Example of Established Equivalence Translation Technique.

Data Number:	5
SL:	*"Pelacur ini mati?"* (Kurniawan, 2002)
TL:	"That whore is dead?" (Kurniawan, 2015)

The word *pelacur* in Indonesian as the SL has the same meaning with "whore" in English as the TL, which is a female prostitute. Due to the availability of a word with equivalent meaning, established equivalence technique is applied.

Furthermore, modulation technique functions to change the point of view or cognitive category in lexical or structural to make the SL text sound more

natural and acceptable (Molina and Albir, 2002). For example is the table 6.

Table 6: Example of modulation technique.

Data Number:	39
SL:	*Tapi Alamanda akan menyumpal telinganya jika Adinda mengatakan bahwa kau betina murahan yang doyan menyakiti hati lelaki* (Kurniawan, 2002)
TL:	But Alamanda would shove her fingers in her ears when Adinda said you are a cheap slut who likes to break men's hearts (Kurniawan, 2015)

The noun *betina* refers to the female gender of animals. The writer chose *betina* to describe Alamanda to symbolize her behavior to be as low as animals'. The translator changed the lexical point of view of it and translate it to be "slut" which means a woman who has sexual relationship with a lot of men without involving any emotion. The context of both SL and TL text imply that Alamanda likes to have relationships with many men without truly loving them, thus the translator changes the point of view or the cognitive category without fully change the whole context and meaning in TL, besides aiming to make the expression to sound more natural in TL. The word *betina* is literally translated as "female" in English, but "female" is used for both animals and humans, thus it would decrease the vulgar aspects and the specific purpose of the language to lower Alamanda's status.

The next table shows the amount of couplet translation techniques to translate the vulgar language in the novel. Couplet technique means there are two techniques involved in the translation process.

Table 7: List of Couplet Translation Techniques Used in Translating the Vulgar Language.

Techniques	Total
Established Equivalence + Transposition	2
Literal Translation + Borrowing	1
Linguistic Amplification + Variation	1
Linguistic Amplification + Transposition	2
Linguistic Amplification + Modulation	2
Modulation + Particularization	1
Transposition + Variation	5
Transposition + Particularization	1
Borrowing + Discursive Creation	1
Modulation + Variation	1
Total	17

The total of each couplet techniques is almost similar one from another, yet transposition technique dominates the technique combinations, such as linguistic amplification and transposition. Linguistic amplification is done by adding linguistic element, while transposition is done by changing grammatical category in SL text (Molina and Albir, 2002). Both techniques were used by the translator with an aim to make TL text to be structurally accepted by TL speakers due to the different structures between SL and TL. The table below is an example of linguistic amplification technique in the novel.

Table 8: Example of linguistic amplification and transposition techniques.

Data Number:	49 and 50
SL:	*"Shodancho setan, iblis, brengsek, terkutuk"* (Kurniawan, 2002)
TL:	"Shodanco, you accursed satan, you devil, you asshole" (Kurniawan, 2015)

Both of the vulgar nouns *setan* and *iblis* became whole sentences with auxiliary omission in the TL text, the additional linguistic elements which are the subjects "you" indicates the application of linguistic amplification technique. The changing in grammatical category from word to sentence is also the application of transposition technique. These techniques combination intend to reach structural naturalness in TL text since SL and TL have different sentence structure.

Variation technique, which is a changing of linguistic elements that affect aspects of linguistic variation (Molina and Albir, 2002) is also used quite a lot, for example is as follows:

Table 9: Example of transposition and variation techniques.

Data Number:	26
SL:	*"Brengsek, apa yang kau lakukan dengan selangkanganmu?"* (Kurniawan, 2002)
TL:	"Damn it! What have you done to your crotch?" (Kurniawan, 2015)

The word *brengsek* in the Great Indonesian Dictionary means unsettled, incapable, or troublesome, yet this word can also act as a swear word to express anger. The word is trans positioned to the phrase "damn it" which is one of the most used swear words in TL, defining variations in English language style. The vulgar expression in TL and SL are not equivalent in meaning, yet in they have similarity to be used as one of the basic swear words in each language use.

The next is the list of triplet techniques in translating the vulgar language.

Table 10: List of triplet translation techniques used in translating the vulgar language.

Techniques	Total
Linguistic Amplification + Transposition + Variation	1
Linguistic Amplification + Modulation + Transposition	2
Total	3

The triplet translation techniques are dominated by the combinations of techniques that were explained previously. Apparently, couplet and triplet techniques that produce vulgar language translations with innovated forms yet are equivalent in meaning and context form of translation are preferable. Additionally, many of the vulgar language in SL text also have their equivalent meaning and form, thus established equivalence technique is preferable for the single translation technique.

4.2 Vulgarity Omission

Finally, from all 93 data of vulgar language in SL text, 21 of them were not translated into vulgar language or taboo words in English as TL. This is possibly caused by culture or language phenomenon difference.

Table 11: Example of vulgar aspect omission in TL text.

Data Number:	64
SL:	*"Berapa kali pun kulakukan itu terhadapmu, kau tak akan pernah bunting."* (Kurniawan, 2002)
TL:	"No matter how many times I do this to you, you will never get pregnant." (Kurniawan, 2015)

The word *bunting* means pregnant but it is used specifically for animals. It is considered as rude to use this word for pregnant women in Indonesia, instead they use the term *hamil* or *mengandung* which are the amelioration terms for pregnant women. Such culture is not found in English; therefore, the translator adjusted this term to be a non-taboo word to make it sounds more natural in TL to fit the cultures.

The vulgarity omission is the major matter of translation shifts in the vulgar language translation. According to Catford (1965), translation shift is the departure from formal correspondence or the parallel of linguistic level and category from SL to TL, while Simatupang (2000) added another type of translation shift that happens in semantics area. There are two categories of semantic shifts in translation, which are shifts from specific meaning to generic meaning or vice versa, and the meaning shift due to cultural and point of view differences between TL and SL, and the vulgarity omission is caused by the latter.

Intended translation reductions to remove parts of vulgar language in SL text is also found in TL text, for example is below.

Table 12: Another example of vulgar aspect omission in TL text.

Data Number:	26
SL:	*"Aku harus menempeleng bocah pengantar koran itu karena keterlambatannya yang kurang ajar."* (Kurniawan, 2002)
TL:	"I should box that newspaper boy's ears" (Kurniawan, 2015)

The term *kurang ajar* means impolite or bad mannered, and this is removed in TL text. This can be included to Catford's formal correspondence shift because the complex sentence shifted to one independent sentence. While cultural differences probably are irrelevant, various factors could affect this, for instance the editor and the publisher's decisions for sales purposes.

5 CONCLUSIONS

Domestication practice is still preferable to use including to the vulgar language translation in the novel *Cantik Itu Luka*, and it is affected by several factors. The main reason is because of different language structure and cultures of SL and TL; thus, a structure and culture adjustment are necessary. The next one is probably the demand of the editor of the TL text in order to make the translation product acceptable by the readers, affecting the sales of the product. To domesticate the TL text, the translator searched for equivalence in meaning without changing the context of TL text from SL text, thus the TL text would sound more natural despite neglecting the correspondence in structure. The adjustment in structure and cultures is presented more clearly in the translation techniques where the translator used many techniques that change the structure in TL such as linguistic amplification and transposition, and the cultural aspects by using techniques that alter the vulgar language in SL to sound more natural in TL such as modulation and variation. Lastly, not all the vulgar language in SL text maintain their vulgarity or taboo contexts, which is caused by various possible factors such as the cultures differences and the editor and the publisher's decisions.

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