

Translation Quality of Sexist Language in the Novel *Little Men* by Loisa May Alcott

Nurochman¹; M.R. Nababan²; Riyadi Santosa²; Diah Kristina²

¹Doctoral Student of Universitas Sebelas Maret Surakarta Indonesia

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Abstract: The study is designed to find out the quality of translation from novel *Little Men*. Its translations in Indonesian are translated by man and woman (different gender). The aims of the study are (1) to find out the kinds of sexist language in the novel *Little Men*, (2) to find out the techniques of translation, (3) to analyse the quality of translation based on gender of translators. The study uses a descriptive qualitative method. In this case, the researcher collects, classifies, and describes the data using the method. To get the data, the writer read the English and the Indonesian novel carefully and identified the kinds of sexist language. The researcher got 183 data. After finding out the data from the English and Indonesian versions, the data were verified by the expert and the translations were analysed by raters related to the quality of translation. The result of the analysis shows that there are 7 man as standard, 112 women are different, 9 non-human terms, 3 negative words, and 52 sex role descriptor. It shows different techniques of translation applied by translators as well as the quality of translation.

1 INTRODUCTION

Sexism is usually connected to women and focused on the inequality that women obtain in social life. Sexist language is a term used to denote a wide range of very different element, from the use of such items as generic pronouns, such as 'he' (when used to refer to both males and females); word ending '-ette' e.g., *usherette*; nouns referring to men and women, e.g., *waiter* and *waitress* which seem to have different range of meaning, (Mills, 2008). Sexist language is often expressed by people in society, e.g., women are always talkative, men never cry, men must be breadwinners, etc. Sexist against not only women but also men. However, sexists generally against women, as stated by Umera-Okeke (2012) that in most societies, it is commonly shown in behaviors that depict males as superiors to females. Lei (2006) also states that sexist language is language that expresses bias and favor of one sex and thus treats the other sex in a discriminatory manner. In most cases, the bias is in favor of men and women and against women. Referring to the explanation of sexist language above, it will be an interesting topic to discuss if it is connected to

translation. Moreover, if there are two translators with different gender translating sexist language, it will be very meaningful to analyze the quality of translation. Related to translation, sexist language can be a very interesting topic to study, moreover the translators are in different gender that can be influenced by the gender itself. If the sexist words or phrases against a man, can he retain the original words to translate or he will try to change into another expression that will affect the quality of translation. Conversely, if the words or phrases against woman, can she still retain the original meaning, or she is influenced by the gender then she paraphrases the words, or maybe she will change and divert the meaning. They are the phenomena that will be analyzed.

The study has the following aims: 1) to find out the kinds of sexist language in the novel *Little Men*, 2) to find out the techniques of translation applied by translators (man and women) in translating sexist language, 3) to analyze the quality of translation for sexist language from the accuracy, acceptability, and readability translated by different gender.

2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Concept of Translation

Catford (1978) stated that translation is the replacement of textual material in another language. Larson (1984) also explained that translation consists of transferring meaning of the source language into the receptor language which is done by going from the form of the first language to the form of second language in semantic structure. According to Nida and Taber (1982), translating consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language, the first terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. From the three definitions above the researcher concludes that translation is transferring meaning, messages, ideas from the source language into target language. The process of translation consists of three phases, they are (1) analysis of the text in the source language, (2) transferring the message, and (3) restructuring. (Nida & Taber, 1982).

2.2 Technique of Translation

Molina and Albir (2002) defined that translation technique as procedures to analyze and classify how translation equivalence works. It has some basic characteristics, they are 1) affecting the result of translation, 2) it is classified by comparing with the original text, 3) affecting micro-units of the text, 4) it is by nature discursive and contextual, and 5) it is functional.

Molina and Albir (2002) explained that there are eighteen translation techniques, they are adaption, amplification, borrowing, calque, compensation, description, discursive creation, established equivalent, generalization, linguistic amplification, linguistic compression, literal translation, particularization, reduction, substitution, transposition, and variation.

2.3 Quality of Translation

To analyze the quality of translation, related to the accuracy, acceptability and readability, the researcher used the instrument of translation quality assessment from Nababan et al (2012).

Table 1: Scoring system of Accuracy aspect (Nabahan et al., 2012)

Category	Score	Qualitative Parameter
Accurate	3	Meaning of the word, technical terms, phrases, clauses or sentences of the source language are translated accurately to the target language; there is no distortion in meaning at all.
Less Accurate	2	Most of the meaning of the word, technical term, phrase, clause and sentence of the source language are translated accurately to the target language. However, there is still a meaning distortion or ambiguity or lose in meaning.
Inaccurate	1	Meaning of the word, technical terms, phrases, clauses or sentences of the source language are translated inaccurately to the target language or deleted.

Table 2: Scoring system of Acceptability aspect (Nabahan et al., 2012)

Category	Score	Qualitative Parameter
Acceptable	3	Translation is natural; technical terms used is commonly used and familiar to the reader; the phrases, clauses and sentences used are in conformity with the Indonesian grammar.
Less Acceptable	2	In general, the translation is already natural; but there is little problem with the use of technical terms or a few grammatical errors.
Unacceptable	1	Translation is not natural; technical terms used is unusual used and not familiar to the reader; the phrases, clauses and sentences used do not conform with the Indonesian grammar.

Table 3: Scoring system of Readability aspect (Nabahan et al., 2012)

Category	Score	Qualitative Parameter
Readable	3	Words, terms, phrases, clauses, sentences can be easily understood by the reader.
Less Readable	2	Generally the translation can be understood by the reader; but there are certain parts that must be read more than once to understand the translation.
Unreadable	1	Translation is difficult for the reader to understand.

2.4 Kinds of Sexist Language

Rybacki and Rybacki (1991) states that there are five kinds of sexist language, they are: 1) *Man as Standard*, 2) *Women Are Different*, 3) *Non-Human Terms*, 4) *Negative Words*, and the last, 5) *Sex-Role Descriptors*.

2.5 Gender and Translation

Translation is transferring the meaning from source language into target language. Source language belongs to men and women as well the target language. The essence of translation is a process of taking decision when transferring the meaning. When translating, it can be affected by some factors such as gender of translator, the understanding of translation theory, culture, and others. Gender of translator can also has influence in translating a text, moreover she is a feminist. She usually tries hard to neutralize the gender bias in the source language into target language. The effect of her work is the element of sexist in the source language will be changed into neutral gender. In accordance with the explanation in advance, Yang (2014) states that Feminist translators make creative intervention to their translation in order to minimize gender discrimination especially to women.

3 METHOD

The study used qualitative method. Sutopo (2006) stated that the data used in qualitative research are in the form of utterance, words, clauses, and discourse. Creswell and Creswell (2017) also explained qualitative research relies on text and image data, have unique steps in data analysis, and

draw on diverse design. In addition, qualitative researches collect data themselves through examining documents, observations, focus on learning the data, review all the data, make sense of it and organize it into categories that cut across all of the data source.

The source of the data is an English novel *Little Men* and two Indonesian translations translated by two translators (different gender). The researcher collected, classified, described, and analyzed the data. The researcher got 183 data of sexist language in English version. After being collected, the English and Indonesian versions of the data were verified by the expert and the translations were analyzed and assessed by raters related to the quality of translation through *Focus Group of Discussion* (FGD). The researcher gave questioners related to the kind of sexist language, technique of translation and quality of translation from the accuracy, acceptability and readability.

4 RESULTS

Table 4. Findings Kinds of Sexist language in The Novel *Little Men*.

No	Kinds of Sexist language	Quantity	Percentage
1	Men as Standard	7	04 %
2	Women Are Different	112	61 %
3	Non-Human Terms	9	05 %
4	Negative Words	3	02 %
5	Sex-Role Descriptors	52	28 %
Total		183	100 %

Table 5. Findings Technique of Translation Applied by *Male* Translator

No	Kinds of Sexist language	Quantity	Percentage
1	Pure borrowing	77	38 %
2	Established equivalence	43	21 %
3	Generalization	45	22 %
4	Deletion	5	2.5 %
5	Discursive creation	2	1 %
6	Modulation	8	4 %
7	Adaptation	7	3 %
8	Explicit	11	5.4 %
9	Implicit	5	2.5 %
10	Particularization	1	0.6 %
Total		204	100 %

Table 6. Findings Technique of Translation Applied by Femaale Translator

No	Kinds of Sexist language	Quantity	Percentage
1	Established equivalence	43	23 %
2	Generalization	42	22 %
3	Pure borrowing	1	0.5 %
4	Adaptation	86	45 %
5	Explicit	1	0.5 %
6	Modulation	5	1.6 %
7	Deletion	3	0.5 %
8	Implicit	2	01 %
9	Discursive creation	1	0.5 %
10	Description	1	0.6 %
11	Particularization	2	01 %
12	Literal	1	0.6 %
13	Addition	1	0.6 %
14	Variation	1	0.6 %
Total		190	100 %

Table 7. Findings the Comparison of the Quality of Translation for Sexist Language Translated by Male and Female in the Novel *Little Men*.

Novel	Translators	Average of translation quality		
		Accuracy	Acceptability	Readability
Little Men	Man	2,525	2,752	2,762
	Woman	2,582	2,816	2,899

5 DISCUSSION

Kind of sexist language is used to classify the sexist language in the novel *Little Men*. *Women are different* is the mostly used, and then *sex-role descriptors*. The next kind of sexist language is *non-human terms* and then *man as standard*. And the least kind of sexist language is *negative words* from *women are different*, the usage of *Mrs.* and *Miss* is very dominant, while the *negative words* in this novel are only *mistress* and *molly-coddles*. Most of the sexist language in the novel against women. The setting of the novel is in America as well as the writer of the novel, where the society still holds the patriarchal. The inequality of gender really occurs there.

The techniques of translation that is mostly applied, by man translator is pure borrowing while by woman translator is adaptation. Pure borrowing and adaptation have the same accuracy but different in acceptability and readability. Pure borrowing technique is not acceptable but adaptation technique is acceptable. Related to the readability, pure borrowing is less readable whereas the

adaption is readable. The second techniques mostly applied by both translators (man and woman) are the same, i.e., established equivalence, and generalization. Pure borrowing, adaptation and established equivalence have high accuracy, while generalization is less accurate, e.g., the word *maid* is translated into *pelayan* not *pelayan wanita /perempuan*, *postman* is translated into *tukangpos* not *tukang pos laki-laki/pria*. Man translator only applied ten techniques of translation, and did not apply description, literal, variation and addition techniques, whereas another one applied fourteen techniques and applied four techniques of description, literal, variation and addition.

From table 6 and 7, it can be identified that the usage of techniques of translation can affect the quality of translation. Technique of deletion (total reduction) and literal can reduce the quality of translation as well as the accuracy, acceptability and readability. The frequency of the techniques applied can also influence the quality of translation. From table 4, it can be concluded that woman translator has higher quality of translation concerning with sexist language in the novel *Little Men*. Generally, the woman translator is not influenced by the gender itself even though some sexist languages against women.

6 CONCLUSION

The result of the study indicates that the kinds of sexist language in novel *Little Men* are *Man as Standard* (7), *women are different* (112), *non-human terms* (9), *negative words* (3), and *sex-role descriptors* (52). For the techniques applied by translators; male translator applied 10 techniques of translation, while female translator applied 14 techniques of translation. The male translators applied deletion, implicit, and addition while female translator did not apply them. From the result, it can be concluded that female translator has higher quality of translation from the accuracy (2,582: 2,525), acceptability (2,816: 2,742), and readability (2,899: 2,762). The Total quality of translation between female and male translators is 2,712: 2,637. It can be concluded that female translator has higher quality of translation than male translator in translating sexist language from novel *Little Men*.

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