

## **AN ANALYSIS OF METAPHORIC TRANSLATION OF *THE FAULT IN OUR STARS* NOVEL**

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### **Abstract**

This research aimed at identifying metaphor translation strategy used in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel based on theory of Bassnett, Lefevere, 1993; Snell-Hornby, 2006 and the accuracy between the source language (SL) in English and target language (TL) in Bahasa Indonesia. The object of this research is *The Fault in Our Stars* novel by John Green published in 2012 originally in English and the translated novel by Ingrid Dwijani Nimpoeno in Bahasa Indonesia under Qanita Publisher copyright. The researcher focused on metaphoric expressions in the novel and analyzed the strategy used based on Bassnet, Lefevere and Snell-Hornby's theory. The researcher also assessed the accuracy of the translation results in range accurate, less accurate and inaccurate based on Accurate Translation Rate proposed by Nababan, Nuraeni and Sumardiono (2012). In the end, the researcher found that most of the strategy used by translator is metaphor into same metaphor (69%), second is metaphor into different metaphor (20%), and the last is metaphor into sense (11%). The accuracy of the translation is rated by two lecturers of English Education Study Program of Teachers Training and Education Faculty of Muhammadiyah University of Tangerang with the results 79% translations are accurate, 21% translations are less accurate and 0% translations are inaccurate.

**Keywords: Accuracy rate, Metaphor, Metaphor translation strategy, Novel,**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Novel is one of entertainment tool that has spread around the world by the developing of globalization. The way it spread is through translation. As a part of literary product, novel has figurative language as one of its aspects. It is used by the author to add the message into the story. Figurative language is a figure of speech that rise poetic feeling through words that combine ideas and images in unique method (Cameron, 2003). Some of figurative languages are simile, metaphor, personification and metonymy. Among those, metaphor is one of the main tropes in literature (Cameron, 2003). Cameron's statement is in line with Newmark's in Bojovic (2014, p. 75) that "any word can be a metaphor and to find out if it is, the primary meaning has to be matched against the linguistic and cultural contexts". Moreover, Bojović claimed that English uses metaphor

frequently and broadly and it was supported by Steen et al. in Bojović (2014, p. 75) that “every seven-and-a-half lexical units is related to metaphorical mapping in British National Corpus”. It supports that metaphor is not just a property of language but a phenomenon of human thought process, than it makes metaphor is important as analysis focus (Cameron, 2003).

Metaphor as figurative language is used to add aesthetic value in literary artwork that is expected to attract reader into literature. But, other than aesthetic function of metaphor, Newmark mentioned another function that is as connotative. Newmark stated that if aesthetic function in metaphor is hoped to give an art sense into literature artwork so that reader could be attracted into literature, or to beautify words textually, connotative function is the aim of metaphor in describing objects more detail. By using metaphor, the readers is hoped to be helped by the image explained by metaphor (Oliynyk, 2014, p. 123). Metaphor logically challenging since it states unrelated things about something related to the event or compare two things that are unrelated as well as translating it.

Bojovic (2014, p. 78) mentioned Newmark’s seven strategies of metaphor translation that have almost always been taken up by the researchers and which are considered here. They are:

- a Reproducing the same image in the TL. This is the best way to translate stock metaphors, most frequently, idioms.
- b Replacing the image in the SL with a standard TL image. It is used when there is no image that corresponds exactly to the one in the SL and which does not clash with the TL culture.
- c Translating metaphor by simile. This strategy modifies an emotive metaphorical expression to suit the TL if that context is not as emotive in character as the SL.
- d Translating metaphor by simile + sense.
- e Converting a metaphor to its sense. This is a strategy where the image of the SL is reduced to its sense and rewritten to suit the TL.
- f Deleting. It is used when the metaphor is redundant.
- g Combining the same metaphor with the sense.

These strategies is flexible for types of metaphor because however, metaphor often contain culture value that make it hard to translate SL’s metaphor into TL’s metaphor which could be has different culture and norm without modify it. If it is forced, the translation could be weird or unacceptable in TL and the message from the author might be not transferred well. Or, in other case, the translator should delete one or more expression to make the translation match with the TL. In conclusion, there are any cases faced by the translator in translating a text which need various strategies to solve the case.

Bojovic (2014, p. 77) also included metaphor translation strategies by Bassnet, Lefevere and Snell-Hornby:

- a. a metaphor into the same metaphor, named direct translation;
- b. a metaphor into a different metaphor—substitution of the image in the SL by a TL metaphor with the same or a similar sense and the same or similar associations;
- c. a metaphor into the sense—paraphrase, a shift to a nonfigurative equivalent.

These strategies focus on translate metaphor into another metaphor in various way since metaphor contains words with un-literal meaning so it could not be translate literally or, to translate it into other senses that might be simpler for the TL's readers to be understood.

*The Fault in Our Stars* is the sixth novel of John Green. It was released in 2012, debuted at number one on *The New York Times* Best Seller list. It was later adapted into movie in 2014 and started at number one at the box office. Following its popularity, the novel has translated into languages including Bahasa Indonesia. The Indonesian translation has translated by Ingrid Dwijani Nimpoeno under Qanita Publisher copyright. Many readers amazed by the way John Green built the story of cancer survivor. When commonly story of cancer survivor is about dramatic and tragic story, John Green makes it up with his own style. He put his witty style into the story with little sarcastic expressions. He also used metaphor to describe the image in the story make it feel more playful. Metaphor expressions in the novel has also attracted the reader which they made posters from metaphoric quotes from the novel.

As novel is an entertainment tool as well as movie and music, they have their loyal fans, in term, the reader. But, it found that some of Indonesian readers did not satisfy with the Indonesian translation version. For example, one reviewer that has read the English and Indonesian version mentioned some phrases that translated improperly such as 'sunglasses' translated into 'kacamata matahari' which is more proper to be translated into 'kacamata hitam', 'theme park' translated into 'taman main bertema' which is more proper to be translated into 'taman bermain'. Another reviewer also said that John Green's style couldn't be felt in Indonesian version. It was different feeling in reading the original version and Indonesian version. It made me interested to analyze the novel between the original version in English and Indonesian version especially about the metaphor translation.

Translation is not only about transferring from source language into target language. The translator has to consider the acceptance and understanding of the target reader. It often find that there are complaints from the reader related to translation products that they found many distortions from the source language into the target language. Nababan (2012) views the complaints from the reader as two points. First, the complaint is a response from reader to reflect for the translator to develop their skill and increase their translation quality. Second, the complaint from reader sometimes is groundless and subjective that good translation is one that can be enjoyed by the reader. Instead, the translation that can be enjoyed by the reader is only related to the translation that easy to understand (in reader perspective) and the translation that easy to understand is not always the one that accurate.

Naturally, the main target of translation is a text whether it is a short text or long text. Thus, the ideal target of translation rate in general is a text holistically. But, to rate the quality of a text holistically is not easy. Nababan et al (2012) mentioned that translation holistic rate is including accuracy, acceptance and readability. Accuracy aspect related to the equivalence between the TL and SL in meaning and message. Acceptance aspect related to whether the translation result is acceptable in norms and culture of TL. It is important because if the translation is accurate but it is unacceptable by the norms and culture of target reader, it would be rejected by the target reader. And readable aspect related to not only text readability of SL but also in TL because the translation process is always related to both languages. If a text should be rated with those three indicators it would be need long time and analysis especially for a long text such as novel.

For those aspects mentioned by Nababan (2012), the indicator of each aspect is also different. The indicator of each aspect is shown below:

**Table 1**  
**Instrument to Rate Translation Accuracy**

| Scale | Indicators  | Result                    |
|-------|---|---------------------------|
| 3     | The meaning of words, phrases and clauses from source language are translated accurately into target language; without any distortion.  | Accurate Translation      |
| 2     | Some meanings of words, phrases, and clauses have been accurately translated into target language. However, there exist some meaning distortions which disturb message unity. | Less Accurate Translation |
| 1     | The meanings of words, phrases and clauses from source language are not translated accurately into target language.   | Inaccurate Translation    |

**Table 2**  
**Instrument to Rate Translation Acceptability**

| Scale | Indicators   | Result                      |
|-------|--|-----------------------------|
| 3     | Acceptable, if the translation has natural of form of the target text. The lyric sounds natural and almost does not feel like a translation. There are no problems with the grammar. | Acceptable                  |
| 2     | Less acceptable, if the translation sounds clumsy. It contains a few of grammatical error.   | Less Acceptable Translation |
| 1     | Unacceptable, if the translation sounds like a translation and extremely clumsy in target language.  | Unacceptable Translation    |

**Table 3**  
**Instrument to Rate Translation Readability**

| Scale | Indicators  | Result                    |
|-------|---|---------------------------|
| 3     | The translation is easy to read and can be understood by the readers.                     | Readable Translation      |
| 2     | The translation generally can be understood by the readers; but there are some parts that | Less Readable Translation |

|   |   |                        |
|---|---|------------------------|
|   | need deeper comprehension to understand the text. |                        |
| 1 | The translation is difficult to be understood     | Unreadable Translation |

## METHOD

This research is a descriptive-qualitative research. The object of this research is a novel entitles *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green. In this research, the data analyzed is metaphoric expressions within the novel in English version that is translated into Indonesian version by Ingrid Dwijani Nimpoeno under Qanita Publisher copyright in part of PT. Mizan Pustaka.

In detail, the researcher uses two techniques of data collecting in this research. The first is document analysis and the second is questionnaire. Document analysis technique is used to observe the data which contains metaphoric sentences from English into Indonesian. First, the researcher read *The Fault in Our Stars* novel in English version to collect words, phrases or sentences that contain metaphoric expressions. Second, this data is formed as table to make it easier to be compared and distinguished what was the strategy used by the translator. This study is not concern to the mental process of the translator when she translate it but only to the strategies that might be used by the translator related to the theory of translation that had mentioned in the previous chapter.

The second technique used in this research is questionnaire. It is a technique of data collecting by asking some questions to the respondents indirectly or through written material. This questionnaire is offered to two experts in translation or linguistic field. They asked for the assessment about accuracy of the metaphor translation. The data in the form of table is served to the experts along with the instrument to rate the translation accuracy by Translation Accuracy Rate proposed by Nababan (2012):

**Table 4**  
**Instrument to Rate Translation Accuracy**

| Scale | Indicators  | Result                    |
|-------|---|---------------------------|
| 3     | The meaning of words, phrases and clauses from source language are translated accurately into target language; without any distortion.  | Accurate Translation      |
| 2     | Some meanings of words, phrases, and clauses have been accurately translated into target language. However, there exist some meaning distortions which disturb message unity. | Less Accurate Translation |
| 1     | The meanings of words, phrases and clauses from source language are not translated accurately into target language.   | Inaccurate Translation    |

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

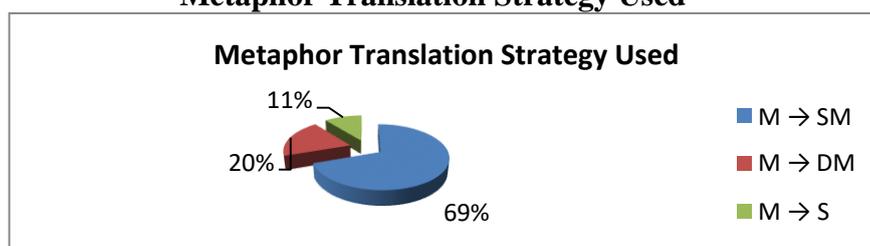
The result of this study discusses about two problems. First is the metaphor translation strategy used by the translator based on the metaphor translation strategy by Bassnet, Lefevere, 1993; Snell-Hornby, 2006 and second is the accuracy of the translation based on translation accuracy rate by Nababan (2012).

From the data analysis found on the table below (Table 5), it can be concluded that the metaphor translation strategy used by the translator is mostly converted metaphor into same metaphor (69%), second is metaphor into different metaphor (20%), while metaphor into sense is on the last (11%). The metaphor translation strategy used shown in chart below:

**Table 5**  
**Metaphor Translation Strategy Used Percentage**

| No    | Metaphor Translation Strategy | Data Found | Percentage |
|-------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1     | Metaphor → Same Metaphor      | 39         | 69%        |
| 2     | Metaphor → Different Metaphor | 11         | 20%        |
| 3     | Metaphor → Sense              | 6          | 11%        |
| Total |                               | 56         | 100%       |

**Chart 1**  
**Metaphor Translation Strategy Used**



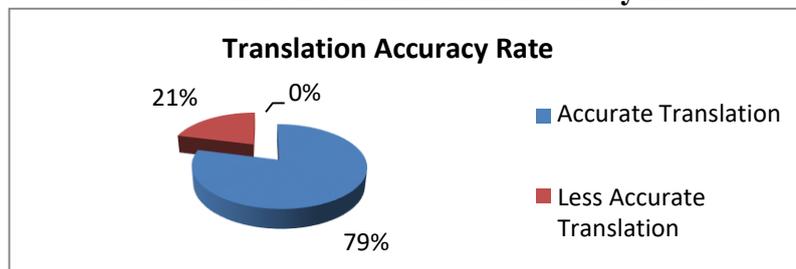
The second problem is about the accuracy rate of the translation result. In this analysis the researcher does not rate the translations since the researcher is not in a capability of translating area. Thus, the researcher asked two raters to give a rate based on Translation Accuracy Rate proposed by Nababan (2012) toward the translation results of *The Fault in Our Stars* novel translated by Ingrid Dwijani Nimpoeno. The raters are Mr. Yudhie Indra Gunawan, M.Pd and Mr. Yulian Nuryadin, M.Pd both are English Lecturers in Muhammadiyah University Tangerang in English Department.

**Table 6**  
**Translation Accuracy Rate from Two Raters**

| No    | Accuracy Rate             | Rater |    | Score | Metaphor data | Total score | Percentage |
|-------|---------------------------|-------|----|-------|---------------|-------------|------------|
|       |                           | I     | II |       |               |             |            |
| 1     | Accurate translation      | 31    | 49 | 3     | 80            | 240         | 79%        |
| 2     | Less accurate translation | 25    | 7  | 2     | 32            | 64          | 21%        |
| 3     | Inaccurate translation    | 0     | 0  | 1     | 0             | 0           | 0%         |
| Total |                           | 56    | 56 |       | 112           | 304         | 100%       |

From the data above, the translation result is 79% accurate and 21% less accurate and 0% inaccurate. Translation accuracy rate shown in the chart below:

**Chart 2 : Translation Accuracy Rate**



Accurate translation based on Nababan (2012) rate is if the meaning of words, phrases and clauses from source language are translated accurately into target language; without any distortion. There are 31 metaphoric expressions rated accurate by the first rater. It contains M → SM (80.65%), M → DM (16.13%) and M → S (3.24%). The second rater gave 49 metaphoric expressions accurate translation with M → SM (79.60%), M → DM (14.29%) and M → S (6.12%).

The conversion from metaphor into same metaphor is used by translating the metaphor from SL into TL with the same image. It is called direct translation. This strategy can be used if the translation result is suitable and understandable by the target reader. For example, data no. 7, “*I looked like a normally proportioned person with a ballon for a head.* (p. 9) translated into “*Penampilanku seperti orang yang berproporsi tubuh normal, tapi dengan kepala sebesar balon.* (hlm. 17) this metaphor translated by converted the metaphor into same metaphor and the translation result is understandable.

Another example of same metaphor strategy is data no. 25, “*Then I am a cancer-fighting machine,*” I told him. (p. 109) translated to “*Kalau begitu, aku mesin yang memerangi kanker,*” kataku kepadanya. (hlm. 148). This sentence is simply translated to same metaphor, the word *cancer-fighting machine* has the same image with *mesin yang memerangi kanker*. The translation from metaphor into same metaphor (M → SM) is because the translator found the same metaphor expression in target language could be understood by the target reader.

Bassnett, Lefevere and Snell-Hornby (2006) in Bojovic (2014, p. 77) mentioned that “The strategy from metaphor into different metaphor is a substitution of the image in the SL by a TL metaphor with the same or a similar sense and the same or similar associations.” In *The Fault in Our Stars*, there are 11 metaphoric expressions that translated into different metaphor. On the list, data no. 49, “*Total radio silence,*” Isaac said (p. 226) translated into “*Bungkam seribu bahasa,*” jawab Isaac. (hlm. 303). It can be seen that literally, it has different metaphor but the target reader can understand that the meaning is total silence in Bahasa Indonesia. If “*Total radio silence*” translated into “*Keheningan radio total*” for example, it would be weird.

Data no. 21 also used different metaphor strategy. The sentence “*This flash flood of anxiety*” translated into “*Banjir bandang kekhawatiranku*” this translation seems similar but the translator added “*ku*” as the explanation that the anxiety felt is the narrator’s (Hazel) anxiety. The sentence “*this flash flood of anxiety*” could also be translated to “*kekhawatiran yang datang tiba-tiba*” since “flash flood” means “banjir bandang” that usually come in sudden.

Different metaphor strategy can be used if there is same or similar metaphor substitution in target language. It is not always the same metaphor in word but can give the same concept and understandable by the target reader. This kind of translation related to culture knowledge of the translator either in source language or in target language.

Bassnett, Lefevere and Snell-Hornby (2006) in Bojovic (2014, p. 77) stated that “the metaphor translation is a paraphrase, a shift to a nonfigurative equivalent”. It is used when there is not any suitable metaphor either in same metaphor or direct translation or different metaphor in TL. By translating metaphor into sense is hoped that the reader can understand the meaning and the context in the story. For example, Data No. 40, “*I know. That’s why I’m being taken out of **the rotation.***” (p. 165) translated to “Aku tahu. Itulah sebabnya aku dicabut dari **jajaran orang-orang yang terselamatkan.**” (hlm. 226). The translator translated the metaphor with the explanation about the context in the story. If the translator only translated into “*perputaran*” the target reader might be confused with the meaning. So, then the translator translated it to more explanation in order the reader can understand the story.

On data no. 51, “*Gus handed him another egg, Isaac hurled it, the egg arcing over the car and smashing against the slow-sloping roof of the house. ‘**Bull’s eye!**’ Gus said (p. 228) translated into “*Kembali Gus menyerahkan sebutir telur, dan Isaac melemparkannya. Telur itu melayang ke arah mobil dan menumbuk atap melandai rumah itu. ‘**Pas!**’ ujar Gus*” (hlm. 306). This translation converted metaphor into sense which bull’s eye is actually refers to a game with a target on the center. In the context, Augustus threw an egg to a car, and he threw it accurately then he said bull’s eye as his expression that he succeeded in it. In bahasa Indonesia, his expression usually said as “Pas!” thus the translator translated it into “Pas!” instead of “Mata sapi” which could make a weird meaning for the target reader.*

The accuracy rate is conducted by asking two lecturers of English Department of English Faculty of Muhammadiyah University, Mr. Yudhie Indra Gunawan, M.Pd and Mr. Yulian Nuryadin, M.Pd. They are asked to give a rate to metaphor expressions translation found in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel based on Translation Accuracy Rate proposed by Nababan (2012).

Translation accuracy rate proposed by Nababan (2012) explains that accurate translation is if the meaning of words, phrases and clauses from source language are translated accurately into target language; without any distortion. Taken from the list of accurate translation by the two raters, for example data no. 7:

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 7 | <i>I looked like a normally proportioned person <b>with a ballon for a head.</b></i> (p. 9) | Penampilanku seperti orang yang berproporsi tubuh normal, tapi <b>dengan kepala sebesar balon.</b> (hlm. 17) |
|---|---|--|

In the story, Hazel, as main character explain his physical appearance. On the previous sentence she said “Furthermore, I had ridiculously fat chipmunked cheeks, a side effect of treatment...”. She explained that because of cancer treatment, her body is physically swollen and that made her head looked like ballon. This sentence translated to “Penampilanku seperti orang yang berproporsi tubuh normal, tapi **dengan kepala sebesar balon.**” and ratered by two raters as accurate translation.

Another translation rated accurate by the two raters is data no. 9:

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 9 | <p><i>"I would tell Him myself," Augustus said, —but unfortunately I am literally <b>stuck inside of His heart</b>, so He won't be able to hear me. (p. 16)</i></p> | <p>"Aku sendiri hendak memberitahu-Nya," kata Augustus, "tapi sayangnya secara harfiah aku <b>terperangkap di dalam jantung-Nya</b>, sehingga Dia tidak dapat mendengarku" (hlm. 27)</p> |
|---|---|--|

In this conversation, previously Augustus said that they (Hazel and Augustus) are literally in the heart of Jesus. It is related to their support group location in the basement of the church which they made a circle formation around the picture of Christian cross, where the heart of Jesus is placed. Then, Hazel were joking by saying that someone should tell Jesus that it was dangerous to store children in His heart, then, Augustus replied that he would tell himself but because of he was literally stuck inside of His heart, so He would not be able to hear him. It is related to their cancer. Their illness made them close to God in term that they could meet Him with a bigger chance because of their illness could make them die anytime.

The translation rated as accurate because the words that build the metaphor are translated to target language with the exact meaning in target language. The meaning of words, phrases and clauses from source language are translated accurately into target language; without any distortion. Thus, the translation in target language is understandable and suitable with the words in source language.

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | <p><i>...Who agreed that I was veritably <b>swimming in a paralyzing and totally clinical depression</b>. (p. 4)</i></p> | <p>Yang mengiyakan bahwa aku jelas <b>berkubang</b> dalam depresi yang <b>melumpuhkan</b> dan benar-benar klinis. (hlm. 10)</p> |
|---|--|---|

Data no. 1 is rated by the two rates as less accurate. Based on Nababan (2012) less accurate translation is when "some meanings of words, phrases, and clauses have been accurately translated into target language. However, there exist some meaning distortions which disturb message unity." In the sentence, the word **swimming** is translated to **berkubang**. It is inappropriate meaning for swimming because the meaning of swim or swimming is berenang. Meanwhile, based on <http://kbbi.kata.web.id/> as online source of KBBI, berkubang means "(1) berendam diri or berguling-guling di air yang berlumpur (tentang kerbau, babi dan sebagainya); (2) berlumpur, berlumuran lumpur dan sebagainya: para petani pulang dengan berkubang tanah dan lumpur" which this meaning is not suitable for swimming.

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 40 | <p><i>"I know. That's why I'm being taken out of <b>the rotation</b>." (p. 167)</i></p> | <p>"Aku tahu. Itulah sebabnya aku dicabut dari <b>jajaran orang-orang yang terselamatkan</b>." (hlm. 226)</p> |
|----|---|---|

Data no. 40 is also rated by two raters as less accurate translation. As shown above, the sentence “—*I know. That’s why I’m being taken out of **the rotation.***” (p.167) translated to “—Aku tahu. Itulah sebabnya aku dicabut dari **jajaran orang-orang yang terselamatkan.**” (hlm. 226). The sentence literally is translated inaccurately. Because “the rotation” literally means “perputaran” but the translator translated it to “jajaran orang-orang yang terselamatkan”. After analyzing the context from the story, it is when Augustus asked Hazel about the concept of afterlife, Hazel answered with “I think forever is an incorrect concept”, Augustus replied with “You are an incorrect concept” it is referred to Hazel’s personality that Augustus think as her uniqueness. But, then Hazel replied again with “I know, that’s why I’m being taken out of the rotation” and what Hazel talking about here is her illness. She felt that God has taken her out from “the rotation” as a mean that God chosed her to live with cancer so, she is out from the living-normal person without cronic illness. If that sentence translated literally to “jajaran/perputaran”, the context of the story would be untransferred well. Thus, the translator translated it to “jajaran orang-orang yang terselamatkan”. Although this translation rated less accurate by two raters, the translation in target language is understandable by the target reader to get the context of the story.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis on the previous chapter about metaphor translation in *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green in English and Indonesian version translated by Ingrid Dwijani Nimpoeno the researcher can conclude that the metaphor translation strategy used by the translator is mostly converted metaphor into same metaphor (69%), second is metaphor into different metaphor (20%), while metaphor into sense is on the last (11%). While for the accuracy rate, based on the two raters, the translation result is 79% accurate and 21% less accurate and 0% inaccurate. Although most translation results that rated by two raters accurate are the translation from metaphor into same metaphor.

Translations strategy is as a result of thinking process by the translator in transferring meaning from SL into TL for the target reader to be understood. The translator could pass trial and error in finding the best way to transferring the message from the author. That is why there is editorial team in a publisher to help the translator in revising the translation process if there is any mistake. Translating process is not only changing the word, phrase or sentence from source language into target language but also the context in the story. The translator needs an understanding related to the whole story in general to translate smaller part in the story. Furthermore, translator also needs a knowledge related to the culture in source language to be able to transfer the message of the novel or other kind of books, in general, to target language.

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