

# Translation Method in Translating Agatha Christie's Indonesian Version novel 'Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47175/rielsj.v5i2.995>

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## ABSTRACT

This study deals with eight translation methods applied in translating in Agatha Christie's Indonesian Version Novel 'Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara'. This study attempts to describe the eight methods namely: Word for Word Translation, Literal Translation, Faithful Translation, Semantic Translation, Adaptation Translation, Idiomatic Translation and Communicative Translation. The research methodology is qualitative. The dominant method in translating the novel is Communicative Translation so it gives the readers the same impact as the original does.

## KEYWORDS

translation; translation methods; novel.

## INTRODUCTION

Translation is the process of transferring information from one language to another language. Translation also can be a connector for people which connects the language and its culture. In this process of translation, the methods which are used will influence the product of the translation. The main point of translation is to transfer the information from one language (source language) into another language (target language) without changing the characteristics of the original text and also the culture itself.

Desjardins (2017) explained translation, in a sense, shares a similar history. Globalization has undoubtedly increased contact between different cultures and different languages; therefore, it might be tempting to view translation as a relatively recent. Translation, in a sense, shares a similar history. Globalization has undoubtedly increased contact between different cultures and different languages; therefore, it might be tempting to view translation as a relatively recent phenomenon. However, here, Cronin (2013) does for translation what Standage has done for social media. In Translation and the Digital Age, Cronin shows that translation has been a key vector in what he calls the '3T paradigm' (technology, trade and translation) throughout much of human history. Inasmuch as humans have had a need for sharing and forming networks, they have also had to trade to ensure survival. This in turn meant the development of new technology and the need to overcome potential deterrents to trade, of which the inability to communicate in an unknown language is but one example. Cue the need, then, for translation. Through Standage's and Cronin's work, we see then that social media and translation have evolved somewhat similarly and in a parallel fashion: ever-present since the early days of human interaction, but shifting in form and increasing in speed and inefficiency over the centuries. As Standage (2013) explained, whereas orators once acted as the 'social media' of the Roman Empire, today, people flock to social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to obtain the latest news, gossip or family update. And while translation and interpretation were once carried out using rudimentary tools, today, translation can be done

significantly faster in some cases through the use of various computer-assisted translation programs or even automatic machine translation, of which Google Translate is but one example. In fact, today's social media and translation technology are so intertwined that it is now possible to have OSM content translated automatically in real time.

The growth of Translation studies as a separate discipline is a success story of the 1980s. The subject has developed in many parts of the world and is clearly destined to continue developing well into the 21st century. Translation studies bring together work in a wide variety of fields, including linguistics, literary study, history, anthropology, psychology and economics. The breadth of work in Translation studies will enable readers to share in the exciting new developments that are taking place at the present time (Lefevere 1992)

Perhaps more than in any other period in modern history, our globalized present is characterized by a constant interaction of, and exposure to, different people, regions, ways of life, traditions, languages, and cultures. Cross-boundary communication today comes in various shapes: as mutual exchange, open dialogue, enforced process, misunderstanding, or even violent conflict. In this situation, 'translation' has become an inevitable requirement in order to ease the flow of disinterested and unbiased cultural communication. Naturally, translation refers to the rendering of texts from one language into another and the shift between languages under pre-colonial (retelling/transcreation), colonial (domesticating), and postcolonial (multilingual trafficking) conditions. It is also concerned with the (in-)adequacy of the Western translation concept of equivalence, the problem of the (un-)translatability of cultures, and new postcolonial approaches (representation through translation). Translation here is used as a wider term covering the interaction of cultures, the transfer of cultural experience, the concern with cultural borders, the articulation of liminal experience, and intercultural understanding.

Lefevere (1992) declared that translation is of course a rewriting of an original text. All rewritings, whatever their intention, reflect a certain ideology and poetics and as such manipulate literature to function in a given society in a given way. Rewriting is manipulation, undertaken in the service of power, and in its positive aspect can help in the evolution of a literature and a society. Rewritings can introduce new concepts, new genres, new devices, and the history of translation is the history also of literary innovation, of the shaping power of one culture upon another. But rewriting can also repress innovation, distort and contain, and in an age of ever-increasing manipulation of all kinds, the study of the manipulative processes of literature as exemplified by translation can help us towards a greater awareness of the world in which we live.

While Mehra (2014) argued that culture is a powerful force that shapes communication. Culture is like a mirror that reflects the perceptions with which one makes sense of the surroundings; it provides a framework to structure thoughts, actions, words and speech, as well as the language to express one's thought. It is thus a pattern of thought, a pattern of behavior, and a pattern of artifacts (symbols and products) that help individuals make sense of the world around them. Mehra (2014) also added communication relies on continuous negotiation between individuals who interact in different social contexts to achieve specific goals. Communication is constantly shaped by perceptions that emanate from the cultural backgrounds of the individuals as well as their experiences. One's perception of everyday reality is, in truth, a complex collection of intersecting frames that transform otherwise meaningless experiences into meaningful interactions.

This is why the product of translation will influence the culture itself. As the nature of culture and how language can be expressed the cultural reality of the language users. In this context the translators may add some words into the source language to create a

relevant product of translation. And how translators translate a text which produces a relevant product depends on the translation methods which are used.

The activities of translation such as translating text, conversation, documents, books, films, magazines, newspapers, novels, literary works, and, others which are also no exception as the result of technology has a deep relation to the methods which are used. Translation has a long-standing tradition and has been widely practiced throughout history, but in our rapidly changing world, its role has become of paramount importance. Translation is an incredibly broad nation that can be understood in many different ways. For instance, one may talk translation as a product or a process and identify such sub-types as literary translation, technical translation, subtitling, and machine translation; moreover, while typically it just refers to the transfer of written text, the term sometimes also includes interpreting (Hatim & Munday, 2004).

Translation is accepted by all as a practical necessity, the task and its results have not been without detractors. Almost all translations are bad, for they are made by ordinary people who match the unusual foreign expression with the commonplace in their own tongue. Moreover, they add insult to injury by their desperate concern to be literary (Nida, 1964).

There may well reason to complain of translating when one examines closely what happens to a document in the process of being transferred from one language to another. Translating does not same with speaking. That is why many students of foreign department or people who can speak foreign language fluently cannot do a well translation. The translation can be understood as a process of conveying messages in a specific language which is transformed into another language so that it can be understood by readers who understand the target language. Sometimes readers face difficulties to grasp the meaning of the content or context of English written text such as novels. This is why a well translation is needed.

Hebenstreit (2019) declared translation activities in the real or virtual world are usually instances of established translation concepts or combinations. Not every new phenomenon gets to be labeled with its own term, as in the case of fansubbing, romhacking, or scanlation.

Chen & Wang (2020) found that the literal translation is the predominantly adopted procedures for subtitling logical mechanisms to emphasize false example, false analogy, or false time, space, cause, and condition. The visual script is incorporated into the literal translation facilitate the lexical selection to underscore the semiotic resolution.

Newmark (1988) revealed that usually, the translator's intention is identical with that of the author of the Source Language (SL) text. But he may be translating an advertisement, a notice, or a set of instructions to show his client how such matters are formulated and written in the source language, rather than how to adapt them in order to persuade or instruct a new Target Language (TL) readership. And again, he may be translating a manual of instructions for a less educated readership, so that the explanation in his translation may be much larger than the 'reproduction'.

The potential field and issues of translation are vast and complex. Translation also exists between different varieties of the same language and into what might be considered less conventional languages, such as Braille, sign language and even Morse code. If we go further to flag symbol which is being understood as a country, nationality, or language. This is an example that translation is not between two languages, but between versions or dialects of the same language (Hatim & Munday: 2004). Pym (2014) also declared that translation studies cannot be reduced to this one map, and the map itself has been evolving dynamically, along with the lands it purports to represent. Yet the curious fact remains that

neither Holmes nor his commentators – at least those subscribing to the map and its variants– explicitly named a unified area for the historical study of translation.

Translation is a phenomenon that has a huge effect on everyday life. The writer elaborated the following definition of the term translation: translation:1. The act or an instance of translating. 2. A written or spoken expression of the meaning of a word, speech, book, etc. in another language. The first sense relates to translation as a process, the second to the product. This immediately means that the term translation encompasses very distinct perspectives. The first sense focuses on the role of the translator in taking the original or source text (ST) and turning it into a text in another language (the target text, TT). The second sense centers on the concrete translation product produced by the translator (Hatim and Munday 2004:3-4).

While some agreed that translation talks about transferring the information from one language to another, but the writer penetrate of translation relates to the whole aspect of language for instance the culture, sign, picture even sound. One simple example in Indonesia if there is a red flag in front of someone's house, what is the meaning of it? And as a translator how someone can transfer the information to another language. Nowadays Machine translation becomes the first choice as it offers a short time to do the translation, but it will not be a good translator to translate some of symbols or culture such as the example of red flag above. That is why the result of machine translation sometimes can be error. Badler (1999) explained that machine translation is a computer science field that investigates the use of software to translate text/voice from one language to another. It can assist in breaking linguistic barrier and providing easy access to information. A human translator can be substituted with machine translation software to perfume translation.

While Kahlon & Singh (2001) found in their research that several research efforts conducted do not directly deal with the translation process but focus on the pre-processing of data and sign synthesis. Sign synthesis has been the main focus of many researchers because it is relevant to the deaf. Several kinds of sign generations have been reported. Though a significant amount of research is done in the sign synthesis field, still a level of completion and satisfaction for the deaf has not been achieved. Evaluation is an essential aspect in translation as the feedback of the deaf is the best source to understand the use, effectiveness, and limitation of proposed projects. They have reported both manual and automatic evaluations and their respective performance metrics used in all the studies. They concluded that not all languages are effective to translate by machine translation such as sign language and some symbols.

The symbol in languages can be found in written text such as novel. Novel has been viewed as a process of communication from the author to the readers. Nowadays we can easily find many English novels which have been translated in Bahasa Indonesia. And how do the translators translate the symbols that appear in the novel, what kinds of methods would be used to produce an acceptable product of translation. One of the novels which is translated into Bahasa Indonesia is 'Cats among the Pigeons' written by Agatha Christie. She is one of the famous novelists in the world and she is also known as 'Queen of Crime' since most of her novels are about crime, her novels also have been translated into 104 languages.

Indonesian translators sometimes use English cultural words which are not translated into target language (Bahasa Indonesia). This fact can be seen in Agatha Christie's novel 'Cats among the Pigeons'. There are some English words which contain some cultural aspects that the words are not translatable into Bahasa, such as: Dropsy, Cardiac, Sophisticated, breakdown, shock, etc. from the example above, the writer is interested in conducting the study about the translation methods found in the novel that has an impact

on the quality of the translation based on the accuracy in content, acceptability, and readability in the novel.

To conduct this study, the preliminary data was needed. The data was taken from Agatha Christie's novel 'Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara', Data 67, page 30: SL: 'But why, Bob? Why?', TL: "*Tapi mengapa, Bob? Mengapa?*" The translator used Word-for-word translation method to translate the clause, the process of the method was 'Translate' and the reason was accountability norm. It was done by the translator so the reader can understand the context easily.

Translators sometimes use their own ways in translating novels to give sense to the readers. But sometimes they are faced by the problems of choosing the right words into the target language, applying different translation method is one of the ways is used by translators to overcome it. When the researcher read Agatha Christie Indonesian Version novel entitle 'Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara', the researcher found that there are some methods of translation used by the translator. Therefore, this study entitled 'Translation Methods in Agatha Christie's Indonesian Version Novel 'Kucing ditengah Burung Dara'.

Based on the background of the study, the problems of this study are formulated as the following:

1. What are types of methods used in translating Agatha Christy's novel '*Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara*'?
2. Why does the translator use the dominant method in translating Agatha Christy's novel '*Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara*'?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

It will be discussed about definitions and theories which are related to the kinds of object that the writers describe especially the description about translation methods, and novel as the object of the research and also includes supporting theories to help to solve the problems.

### **Definition of Translation**

A translation product can be a reference or a form of data to discover the translator's method. It is a result of a process which is based on his knowledge about SL and TL. When the translators transfer SL meaning, he automatically applies methods in translating a text. The methods are intended to solve the problems in translating a text literally or freely. Different translators will produce different products, which contains different methods. There are word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation.

Newmark (1998) stated that it is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text. Common sense tells us that this ought to be simple, as one ought to be able to say something as well in one language as in another. On the other hand, you may see it as complicated, artificial and fraudulent, since by using another language you are pretending to be someone you are not. Hence in many types of text (legal, administrative, dialect, local, cultural) the temptation is to transfer as many SL (Source Language) words to the TL (Target Language) as possible. The pity is, as Mounin wrote, that the translation cannot simply reproduce, or be, the original. And since this is so, the first business of the translator is to translate.



## Translation Methods

The central problem of translating has always been whether to translate literally or freely. The argument has been going on since at least the first century BC Up to the beginning of the nineteenth century, many writers favoured some kind of Tree1 translation: the spirit, not the letter; the sense not the words; the message rather than the form: the matter not the manner- This was the often revolutionary slogan of writers who wanted the truth to be read and understood - Tyndale and Dolet were burned at the stake, Wycliff s works were banned. Then at the turn of the nineteenth century, when the study of cultural anthropology suggested that the linguistic barriers were insuperable and that language was entirely the product of culture, the view that translation was impossible gained some currency, and with it that,ifattemptedatall,it must be as literal as possible. This view culminated in the statements of the extreme literalists' Walter Benjamin and Vladimir Nabokov.

The argument was theoretical: the purpose of the translation, the nature of the readership, the type of text, was not discussed. Too often, writer, translator and reader were implicitly identified with each other. Now the context has changed, but the basic problem remains. Newmark (1988) stated that there are eight translation methods, as below:

### **1. Word-for-word translation**

This is often demonstrated as interlinear translation, with The TL immediately below the SL words. The SL word-order is preserved and the words translated singly by their most common meanings, out of context. Cultural words are translated literally. The main use of word-for-word translation is either to understand the mechanics of the source language or [o construe a difficult text as a pre-t ran slat ion process.

### **2. Literal translation**

The SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context. As a pre translation process, this indicates the problems to be solved\*

### **3. Faithful translation**

A faithful Translation attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures. It 'transfers' cultural words and preserves the degree of grammatical and lexical 'abnormality' (deviation from SL norms) in the translation. It attempts to be completely faithful to the intentions and the text-realisation of the SL writer.

### **4. Semantic translation**

Semantic translation differs from 'faithful translation' only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value (that is, the beautiful and natural sounds of the SL text, compromising on 'meaning' where appropriate so that no assonance, word-play or repetition jars in the finished version. Further, it may translate less important cultural words by culturally neutral third or functional terms but not by cultural equivalents - *une nonne repassant un corporal* may become 'a nun ironing a corporal cloth' - and it may make other small concessions to the readership. The distinction between 'faithful' and ^semantic' translation is that the first is uncompromising and dogmatic, while the second is more flexible, admits the creative exception to 100% fidelity and allows for the translator's intuitive empathy with the original.

### **5. Adaptation**

This is the 'freest' form of translation. It is used mainly for plays (comedies and poetry); the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture converted to the TL culture and the text rewritten. The deplorable practice of having a play or poem literally translated and then rewritten by an established dramatist or poet has produced many poor adaptations, but other adaptations have 'rescued' period plays.

### **6. Free translation**

Free translation reproduces the matter without the manner, or the content without the form of the original. Usually it is a paraphrase much longer than the original, a so-called 'intralingual translation\*', often prolix and pretentious, and not translation at all.

### **7. Idiomatic translation**

Idiomatic translation reproduces the 'message' of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original. (Authorities as diverse as Seteskovitch and Stuart Gilbert tend to this form of lively, 'natural' translation.)

### **8. Communicative translation**

Communicative translation attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership.

### **Novel**

Novel is an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting. Within its broad framework, the genre of the novel has encompassed an extensive range of types and styles such as romantic, horror, detective, and so on. While Cassidy (1991) declared that a novel is a long work of prose fiction that tells a story. Since it is longer than a short story, a novel may create a fuller picture of life. A novelist can capture a wide range of experiences such as good, sad, funny to make this fictional world seem lifelike.

A novel by Agatha Christie entitled 'cat among the pigeons' is a detective novel, which consists of 256 pages. This novel talked about a murder which happened in a girl dormitory. It happened in the middle of the night and the police came in the morning; they were asking everybody questions to find out who was the murderer.

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research was designed as qualitative research. In this type of research, the researcher collected, classified, analyzed, and drew conclusion based on the data analysis without making a generalization. Creswell (2009) stated that qualitative research is a study to investigate and understand the meaning individuals or groups assume to be a social or a human problem. It is used to find out and know why and how a social phenomenon happens. The final written report of this study consists of introduction, literature and theory, methods, results, discussion, and conclusion.

This study was a descriptive qualitative. It was used as an approach to the qualitative study because the result of the analysis was the description of a certain phenomenon. In this case, the research was focused on the translation methods used by the translator.

Therefore, the researcher collected the data that contain translation method then it was described and analyzed based on the type of translation method which was used.

Bogdan and Biklen (2007) explained that data is rough materials that researcher gets from the field of study. Data are particulars that from the basic of analysis. The data of this research were the clauses in the novel of Agatha Christie ‘Cat Among the Pigeons’ (source language and target language) elaborated into clauses classified into types of translation methods based on the theory by Newmark (1988).

The data source was taken from the English version and translation version of novel written by Agatha Christie subtitle ‘Cat among the Pigeons’ and the Indonesian translation subtitle *Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara* which was translated by Suwarni A.S. The English version of the novel consists of 256 pages (25 Chapters) while the Indonesian translation consists of 358 pages. The first novel was published in 1959; the English novel was still reprinted in the year of 2008, whereas the Bahasa Indonesia version reprinted of the year of 2017.

In collecting the data, observation technique was used (Creswell, 2009). This technique was done by reading and observing the documents in the form of English version and its Indonesian translation of Agatha Christie’s novel entitled ‘Cat among the Pigeons’ and the translation entitled ‘*Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara*’. In the process of observation, the researcher took field note (Creswell, 2009: 181). Field note was used to make note of the data (the translation methods used) on data sheet to be immediately classified.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

The data of this study were taken from Agatha Christie’s Indonesian Version Novel ‘*Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara*’. It was analyzed in order to answer the research questions, namely the types of translation methods, and the reason of the dominant translation method which is used in translating Agatha Christie’s Indonesian Version Novel ‘*Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara*’.

After analyzing the data, the researcher investigated that all translation methods were used in translating Agatha Christie’s Indonesian Version Novel ‘*Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara*’. There are eight types of translation methods which were adapted from Newmark (1988). There were word-for word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptation translation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation. The following table showed the translation methods used in Agatha Christie’s Indonesian Version Novel ‘*Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara*’.

**Table 1.** Type of Translation Methods

No	Methods	Total Data	Percentage (%)
1.	Communicative Translation	287	46.44
2.	Semantic Translation	194	31.39
3.	Literal Translation	59	9.54
4.	Free Translation	35	5.66
5.	Word-for word Translation	29	4.69
6.	Faithful Translation	7	1.13
7.	Idiomatic Translation	3	0.48
8.	Adaptation Translation	3	0.48
<b>Total</b>		<b>617</b>	<b>100 %</b>



As can be seen in the Table 1 the highest percentage of translation method in Agatha Christie's Indonesian Version Novel 'Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara' is communicative translation. It was realized in 287 data and 46.44 percent of research. The reason why the researcher got communicative translation became the highest percentages because in this novel the translator tried to make the target language in an easy way as far as possible in understanding the content when readers read the story. The second was semantic translation 194 data and 31.39 percent of research, the third was literal translation 59 data and 9.54 percent of research, the fourth was free translation 35 data and 5.66 percent of research, the fifth was word-for word translation 29 data and 4.69 percent of research, the sixth was faithful translation 7 data and 1.13 percent of research, the seventh was idiomatic translation 3 data and 0.48 percent of research, and the last was adaptation translation 3 data and 0.48 percent of research.

The discussions to the types of translation methods in translating Agatha Christie's Indonesian Version Novel 'Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara' are forwarded. The researcher investigated the findings of the types of translation method in translating Agatha Christie's Indonesian Version Novel 'Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara'. Furthermore, the investigation of whether the findings were in contrastive to the relevant studies, there was a gap between fact and theory. There were many researchers on translation method in translating novel, the numerous studies had described and raised many issues on the different methods in their ways in translating novel.

Communicative translation tries to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership.

The context of the story from data 2 was when it was the opening day of the summer term at Meadowbank School. The late afternoon sun shone down on the broad gravel sweep in front of the house. The front door was flung hospitably wide, and just within it, admirably suited to its Georgian proportions, stood Miss Vansittart, every hair in place, wearing an impeccably cut coat and skirt. She was ready to greet all the students.

Source language: The late afternoon sun shone down on the broad gravel  
sweep in front of the house.

Target language: *Matahari senja menyinari batu-batu kerikil di jalan masuk  
yang lebar yang menuju ke bagian depan gedung sekolah.*

The phrase from data 46 was translated by using communicative translation because the translator tries to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership. The word 'house' was translated into '*sekolah*' because it refers to the school building.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusions from the data analysis and findings in this research were about Translation Method in Agatha Christie's Indonesian Version Novel 'Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara'; There were eight types of translation methods used in translating Agatha Christie's Indonesian Version Novel 'Kucing di Tengah Burung Dara' consecutively Communicative (46.44 %), Semantic (31.39%), Literal (9.54%), Free (5.66%), Word-for-Word (4.69%), Faithful (1.13%), Idiomatic (0.48%), and Adaptation (0.48%). And the most dominant method used was communicative method because in this novel the translator tried to make the target language in an easy way as far as possible in understanding the content when readers read the story.

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