



**TECHNIQUE AND QUALITY OF ENGLISH – INDONESIAN  
TRANSLATION OF PUN IN TOLKIEN’S *THE HOBBIT***

a Thesis

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Master’s Degree Program

in English Language Education

by

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*“... translation is an act of shifting eggs from one nest to another.*

*In the process the yolk and white are separated,  
and what you have left with is broken shells.”*

*(O.V. Vijayan)*

*To Graduate Program,  
Semarang State University*

*For indeed, with hardship (will be) ease,*

*Indeed, with hardship (will be) ease,*

*So when you have finished (your duties), then stand up and keep working hard.*

*(Asy-Syarh: 5, 6, 7)*

*To My Dad n Mom,*

*for your sincere prayers, trust, sweat,*

*and tears...*

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I, Rizky Yolanda, hereby declare that this thesis represents my own work, that no one has written it for me, that I have not copied the work of another person, and that all sources that I have used have been properly and clearly acknowledged.

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## APPROVAL SHEET

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## ABSTRACT

Rizky Yolanda. 2016. Technique and Quality of English - Indonesian Pun Translation in Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. Supervised by Dr. Issy Yuliasri, M.Pd and Dr. Rudi Hartono, SS, M.Pd.

Keywords: Pun, Translation, The Hobbit

Puns occupy a significant position in literature. It is undeniable that pun as has shown its significance in the novel. The people are getting more and more excited when the novel uses puns. Pun, however, might be challenging for translators to translate pun which is closely related to the source language culture. Pun which can be found in the novel is not easy to translate since it is closely related to the source language (SL) culture and the SL system of grammar.

This study is carried out in order to find out the kinds of pun are found in English – Indonesian J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. This study aims to analyze the translation techniques used in translating pun in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* from English to Indonesia, and to assess the quality of English – Indonesian translation of pun in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*.

This research is a descriptive qualitative research. The object of this study is English - Indonesian pun translation of J.R.R Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. The quality assessment of this study is obtained from the respondents. The respondents are divided into two, they are expert raters (the lecturers) and target readers (the teenager).

The result of the analysis shows that there are 243 puns found in J.R.R Tolkien *The Hobbit*. There are three kinds of pun are found in this novel. Paronymy dominates in 95.1% with 231 data, Homonymy 4.5% with 11 data is in the second rank followed by Homophony 0.4% with 1 datum. The analysis on translation techniques shows that there are six techniques used. Pun to Non Pun technique dominates in 116 times of use (46.2%), Pun rendered as other rhetorical device (Punoid) is used 113 times (45.0%), Pun to Pun in 12 times of use (4.8%), Non Pun to Pun is used 8 times (3.2%) , then Pun in ST is copied to Pun in TT and Pun to Zero each are used once (0.4%). The analysis on the translation quality shows that 56 translations (23%) are considered as accurate, and 187 translations (77%) are considered as less accurate. In acceptability level, 116 translations are belong to acceptable (47,7%), and 127 translations are belong to less acceptable (52,3%). Readability level shows that 133 translations (54,7%) are categorized as high readability, and 110 translations (45,3%) are categorized as sufficient readability.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

It is undeniable that pun as has shown its significance in the novel. The people are getting more and more excited when the novel uses puns. Regarding to this fact, translation demand has increased due to the translation purpose of facilitating people who come from different countries and speak different languages to understand the message intended in the source language. Pun, however, might be challenging for translators to translate pun which is closely related to the source language culture. Pun which can be found in the novel is not easy to translate since it is closely related to the source language (SL) culture and the SL system of grammar.

Puns occupy a significant position in literature. As explained by Kjerkegaard (2011), puns can be used to produce and perform a poetic function with language and they can be used critically, which entails considering them from a distance as utterances that undermine meaning and sense and that ultimately accomplish a deconstructive performance. Arranging pun is not an easy matter, it should be critical, because we should think about how to produce two or more similar structures to make pun appears.

Pun is like a surprise, when first structure is appeared the readers will not realize it, but when the second structure appears and it is similar with the previous structure the readers will be surprised. Related to this statement, Peterfy (2005) says:

Wordplay or pun, in terms of its reception, may be immediately obvious, or it may show its iridescent nature only on rereading, maybe with the help of additional information, in a moment of revelation. This revelation of something that is unsuspected qualifies in turn as a surprise. Unlike surprises in the real world, textual surprises are almost always pleasant, in that they tend to provoke an immediate, refreshing, almost somatic reaction; a moment of exhilaration, of discovery (p.10).

Leppihalme (1997) stated wordplay or pun can be based on several different features of the languages involved. These features are pronunciation, spelling, morphology, vocabulary or syntax. Pun also has a relation with pragmatic role. Based on this theory, the form of wordplay or pun can be expressed as ambiguous verbal intelligence, orthographic rarities, sounds and forms of the words, in breaking the grammar rules and other linguistic factors. Context has a vital importance for the actualization of the pun. Pragmatic role that is mentioned above is dealing with mainly humorous, satirical, sarcastic, etc. So, pun is not always as joke. Pun can be appeared in serious situation because pun is made for attention of the readers.

Sometimes, the scholars mention pun as wordplay. Some scholars consider these two terms mostly interchangeable and synonymous elements. According to Delabastita and Gothlib (as cited in Giorgadze 2014) there is no a consensus among scholars on the difference between wordplay and pun. In this study, the writer agrees with this statement, the writer considers pun and wordplay is interchangeable.

The translation of puns has always been a hard nut to crack, because the double meanings of puns are always the combined effect of phonological and semantics features, which can hardly be kept when transplanted into another

language, especially those belonging to different families (Jing, 2010). In other words, wordplay or puns are words or phrases that are somehow similar but mean different things and it is most likely that the meaning and the use of pun or wordplay is applied in a particular language and culture.

Delabastita (1996: 129) states that puns are textual phenomena, meaning that they are dependent on the structural characteristics of language as an abstract system. He further says that languages are full of potential ambiguities and associations, which are not normally perceived as significant in ordinary, non-significant discourse. Further, wordplay or pun contrasts linguistic structures with different meanings on the basis of their formal similarity. Furthermore, a pun may be either vertical or horizontal. The formal similarity of two linguistic structures may clash by being co-present in the same portion of text (in this case it is vertical pun), or by being in a relation of contiguity by occurring one after another in the text (the horizontal pun).

As a conclusion, we can refer puns as communicatively significant means that they are intentional which allows to distinguish them from slips of the tongue or pen, the use of inappropriate language, unintentional ambiguities, awkward repetitions, etc. They have a communicative effect, which can be humorous, attention-getting, persuasive, or of any other type.

Based on writer's preliminary observation, several puns are found in English – Indonesian translation J.R.R Tolkiens' *The Hobbit*. For instance:

#### **Data 016**

**ST** : The dwarves of your made mighty *spells*, while hammers *fell* like ringing *bells*. In place deep, where dark thing sleep, in hollow halls beneath the *fells*.

**TT** : Kurcaci di sana membuat sihir dan *tenung*, diiringi *dentang* palu dan *beliung*. Di tempat gelap hantu hitam *bergulung*, Dalam gua di bawah air terjun setinggi *gunung*.

**BT** : The dwarves make a magic and fortune telling. Hammers and pickax were sounded. In place the dark ghost coiled, In the cave, under the very high waterfall.

The data above shows the one of example of paronymy, because the structures are formally similar, but not identical on either phonetic or the orthographic level. Most similarities involve only one or two letters. Further, in Indonesian translation, the translator introduces a new pun in translating pun *spells, bells, and fells* into *tenung, beliung, and gunung* for making alliteration although the meaning of this Pun in ST will be different with Pun in TT. Actually, '*tenung*' means '*forecast*', '*dentang*' means '*clang*', '*beliung*' means '*pickaxe*', and '*bergulung*' means '*be roll up*' and '*gunung*' means '*mountain*'. Based on this dissimilarity of meaning, It can be categorized the translator uses Punoid as the techniques of translating this pun.

#### **Data 028**

**ST** : "*Dark* for *dark* business!.."

**TT** : “Kegelapan untuk urusan yang gelap!..”

**BT** : “Darkness for dark business!...”

The first *dark* means dark in the real meaning, but the second *dark* means dark as the secret or forbidden. This pun is one of kind homonymy, because the first and second dark is exactly the same, but they have different meaning and connotation. In this translation, the translator use Pun to Non-pun technique, because he translates *dark* as *gelap* and *kegelapan*.

From some examples above, it can be seen that puns occurs in English – Indonesian translation J.R.R Tolkiens’ *The Hobbit*. The puns translation techniques and quality are also important to discuss too since the message would be appropriate in the target language. Based on this phenomenon, we can see the conspicuousness of translating pun in the novel entitled *The Hobbit*, and it shows the problems and things which are to be considered in translating pun. The translator should translate it in the same message expression of pun. The above mentioned phenomenon leads the researcher to analyze the translation techniques and the quality of translated pun in *The Hobbit*.

## **1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic**

Pun shows its significance in the novel. The people are getting more and more excited when the novel uses puns. The writer wants to analyze the techniques used in English – Indonesian translation of pun in J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit*. The writer also wants to assess the quality of English – Indonesian translation of pun J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit*. And the last reason for choosing

this topic is only few studies in States University of Semarang related to Pun in Translation

### **1.3 Statement of the Problems**

1. What kinds of pun are found in English – Indonesian Tolkien's *The Hobbit*?
2. What translation techniques are used to translate pun from English to Indonesian within this particular novel?
3. How is the quality of English – Indonesian translation of pun in it?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

1. To find out the kinds of pun are found in English – Indonesian Tolkien's *The Hobbit*.
2. To analyze the translation techniques used in translating pun from English to Indonesian in the novel.
3. To assess the quality of English – Indonesian translation of pun in it.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

1. Students of translation studies

Students of translation studies can have this research as a reference to conduct their researches and assignments related to translating pun. The findings of the research can contribute to the knowledge about techniques and the quality of pun translation in the novel.

2. Translators who work on translating novel

Translators who work on translating novel that included pun can use this research to know the classification, components, techniques and the quality of pun translation in the novel entitled *The Hobbit* as a reference for doing their job.

### 3. Other Researchers

The result of this study can be used as a reference and additional information to the other researchers who are interested in analyzing pun from another subject of analysis.

## **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The analysis of this study is limited on the pun appeared in the novel entitled *The Hobbit*. This research also focuses on the techniques of pun translation, and the quality of pun translation in term of accuracy, acceptability and readability.

## **1.7 Definitions of Key Terms**

### 1. Translation

According to Bell (1991:5), translation is the expression in another language (or target language) of what has been expressed in another, source language, preserving semantic and stylistic equivalences.

### 2. Pun

According to Delabastita (1996: 128) punning or wordplay is the general name for the various textual phenomena in which structural features of the language(s) use are exploited in order to bring about a communicatively significant confrontation of two (or more) linguistic structures with more or less similar forms and more or less different meanings.

### 3. Translation Quality

A good translation product should meet several requirements which encompass several aspects such as readability, accuracy, and acceptability. These