

## The Strategies of Song Translation in Disney Sofia the First Theme Song

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### ABSTRACT

The translation is the activity of translating a word or text from one language into another language without changing the original meaning from the source language. One of the famous translating activities is translating a song into another language. The song is a piece of music that contains rhythm and rhyme, then combines with melody and vocals. A song can be translated into another language to expand the reach of the song and also the popularity itself, but of course by maintaining several aspects like the authenticity of the original lyrics, rhythm, and rhyme. In this study, the researcher presents translation strategies applied in Sofia the First Theme Song. Comparing the source text to the translated text using translation strategies by Lefevere's theory.

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### INTRODUCTION

In the past time, the activity of translating was applied for scholarship and religious purposes, but since the time is changing the term translation has already been used as the most important thing for us such as technology, health, science, and also a song. A song is described as a set of words or quick poems intended to be sung and set to a certain kind of song. In a song, there are a lot of components like rhythm, meter, rhyme, and tones. When someone sings a song, they have to pay attention to the melody and beat, even though it is sung in another language. Levinson (1990:273) define music as an art that "*sounds temporally organized by a person to enrich or intensify experience through active engagement (e.g., listening, dancing, performing)*" Levinson (1990:273). According to the Richard (2002) a song is especially composed for the human voice, which is a function of words or lyrics. On occasion it has rhymes and makes use of a language style, this is different from the language style that is used in the scientific or formal textual content. The words inside a song are sung especially tones, rhythms, speed, and style. Kamien (1997) stated that a song is an exceedingly quick musical composition for the human voice, this is followed through another musical device that capabilities phrases or lyrics.

In song translation, the translators have to pay attention to several features of music that cannot be neglected, such as rhythm, note values, harmonies, rhyme, durations, phrasing, and stresses (Low, 2005).

In this paper, the researcher will analyze the translation strategies applied in Sofia the First theme song. Sofia the First is a cartoon that tells of an ordinary little girl who suddenly becomes a princess. The reason why she became a princess is that her mother, Miranda, married a widowed king of Enchancia who already had two children, Prince James, and Princess Amber. Sofia's mother was able to marry the king because of Miranda's job as a shoemaker and one day the king needed to have his shoes fixed, then suddenly they are falling in love at the first sight. In her new life as a princess, Sofia has a magic necklace that allows her to talk to animals. The necklace was a gift from her stepfather King Roland II and he advised her to never let go of the necklace. Of course, there are additional magic elements like flying horses and magic things everywhere. All were

presented with beautiful animations and joyful singing. The cartoon was directed by Jamie Mitchell with a creator and story editor named Craig Gerber and produced by Walt Disney Studios. Walt Disney Studios is an American animation studio that creates animated features and short films for the Walt Disney enterprise. The business enterprise's production logo capabilities a scene from its first synchronized sound cool animated film, *Steamboat Willie* (1928).

The reason why the researcher choose Sofia as the First theme song is because there are a lot of unique words when the lyric is translated into the Indonesian language. Therefore this study aims to figure out the meaning of song lyrics while comparing the beat between the original song and the dubbed song. This study also aims to find out the strategies of translation in the Disney song Sofia the First Theme Song. Since we know that translating a song into another language is challenging because the translator has to pay attention to the melody and beat like the original one.

The term "strategies" in "translation strategies" is regularly used synonymously with such phrases as "procedure", "technique", "method", "tactic", "approach", and so on. Their meanings overlap, and translation researchers define them in various approaches. Krings (1986:18) defines translation strategy as "*translator's potentially conscious plans for solving concrete translation problems in the framework of a concrete translation task*". Lörcher (1991), Chesterman (1997), and other researchers agree on some defining traits of a translation strategy: (a) it is intention-oriented, (b) it is trouble-focused, (c) it requires making coordinated selections, (d) it is probably conscious, and (e) it entails textual content manipulation.

When translating, the translator has to make sure of the accuracy and trueness of the message within the translated textual content and carefully translate the technical phrases to achieve the function of the translated textual content. To translate the phrases especially used in certain fields, we need to have a few necessary knowledge of the relevant fields. The technical words fall into three classes: terms specially used in one field, terms derived from general words or terms that may be used in many fields, with specific meanings in specific fields, and lastly, acronyms. According to Lörcher, translation strategy is "*a potentially conscious procedure for the solution of a problem which an individual is faced with when translating a text segment from one language to another*" (Lörcher, 1991, p. 76).

## **METHOD**

This research uses qualitative research methods. The researcher will collect, classifies, and analyze the data using the theory by Lefevere (1992). According to Lefevere, there are seven strategies of translation that are used to translate poetry and also has the same aspects as a song. The strategies are:

### **1. Phonemic Translation**

Translation strategies wherein the translators try to reproduce sound within the source language into the target language by selecting an appropriate paraphrase of the sense. These strategies are focusing on the rhythm and meaning of the target language.

### **2. Literal Translation**

In this strategy, the translators focus on word-for-word translation. Literal translation often produces an unnatural translation product since it follows foreignization translation, which means the literal translation is only focused on translating a sentence from the source language into the target language, even if the meaning in the target language is difficult to understand.

### 3. Metrical Translation

A Translation that focuses on meter result or the number of syllables but this strategies also still keep the qualities of the text as a whole.

### 4. Verse into Prose Translation

This strategy still captures the sense of the source language but the aesthetic of the original lyric disappeared.

### 5. Rhymed Translation

This translation tries to retain the rhyme and the meter like the original one, even though the meaning is a bit off far from the source text.

### 6. Blank Verse Translation

This strategy only focuses on accuracy and degree of literalness. This strategy is quite similar to literal translation, but the thing that makes both of them different is in this strategy does not ignore the meaning of the original context.

### 7. Interpretation

This strategy is made based on point of view's the translator in which the substance of the source text is retained, but the form is changed. It means the translator made the target language based on their interpretation.

In this research, the researcher collected the data which the lyric from the internet blog [https://disney.fandom.com/wiki/Sofia\\_the\\_First\\_Theme\\_Song](https://disney.fandom.com/wiki/Sofia_the_First_Theme_Song), <https://www.sonora.id/read/422145692/lirik-lagu-sofia-the-first-lengkap-dengan-terjemahan-aku-gadis-desa-yang-selalu-sederhana> and then classifies line by line while analyzing them by Lefevere's theory about translation strategies.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, the researcher identifies 12 lines in Sofia the First Theme Song. After reading and practicing it, the researcher classified line by line using translation strategies by Lefevere's theory.

Types of strategies	Frequency
Blank Verse	3
Phonemic	3
Literal	3
Verse into prose	2
Metrical	2
Interpretation	1

### Datum 1

SL	TL
I was a girl in a village doing allright	Aku gadis desa yang selalu sederhana

This lyric is classified into blank verse translation. Since the rhythm is a little bit different from the original, but the meaning is equivalent to the original, that is why this line is classified into blank verse translation. The researcher also tries to practice it directly by singing the first line in this song both the original one and the translated version and then comparing the rhythm from both languages.

**Datum 2**

SL	TL
Then I became a princess overnight	Dalam semalam jadi putri

This lyric is classified into phonemic translation since the meaning of phonemic translation is translators try to reproduce sound within the source language into the target language by selecting an appropriate paraphrase of the sense. As we can see the meaning and rhythm in this lyric are the same or equivalent to the source language.

**Datum 3**

SL	TL
Now I gotta figure out how to do it right	Kuharus cari tahu tata caranya

This lyric is classified into metrical translation because the meaning of the target language is equivalent and also the important thing is the number of syllables is the same as the source language.

**Datum 4**

SL	TL
So much to learn and see	Harus kupelajari

This lyric is classified as verse into prose translation because if we are translated this line "so much to learn and see" into the Indonesian language it will be like this "banyak yang harus dilihat dan kupelajari" but the translator is only used "harus kupelajari". It means the meaning is still delivered to the audience but the aesthetic of the original lyric is gone.

**Datum 5**

SL	TL
Up in the castle with my new family	Tinggal di istana, keluarga baru

This lyric is classified into phonemic translation because when the researcher tries to sing both the original and the translated lyric into the Indonesian language, the rhythm is the same as the original one, the meaning is equivalent, and also accurate in the target language.

**Datum 6**

SL	TL
In a school that's just for royalty	Sekolah khusus kerajaan

This lyric is classified into phonemic translation because the number of syllables is the same as the original lyric and the meaning is also equivalent, even though when the source language of this lyric is translated into the Indonesian language are looks very short, but actually, the meaning is accurate and successfully delivered to the audience.

**Datum 7**

SL	TL
A whole enchanted world is waiting for me	Dunia ajaib pun menungguku

This lyric is classified into blank verse translation because the accuracy and the meaning are very literal, but this target language is unrhymed and when the researcher tries to sing in the target language it is just a little hard to follow the rhythm. That is why this line is classified into blank verse translation.

**Datum 8**

SL	TL
I'm so excited to be (Sofia the first)	Aku senang sekali (Sofia pertama)

In this lyric the researcher will classify two parts, the first one is "I'm so excited to be", this line is classified into prose translation because when the word "excited" is translated into the Indonesian language it will be "bersemangat". Meanwhile, the translator changed that word into "senang sekali", so it means the aesthetic of the original lyric disappeared. The second one is "Sofia the first", this line is classified into literal translation because the translator focuses on word-for-word translation, so the translator only transfers the source language into the literal expression and in the researcher's opinion it makes the target language confusing.

**Datum 9**

SL	TL
I'm finding out what being royal's all about (Sofia the first)	Cari tahu jadi keluarga raja (Sofia pertama)

This lyric the researcher will classify it into two parts, the first one is "I'm finding out what being royal's all about", this line is classified into metrical translation because the meaning and the number of syllables are the same as the original one. Meanwhile the second line "Sofia the first" is classified as literal translation because the translator focus on word-for-word translation, so sometimes it makes the audience confused when they read the target language.

**Datum 10**

SL	TL
Making my way, it's an adventure every day (Sofia)	Mencari jalan, setiap hari bertualang (Sofia)

This lyric is classified into blank verse translation because when the researcher heard and practiced this line from the source language into the target language the rhymes are different, as we can see that the original one has rhyme b-b, meanwhile the target language has rhyme a-b. In this line, the translator tries to produce the target language that has the same context as the source language while ignoring the rhyme.

**Datum 11**

SL	TL
It's gonna be my time (Sofia)	Inilah waktuku (Sofia)

This lyric is classified into literal translation because the translator just focuses on word-for-word translation. This lyric also has no same rhythm just like the original one even though the number of syllables is the same.

**Datum 12**

SL	TL
To show them all that I'm Sofia the first	Inilah diriku

This lyric is classified into interpretation translation because as we can see that the meaning of “to show them all that I’m Sofia the first” is “untuk menunjukkan kepada mereka semua bahwa aku Sofia yang pertama”, but the translator used “inilah diriku”, so it means that the translator changed the original lyric based on their personal interpretation.

**CONCLUSION**

After classifying and analyzing the lyric of Sofia the First Theme Song, the result is some of the lines are classified into blank verse translation, phonemic translation, metrical translation, verse into prose translation, literal translation, and interpretation. In order to classify and analyze the lyrics, the researcher must pay attention first to understanding the theory of Lefevere, so that when conducting this research there are no misunderstandings and so that the readers understand clearly about this research. Meanwhile, there are seven strategies by Lefevere which is phonemic translation, literal translation, metrical translation, verse into prose translation, rhymed translation, blank verse translation, and interpretation. Based on the conclusions above, the researcher would like to give suggestions for the readers of this study who are interested in the same field, such as poetry or the same aspect like a song, it is expected that the study becomes a meaningful source for those who want to know further about literary work, especially for a song. The researcher suggests for the readers who want to learn translation strategies by Lefevere through song or poetry.

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