

# The Transitivity Process and Error in Cultural Terms Found in the Context of Bilingual Children Storybook: Goob and His Grandpa by Sean Covey (Indonesian Version)

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Abstract: When translating literary work for children, it can be regarded as a way to connect and spread cultures from two or more different countries. In translation, this includes giving equivalent meaning in the target language, and this book, from English to the Indonesian language. Because the translated works in this study are children's literature and the target readers are children, the translator is expected to adapt the translation into a language that is easy to understand by the children. Meanwhile, the quality of translation in this book is considered to be lacking because it mostly used the language that is used by the adults. Thus, Systemic Functional Linguistics comes into use as the primary theory. Systemic Functional Linguistics is a type of grammar developed by Halliday in Introduction to Functional Grammar which is done based on the model of language as social semiotics (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). Therefore, Systemic Functional Linguistics can be applied as a base to analyze a translation of children's storybooks through the transitivity process. This study focuses on analyzing the transitivity process and error in cultural terms found in the bilingual children's storybook "Goob and His Grandpa" in the Indonesian version. In this study, the author used a descriptive and qualitative approach by analyzing word level and phrase level as the translation units. The author provides tables and figures to show the results of the analysis of the transitivity process and error in cultural terms found in the book. In conclusion, the author found that there are several errors and issues of different perspectives to how the translator translated the text inside of the book that makes the story difficult to understand by the children because of the language used by the translator and the characteristics of the children and children's storybook itself.

**Keywords:** bilingual children storybook; cultural terms; sean covey; systemic functional linguistics; transitivity process

#### **RESEARCH BACKGROUND**

Up to this day, translation has become an everyday thing. Thus, it cannot be separated from our life. When translating literary texts, especially literature or stories with children as the target readers, it can be regarded as a way to connect and spread cultures from two or more different countries from a very young age. In translation, of course, this includes giving equivalent



meaning in the target language and considering whether the target language (TL) values and the source language (SL) belong to the linguistic values, situational or cultural. In this study, the source language (SL) is English, and the target language (TL) is Indonesian. The interpreter recognizes the source language (SL), and the abstraction of the source language (SL) is removed to determine its meaning. The meaning is encoded in the target language and rendered by the interpreter. Because the translated works in this study are children's literature and the children themselves as the target readers, the translator of the book titled "Goob and His Grandpa" is expected to adapt the translation into a language easily understood by the children. There are several reasons why the translator is expected to do so, such as trying to consider the character of the children itself, as they still do not know much of complicated words, and to consider the differences in the culture and tradition itself as to provide a smooth way to deliver the messages that came along with the book. However, many translators still do not understand this. They are just translating stories as if it did not come with the obligation to follow the original rules as a translator that are supposed to deliver the message and act as a bridge to connect both cultures and countries. At first glance, in the book "Goob and His Grandpa," translated into the Indonesian version, the translator did not follow the rules because the language chosen by the translator is not the language used by the children but the language used by the translator or the language at the adult level. The translator tells the story from his or her point of view, not from the children's point of view. Thus, the author decided to analyze the book entitled "Goob and His Grandpa," written by Sean Covey and translated into Indonesian by Lanny Murtihardjana. In making this paper, the author used Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as the primary theory. Systemic Functional Linguistics can be applied as a base to analyze a translation of children's storybooks. The translation of the children's storybook could be analyzed through the transitivity process. The study analyzes the transitivity process and error in cultural terms in the bilingual storybook "Goob and His Grandpa," the Indonesian version. As a part of Systemic Functional Linguistics, the transitivity process could be applied because it describes how language makes meaning in context. Therefore, the transitivity analysis is utilized to find out how the writers portray certain characters and bring specific issues in their works, especially if the works are going to be translated into different languages, in order to secure the natural and plot of the story as close as possible to the original version. Thus, this study aims to find out the quality of translation work, find out the types of errors in translating, and find out the process of transitivity. Meanwhile, the novelty of this study is that there are some overlaps with previously carried out research. However, a previous study can be used to provide base information to researchers. Although previous researchers worked on finding out the error or the quality of translation work, very few researchers were reported on bilingual storybooks. This research focuses on the translation analysis of a bilingual storybook entitled Goob and His Grandpa.Furthermore, there has been no research on Goob and His Grandpa before. Also, the main objective of this paper is to find out the transitivity process and error in cultural terms. The previous studies have not analyzed both the transitivity process and the error related to the cultural terms of the work. Thus, the author decided to discuss "The Transitivity Process and Error in Cultural Terms Found in The Context of Bilingual Children Storybook, " Goob and His Grandpa, written by Sean Covey and translated by Lanny Murtihardjana."

# **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

# **Children's Literature**

Children's literature is unique in its way, and it comes with the term simplicity. Simplicity is



one word that describes much about children's language and literature. Starting from a simple sentence to a simple storyline becomes its unique characteristics. Often, its simplicity leads to its complexity level when it comes to the study of translation and literature. It cannot be separated from its characteristics, such as being simple and straightforward. Depending on action to maintain interest, the main character and the point of view are the children themselves. It tends toward fantasy and accepts any ideas without significant concerns about reality. However, today, the theme of children's literature has broadened from a simple story to a more specific and mature one. Often, it also includes a taboo topic to create a more realistic way for the children to see.

#### **Translation on Cultural Terms**

Translation on cultural terms has often raised a problem when the translator cannot find the same cultural concepts in the target language, thus resulting in differences. For the words themselves, there are not any appropriate equivalents. The more differences between the source language and the target language in both aspects, the higher the difficulty in transferring meaning or message between those two languages. The truth of such consideration can be seen from the fact that language and culture are two inseparable entities. When communicating through language, spoken or written, every person is undoubtedly involved in making one culture, which includes the values, expertise, knowledge, norms, attitudes, motives, and language they have as an individual or a member of society. This includes the process of domestication and foreignization to produce high-quality translation work.

#### Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), also known as Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), is closely related and affects each other. Systemic Functional Linguistics is a language methodology that focuses on how people use language to communicate with others in daily life. Since language is never standing still and constantly moving, developing, and changing, a new system called Systemic Functional Linguistics was found to analyze language. Previous researchers use this theory to analyze language rather than Systemic Functional Grammar because it is applicable in some cases, especially to analyze the meaning. It is more emphasized in the clause and words analysis.

# Language Meta-function, Transitivity and Type of Processes, and Elements of Transitivity

Language meta-function can be divided into three types of language meaning (Halliday, 1994). The types of language meaning are ideational meaning (ideational meaning is correlated with the ideas or concepts of phenomena which are expressed in an expression), interpersonal meaning (interpersonal meaning is concerned with our role relationships with other people and the attitudes that we have for each other), and textual meaning (textual meaning is about how the text is arranged concerning its context and its message).

Halliday (1994) explained that the transitivity system is an efficacious tool to analyze the meaning conveyed in clauses. It comprises three major types and minor types of processes. The major types are material process, mental process, and relational process, and the minor types are verbal, existential, and behavioral processes.



As explained by Halliday, the transitivity system is an efficacious tool to analyze the meaning conveyed in clauses. It consists of six elements such as material process (a process of doing physical activity, there are two types of material process: happening and doing), mental process (a process of sensing: perception, cognition, and affection process), verbal process (a process of saying), existential process (a process of projecting that something exists), and behavioral process (a process of behaving, there are two types of behavioral process: verbal behavior and mental behavior).

#### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study used a descriptive and qualitative approach. This study uses translation work as the data; therefore, it is included in a product-oriented translation study. The translation units investigated here are on word and phrase levels in the bilingual or *dwi-bahasa* children's storybook. The source of data in this research is cultural terms taken from the bilingual or *dwi-bahasa* children's storybook entitled "Goob and His Grandpa" or "Goob dan Kakeknya." Then, the data is collected by comparing the text of the original storybook and the equivalence text of the translated story in the bilingual book. The author has taken steps to collect the data are reading the bilingual version, both original and translated versions, sentence by sentence, and then comparing them to find out what cultural terms there are in the book. The second step is to collect the cultural terms based on Newmark's five types of culture in tables to make the analysis easier. After all those steps, the author used three methods to analyze the data such as tabulation (the writer categorized and presented the data which have been collected in tables), interpretation (based on the author's intuition and on translation techniques that the translator of the book applied), and conclusion-making (the conclusion are made based on the final results of tabulation, analysis, and interpretation that have been made).

#### **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This section present the result of the research which then discusses based on the theory of Halliday and Newmark.

					Page 2				
Ι	am	really sorry	to	tell	you	that	Goob's grandpa	died	yesterday
Token	Identifying	Mental	Conj.	Verbal	Receiver	Conj.	Participant	Material	Circ. of time
	Page 3								
At times like this		you		really need		your friends	s		

#### Table 1 The Transitivity Process and Error



Circ. of time	Senser Recipient	-	Mental process	Phenomenon
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In this sentence, "*class*" can be referred to as one of the underlying themes. In a class, there must be students in it, which in this story are elementary school children. Therefore, the "*class*" which was originally a theme in ST was changed into a rheme in TT because it was more specified that the people who were informed about Goob's Granpa's death by Ms. Hoot are "*anak-anak*." (Theme -> rheme). Textual meaning analysis is needed to analyze this part.

Ideology Category		Quotations ST	Quotations TT		
Domestication	Ecology	Far North Woods	Hutan Utara Nun Jauh		
	Material	It's a honey-chocolate cake	Ini kue bolu madu cokelat		
	Social Culture	At times like this, you really need your friends	Pada saat-saat seperti ini orang sangat membutuhkan teman		
	Political and Social Organization	-	-		
	Gesture and Custom	I don't know if I'll be happy again	Aku tidak tahu apakah aku akan pernah bisa bergembira lagi		
Foreignization	Ecology	Mountainville Elementary	SD Mountainville		
	Material	Tagalong Allie's Burrow	Liang Allie Si Pembuntut		
	Social Culture	-	-		
	Political and Social Organization	-	-		
	Gesture and Custom	Jumper agreed to have a wrestling match with Goob on his living room floor	Jumper setuju bergulat dengan Goob di lantai ruang duduknya		

Table 2 The Evidence of Domestication and Foreignization

On Ecology, the translator translated *Far North Woods* into *Hutan Utara nan Jauh* in Indonesian. Since the word *hutan* has already existed in KBBI (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia), this was not an application of borrowing technique, that is, a technique which adopts words or terms directly from source language without any change or a change on

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phonetics only (Shirinzadeh and Mahadi, 2014: 108).

On Gesture and Custom, datum number 27, *happy*, according to Cambridge Dictionary, is *feeling, showing, or causing pleasure or satisfaction*. Hence, it belongs to the feeling term which is a cultural term in the category of gesture and custom (Newmark, 1988: 95). The translator applied the calque technique to translate *happy* into *gembira* in Indonesian. Referring to Molina and Abir (2002: 509), calque is a technique that refers to the literal translation from the source language to the target language. From such definition, the calque technique is the target-language-oriented technique of translating cultural terms of linguistic – not cultural – aspect, the use of target language in translating cultural terms shows an application of domestication. It is in accordance with Venuti's (1995: 63) statement that domestication is the ideology of making text closely conform to the culture of the language being translated to.

On Social Culture, according to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, honey is defined as a sweet, sticky yellow-brown substance made by bees that is spread on bread, etc. like jam. While chocolate is a hard brown sweet food made from cocoa beans, used in cooking to add taste to cakes, etc. or eaten as a sweet. And cake is defined as a sweet food made from a mixture of flour, eggs, butter, sugar, etc. that is baked in an oven. Also, based on Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, cakes are made in various shapes and sizes and are often decorated, for example with cream or icing. Hence, honey-chocolate cake belongs to food. Since making food needs a lot of ingredients, thus, it belongs to the category of material (Newmark, 1988: 95).

On Material, for *chocolate*, the translator applied calque technique so that it is translated into *cokelat*. Calque is a technique that refers to literal translation, either words or phrases from the source language to the target language. It is usually applied when a foreign word or a foreign phrase has been adopted to the target language and has been standard in official dictionaries (Molina and Abir, 2002: 509). The definition of calque shows that the technique is target-language oriented, therefore it supports domestication ideology. It also happens with *honey* that is translated into *madu* and *cake* into *kue bolu*.

On Social Culture, datum number 20, *friend*, based on Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary means *a person you know well and like, and who is not usually a member of your family*. So, it is a social term. According to Newmark (1988: 95), the social term is cultural term which is included in the category of social and culture.

Category	Number	Percentage
Ecology	8	20%
Material	10	25%
Social Culture	10	25%
Political and Social Organization	0	0%

Table 3 The Calculation of Types of Domestication and Foreignization



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Gesture and Custom	12	30%
Total	40	100%

Table 4 The Calculation of Types of Domestication and Foreignization (2)

Ideology	Category	Number	Percentage
	Ecology	5	12.5%
	Social Culture	10	25%
Domestication	Political and Social Organization	0	0%
	Gesture and Custom	11	27.5%
	Material	4	10%
	Number	30	75%
	Ecology	3	7.5%
	Material	6	15%
Foreignization	Social Culture	0	0%
	Political and Social Organization	0	0%
	Gesture and Custom	1	7.5%
	Number	10	25%
	Total	40	100%

#### CONCLUSION

Some clauses considered as using transitivity processes in expressing the context and playing an essential role in "Goob and His Grandpa" became the chosen data to be analyzed. The researcher found six kinds of transitivity processes: material process, mental process, relational process, verbal process, behavioral process, and existential process to express the context of children's storybook. Therefore, based on the result of the analysis in Part 4: Findings and Discussion, which has already answered the research questions, the writer concludes that the cultural terms found in the novel are 40 cultural terms consisting of 8 cultural terms of the category of ecology with the percentage of 20%, 10 cultural terms of the category of material with a percentage of 25%, 200, 10 cultural terms of the category of social culture with the percentage of 25%, zero cultural terms of the category of gesture and custom with the the percentage of 0%, and 12 cultural terms of the category of gesture and custom with the



percentage of 30%. Thus, the cultural terms which appeared most in the novel were the category of gesture and custom. The categorization of those cultural terms is based on Newmark's (1988: 95) five types of culture. Overall, the result of the study answers the research questions of this study. By analyzing the data, the transitivity processes and the ideational meanings which express the context of "Goob and His Grandpa" by Sean Covey can be revealed through and through and can be investigated further related to its translation on cultural terms, especially the adaptation of domestications and foreignization. After the research in applied linguistics on translation uses a transitivity and error analysis, which should be explored in future research, is analyzing the translation of the bilingual children's storybook: "Goob and His Grandpa" with a different aspect. In other words, the extent to which the processes of analyzing through accuracy, acceptability, and readability in translation. The author does not examine the quantitative rate of children's understanding of reading this children's storybook. The rate could be based on translation components such as acceptability and readability for future research. The following researchers should conduct a survey on children as the reader of the bilingual storybook entitled "Goob and His Grandpa" or "Goob dan Kakeknya." For instance, it is essential to find out how the qualitative analysis of translation quality relates to the quantitative responses of the target reader.

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