

**ENGLISH EQUIVALENCE INADEQUACY FOR  
INDONESIAN CULTURAL WORDS IN WEST SUMATERA  
TOURISM GUIDE BOOKLET**

**A THESIS**

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## ABSTRAK

Dalam skripsi ini dibahas berbagai ketidaksepadanan terjemahan kata budaya Indonesia berkonteks budaya Minangkabau ke bahasa Inggris yang terdapat dalam buku panduan wisata Sumatera Barat: *The Homeland of Minangkabau Welcome to Padang West Sumatera 2007*. Buku ini ditulis dalam dua bahasa yaitu Bahasa Indonesia dan Bahasa Inggris. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk membedah berbagai ketidaksepadanan kata bahasa Indonesia berkonteks budaya Minangkabau dan memberikan padanan dan teknik yang tepat dalam menerjemahkan kata budaya Indonesia ke Bahasa Inggris. Dalam menganalisa data teori penerjemahan yang digunakan adalah teori yang diajukan oleh Peter Newmark dan didukung oleh teori Larson, Catford, Mona Baker, Nida dan Taber. Data diambil sebanyak 16 data yang mempresentasikan kata Bahasa Indonesia berkontek budaya Minangkabau. Dari hasil penelitian diperoleh hasil bahwa dalam proses pemadanan terjemahan, penerjemah cenderung menerjemahkan kata bahasa Indonesia secara literal dan menghindari penggunaan peminjaman kata budaya Indonesia. Sebagai akibatnya hasil terjemahan cenderung sulit dipahami dan belum sepenuhnya mencapai kesepadanan budaya yang dimaksud namun kesepadanan yang dihasilkan baru mencapai aspek bentuk bahasa.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Translation is a complicated process. In the process of translation the translator should find equivalence message between the source language and target language. As proposed by Nida (1982:23) translation is transferring idea and form of source language text into the target language by finding natural equivalence in meaning and style. As a matter of fact, the process in translating various texts from different culture is quite complicated. The difficulties or problems in this translation are caused by the differences of structural rules, lexical items and cultural specific words both source language and target language.

However the most difficult problem is how to find the lexical equivalences for the objects which do not exist in the target language. There may be no word or phrase in the target language is available to be equivalent with this word or phrase. In this case the translator's task becomes more difficult. He or she has to find the appropriate technique to express this word that is new for the readers in the target language. This is actually a serious problem in translation of tourism guide booklet: *The Homeland of Minangkabau: Welcome to Padang West Sumatera*. There are some cultural words that are not natural for the target reader. There are many mistakes in transferring cultural lexical items because the translator has translated literally and kept the form of source language without considering the true message or meaning of those words. As the consequences, the result of translation sounds strange and fails to convey the real messages to the readers in the target language.

Based on the reason above I am interested in conducting a research about English equivalence for Indonesian cultural words in West Sumatera Tourism Guide Booklet: *The Homeland of Minangkabau Welcome to Padang West Sumatera 2007*. Furthermore, this research is conducted because there are various significant mistakes and inappropriate in the techniques and the result of translation equivalence of Indonesian cultural lexical items in West Sumatera tourism guide book. These errors are left unrevealed and hard to decipher. Therefore the research to solve and to uncover this problem is needed.

The object of this research is West Sumatera tourism guide booklet *The Homeland of Minangkabau: Welcome to Padang West Sumatera 2007*, because this booklet has various aspects of translation problems particularly concerned with the technique of translation and the result of the equivalence. For the reason above, this booklet is very appropriate as the object for this research. Furthermore the core benefits of this research are firstly, to fix the inadequate English in West Sumatera tourism guide booklet. Secondly is to provide appropriate equivalences of cultural lexical items in this book.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

There are various inadequate English equivalences of Indonesian cultural words in West Sumatera tourism guide booklet; *The Homeland of Minangkabau Welcome to Padang West Sumatera*. Inadequate equivalent of cultural words indicate the distance between culture and language system between Indonesia and English. That is why the translator needs strategies to find adequate equivalents for this problem. This is another problem to investigate in this research. Moreover, the problem in this research can be stated as follow;

## BAB IV

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing 16 Indonesian cultural word based on Minagkabau culture in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that in translating Indonesian Cultural word, the translator makes various fatal mistakes in the process of transferring the meaning of Indonesia cultural word, as consequences the translator fails in transferring the meaning of the cultural lexical items into target language. The mistake occurs because the translator tends to translate the cultural word literally and does not consider the cultural aspect of source language text. Moreover, the translator avoids borrowing those cultural words as the loan words in English language, therefore the cultural aspects of those words cannot be covered, and this is actually a serious mistake as well.

From 16 data analyzed in the previous chapter, 10 of the data with percentage 62.5 % are translated literally. The result of translation is inappropriate equivalence in English language. As the consequences, the translation of source cultural word in the target language sounds strange and creates meaning ambiguity for the readers of target language. Then, 4 of the data with percentage 25% achieve near equivalence. It occurs because the translator borrows Indonesian cultural word into English and adds component meaning of this word literally in the bracket. The rest of the data are achieving adequate equivalence. It occurs because the translator uses loan word strategy and describes the component meaning of Indonesian cultural word in the target language. In this process of translation the form of Indonesian cultural words shift into phrasal and clausal in the target language. It occur because the great

distinction between language system and cultural gap between Indonesian and English.

From the analysis in previous chapter, I found that in translating Bahasa Indonesia Cultural lexical items into English although the translator had given the equivalence as close as the target language but the result of translation does not achieve the equivalence as cultural intended to. The adequate equivalence just appears two times in the analysis in the previous chapter. The best way in translating cultural word which is unknown concept in the target language is by using loan word and describes the component meaning of this cultural word.

Furthermore, this thesis hopes bring implications for translating text that consist of cultural words. First for academically, this research can be used as additional source for students to understand more detail about cultural word and the best ways in translating those cultural words. It also can be used as additional reference to conduct further research in the same context related to cultural word generally and in the same case from different point of view specifically. Second for the translator of tourism guide booklet, the translator should have sensitivity in making interpretation of meaning of cultural lexical items and in choosing the words or phrases to represent it in the target language. Since the function of the tourism guide booklet is to introduce the source language culture that is why the translator must be transfer the meaning of cultural aspect of source language lexical items appropriately. At last, the limitation and imperfect of this research is much realized, since not all the types of cultural words categories that were proposed by Newmark are involved in this research. However, hopefully this research is useful and brings some input for the field of translating cultural lexical items.

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