

ABSTRACT

One of the translation problems is that there are linguistic and cultural gaps between the Source Language (SL) and the Target Language (TL). These gaps may lead to the difficulty in finding the most appropriate way to convey the meaning from the SL into the TL. This research, however, aims at examining the nature and causes of linguistic and cultural gaps in translating Arabic literary text into English. Previous researches showed that linguistic and cultural gaps resulted mainly due to the lack of equivalence between the Source Text (ST) and the Target Text (TT) and this had attributed to the lack of Functional Equivalence and the focus on Formal Equivalence. Naguib Mahfouz's novel *Malḥamat Al-Ḥarafish** is used to serve as data of the study. This study stresses the Semiotic Equivalence Approach (Hatim and Mason, 1990) in on hand, and Toury's (1995) terms of Adequacy and Acceptability on the other in handling the translation of cultural signs. The results show that Linguistic Gaps are verbal signs that affect the ST by blocking the understanding of the source message or affecting its aesthetic values. Cultural Gaps, on the other hand, are problems of hidden cultural information that reflect the social norms, religious beliefs and ideological attitudes of the ST. Linguistic gaps result from mistranslation, surface interpretation and literal translation; while cultural gaps result from lack of equivalence on the surface level structure and/or the deep level structure of the ST. The results also show that linguistic and cultural gaps could be marginalised in translation by providing target readers with the background knowledge that facilitates the decoding of SL situations and considering the cultural connotations inherent in the ST. Consequently, translators – before actual translation takes place – are recommended to resolve the linguistic and cultural elements in the ST.

Key Words: Formal Equivalence, Functional Equivalence, Semiotic Equivalence, Cultural Gaps, Linguistic Gaps, Adequacy and Acceptability.

* *Ḥarafish* is the rabble or riffraff. In the novel, it means the common people in a positive sense, those in menial jobs, casual workers, and the unemployed and homeless.

ABSTRAK

Salah satu daripada masalah dalam penterjemahan adalah halangan-halangan bahasa dan budaya antara “Bahasa Sumber” dan “Bahasa Sasaran”. Halangan-halangan ini menimbulkan kesulitan dalam mendapatkan cara yang paling tepat untuk menyampaikan maksud daripada bahasa sumber ke bahasa sasaran. Walau bagaimanapun, kajian ini bertujuan untuk mempelajari sifat dan punca halangan-halangan bahasa dan budaya yang berlaku semasa kerja-kerja terjemahan teks sastera daripada Bahasa Arab ke Bahasa Inggeris dijalankan. Kajian terdahulu menunjukkan bahawa sebab utama halangan-halangan ini adalah kerana kurangnya kesetaraan antara “Teks Sumber” dan “Teks Sasaran” dan sebab ini juga mungkin boleh dikaitkan dengan kekurangan pada Kesetaraan Fungsional dan penumpuan pada Kesetaraan Formal. Novel Naguib Mahfouz yang berjudul *Malḥamat Al-Ḥarafish** telah digunakan sebagai data dalam kajian ini. Penyelidikan ini menekankan kepada Pendekatan Kesetaraan Semiotik (Hatim dan Mason, 1990) dan istilah Kecukupan dan Penerimaan dalam menangani terjemahan tanda-tanda budaya (Toury, 1995). Hasil penyelidikan ini menunjukkan bahawa Halangan-halangan Bahasa adalah disebabkan oleh tanda isyarat lisan yang memberi kesan kepada teks sumber, dengan menghalang pemahaman dari mesej sumber atau memberi kesan kepada nilai-nilai estetikanya. Selain itu, Halangan-halangan Budaya adalah disebabkan oleh maklumat yang tersembunyi yang menggambarkan norma-norma sosial, pegangan agama dan ideologi dari teks sumber. Halangan-halangan bahasa juga boleh disebabkan oleh kesilapan dalam terjemahan, terjemahan dengan perkataan dan terjemahan tidak mendalam, sedangkan halangan-halangan budaya disebabkan oleh kurangnya persamaan pada struktur asas dan struktur terperinci teks sumber. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa halangan bahasa dan budaya boleh dikurangkan dengan latar belakang pengetahuan pembaca sasaran yang membantu mentafsir situasi Bahasa Sumber dan mengimbangkan konotasi budaya yang wujud dalam teks sumber. Oleh kerana itu, penterjemah – sebelum memulakan penterjemahan yang sebenar – disarankan agar menyelesaikan masalah dan halangan bahasa dan budaya dalam teks sumber.

Kata Kunci: Kesetaraan Formal, Kesetaraan Fungsional, Kesetaraan Semiotik, Halangan-halangan Kebudayaan, Halangan-halangan Bahasa, Kecukupan dan Penerimaan.

* *Ḥarafish* ialah kelas atau golongan bawahan. Di dalam novel ini, ia bermaksud orang kebanyakan yang berperasaan positif, golongan pekerja bawahan, pekerja sementara, dan golongan tiada pekerjaan dan tiada rumah.

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