TRANSLATION STRATEGIES OF AMERICAN TEENAGERS’ SLANG: A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

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INTRODUCTION
Translation plays a critical role in language learning as it facilitates the transfer of information from a source language to a target language, effectively bridging language barriers globally. This process is invaluable in various fields, allowing for the exchange of knowledge and culture. One prominent area where translation is particularly beneficial is the entertainment industry, which relies heavily on translation to reach diverse audiences worldwide. By enabling content to be understood regardless of the language spoken, translation opens up global markets and enhances cultural exchange. The entertainment industry, especially the film sector, is one of the fastest-growing markets that depend on translation to connect with international audiences. Kuswardani and Septiani (2020) highlight the importance of translation in movies, particularly through subtitling, which helps viewers understand and appreciate films more easily. Subtitles allow films to transcend linguistic boundaries, thus reaching a larger target market and enhancing the global enjoyment of cinematic works.

In the educational field, translation is equally essential. College students, for instance, often need to translate abstracts accurately for their academic papers. This skill is crucial for presenting research findings to an international audience, ensuring that language barriers do not
impede the dissemination of knowledge (Lestari et al., 2023). According to Aveline (2015), translation can be categorized into two main forms: translation in printed media and translation in electronic media. Translation in printed media encompasses documents, newspapers, books, comics, and graphic novels. These materials are translated into target languages to serve specific purposes, such as reaching particular markets or audiences. On the other hand, translation in electronic media, known as Audiovisual Translation (AVT), is prevalent in movies and other digital formats. AVT is a specialized form of translation found in movies, television shows, and online videos. Kurniawan (2010) notes that films serve not only as entertainment but also as valuable resources for learning and understanding how foreign languages are used in everyday contexts. Through AVT, viewers can gain insights into the nuances of a language, including its idiomatic expressions, cultural references, and colloquial usage.

Watching movies with subtitles, which are translation texts usually placed at the bottom of the screen, can be one of the most effective ways to improve English language skills. Subtitles allow non-English speakers to follow the story of a movie without getting lost, as they provide a written translation of the spoken dialogue. This method is particularly beneficial for enhancing listening comprehension and expanding vocabulary. To ensure that subtitles are effective, translators must strive for accuracy, acceptability, and readability. Nowadays, watching movies has become a popular pastime, especially among teenagers. This trend is influenced by the importation of numerous Western movies, including American films, into Indonesia. The characters in these movies often use a variety of languages, including slang, which is commonly used by teenagers in their daily lives, particularly in school or college settings. Slang plays a crucial role in American culture and language. According to Agha (2015), slang is an ideological framework for reasoning about language that defines a category of aberrant registers of language. This means that slang represents a distinct and non-standard form of speech that deviates from conventional language norms. Burdova (2009) further explains that slang is viewed as an independent, non-literary language closely related to specific word choices.

The use of slang in American movies presents both a challenge and an opportunity for subtitle translators. It is essential for translators to accurately convey the nuances of slang to maintain the authenticity and cultural context of the dialogue. Slang is an important feature of American culture, reflecting social dynamics, attitudes, and identities. When translated effectively, subtitles can help viewers understand and appreciate these cultural elements. According to HH (2020) Watching subtitled movies is an excellent way to enhance English language skills, particularly for non-native speakers. Subtitles provide a valuable resource for understanding dialogue and following the storyline, making movies accessible to a broader audience. The popularity of Western movies, especially among teenagers, underscores the importance of accurate and culturally sensitive translation of subtitles. By capturing the nuances of slang and other linguistic variations, subtitles can bridge language barriers and enrich the viewing experience. Understanding the role of slang in language and culture highlights the complexity of translation work and its impact on cross-cultural communication.

For this purpose, it is important to analyze movies, especially the way how to translate the American slang words into the Indonesian language. In Indonesia, the analysis of American teenagers’ slang word translation in the movies is rarely found. That is why the researcher chooses this theme and this study also assesses the translation strategies used in translating American teenagers’ slang in Easy A movie. The film is about a smart high school girl who relies on a school rumor mill to improve its social and financial stability. The researcher also chose the movie because the title of the movie uses slang language Easy A, a common slang expression in the US means someone can get high marks on the subject without trying hard. However, the actual meaning of the slang in this movie refers to a girl who was paid by some
guys to inform people that they have done sexual acts with the girl so that their high school and college reputation get better, and their friends think all that much of them.

As sociolinguistic phenomena that English class in Indonesia hardly ever discusses, this paper tries to reveal the meaning of slang words of the movie Easy A, as the setting was in academic settings. This can be useful to the learners because though slangs are hardly ever discussed, they are socially common. Besides, the issues occurring in the movie are related to the current issues in Indonesian education as well. This movie comprises a lot of slang language that can be the topic of research in analyzing the translation strategies. It is used in translating slang words in English-Indonesia. In this study, the researcher will conduct a qualitative study to investigate this research entitled A Descriptive Analysis of American Teenagers’ Slang Translation Strategies in Easy a Movie, with the aims: 1) to find out what American teenagers’ slang words appeared in Easy A movie; 2) to find out Gottlieb’s subtitling strategies used in the movie; and 3) to find out the types of strategies mostly occurred in Easy A movie.

**RESEARCH METHOD**

In this study, the researcher applies a descriptive qualitative research approach. This approach is selected as it is considered the most appropriate for the purpose of this study, to describe the phenomena of translation, particularly the subtitling strategies used by translators in translating the American teenagers’ slang in Easy A movie. Walliman (2011) stated that descriptive research relates to an observation in collecting the data. In this way, the researcher collected the data consisting of American teenagers’ slang phrases in the source language (SL) and the target language (TL) to be analyzed and draw a conclusion. This research method is adopted from Reza & Widyastuti (2021) in analyzing the translation of English slangs in the movie titled “Prison Break” to Indonesian. With some precise analysis, the researcher use descriptive qualitative method to find the translation of English slangs into Indonesian considering the context of spoken situation represented.

**Research Design**

In this study, the researcher applies a descriptive qualitative research approach. It is due to the fact the purpose of this study is to describe the phenomena of translation, particularly the subtitling strategies used by translator in translating the American teenagers’ slang in Easy A movie. Walliman (2011) stated, that descriptive research relates to an observation in collecting the data. In this way, the researcher collected the data consist of American teenagers’ slang phrases in the source language (SL) and the target language (TL) to be analyzed and draw a conclusion. To get the data, the researcher is watching the Easy A movie using English subtitles, which is the source language. While watching the movie, the researcher wrote terms that had just been heard and that could be slang expressions. The next day, the researcher watched the film again with the subtitles in the target language.

The researcher then matched and wrote each term that was previously written with the target language translation. After the data from the movie is obtained, the researcher looks for every term written in the dictionary whether the terms are included in slang or not. The next day after the terms of slang were classified, the researcher sorted out which terms are included in slang whether the slang comes from America or not. Following the research title, it was the American slang that the researcher was looking to study.

**Research Objects**

The object of analysis in this research is the movie ‘Easy A’, focusing on all utterances containing American teenagers’ slang expressions. These expressions were gathered manually from both the English and Indonesian translations or subtitles of the movie. The study concentrates on the slang expressions used throughout the entire film. Words and phrases serve as the primary sources of information for this research. The slang words found in the movie,
which were analyzed and translated into Indonesian, represent common social utterances occurring in an academic setting, as the movie is set in a high school. This setting provides a rich context for examining how slang is used among teenagers in their daily interactions, particularly within the school environment. This research is limited to verbal expressions, specifically focusing on spoken slang without considering non-verbal communication or sign-formed communication. By narrowing the scope to verbal expressions, the study aims to provide a detailed analysis of the language used by teenagers in an academic context. This approach allows for a thorough examination of the linguistic features and cultural nuances of teenage slang as depicted in the movie ‘Easy A’.

**Instruments**

In this study, the researcher herself served as the primary instrument, fully engaging in all aspects of the research process, including observation, analysis, and interpretation of data. According to Xu and Storr (2012), the acceptance of the researcher as an instrument in qualitative research signifies that the researcher is deeply aware of the ontological and epistemological positions that underlie the study. This self-awareness allows the researcher to approach the data with a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical foundations and methodological implications of the research. As the primary instrument, the researcher was directly involved in every stage of the research. This included meticulously observing the use of American teenagers' slang expressions in the movie *Easy A*, analyzing these expressions in their original English and translated Indonesian forms, and interpreting the data to draw meaningful conclusions. The hands-on involvement of the researcher ensured that the nuances and contextual elements of the slang expressions were accurately captured and understood.

The secondary instrument used in this analysis was a data sheet. This document systematically recorded the American teenagers' slang phrases used in the movie *Easy A*. The data sheet served as a vital tool for organizing and categorizing the slang expressions, facilitating a structured approach to data analysis. By documenting each instance of slang, the data sheet provided a comprehensive overview of the linguistic features being studied, ensuring that the analysis was thorough and well-supported by evidence. Together, the primary and secondary instruments provided a robust framework for the research. The researcher’s direct engagement with the data allowed for a nuanced and in-depth analysis, while the data sheet ensured that all relevant information was systematically recorded and accessible. This combination of qualitative insights and structured documentation enabled a thorough exploration of the use of slang in the movie *Easy A*, contributing to a deeper understanding of teenage language in an academic setting.

**Data Analysis**

To collect data for this study, the researcher employed content analysis methodology, which involved systematically examining the use of American teenagers' slang expressions in the movie Easy A. This methodology allowed the researcher to gather all relevant data that supported the research questions, contributing to the study's objective of analyzing translation techniques. The data collection process was guided by specific categories of English slang found in the spoken texts of the movie. These categories were then compared with their translated terms in Indonesian to identify the translation techniques used by the translator. By following these procedures, the quality of the translated product could be evaluated and predicted. The data collection involved several key steps to ensure comprehensive and accurate results. First, the researcher observed the movie Easy A multiple times to thoroughly understand and capture the slang terms used by the characters. This repeated viewing helped in compiling an exhaustive list of slang expressions. Next, the collected slang terms were categorized according to specific slang categories. This categorization facilitated a structured analysis and
comparison of the English slang with their Indonesian translations, enabling the identification of the translator’s selected techniques.

The analysis of the English slang terms from the movie Easy A involved several detailed steps: Data Collection, data documentation, and classification. In the data collection, the researcher collected data from two primary sources: the English and Indonesian subtitles of Easy A. This data included words, phrases, sentences, and clauses spoken in the movie. In the data documentation, the researcher documented the collected data on a datasheet, ensuring each item was accurately recorded and coded for analysis. In the data of Classification using Gottlieb’s strategies, the researcher employed Gottlieb’s strategies to analyze and classify the translation of American teenagers' slang words. This classification helped in understanding the translation techniques used and evaluating their effectiveness. Through these steps, the researcher systematically gathered, documented, and analyzed the slang terms used in Easy A. The comparison of the original English slang with their Indonesian translations provided insights into the translation techniques employed and their impact on the quality of the subtitled product. By using a structured approach and employing established analytical strategies, the study aimed to offer a thorough examination of the translation of slang in a cinematic context, highlighting the complexities and nuances involved in cross-cultural translation.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Research Findings

The data was taken from the direct analysis of the translation strategies of the American teenagers’ slang in Easy A movie subtitles. This research relates to the subtitle’s translation techniques used when translating the subtitle from English into Indonesian. After the data was collected, the researcher analyzed the data to obtain the translation strategy used in the subtitle.

To simplify the data collection process, researchers used an instrument that is a datasheet to collect data. The datasheet was a table form. The sentence of the slang from the source language and the target language sentence translation. The data was collected for about a week before the data were analyzed. After doing the research, the researcher found 64 American teenager’s slang expressions from some utterances in the movie.

The English slangs in the movie Easy A were implemented during the conversation. This data were collected by watching the movie and seeing the subtitle to correlate the English words and Indonesian words. The identification and contextualization in the dialogue is shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL &amp; TL</th>
<th>Meaning of the American Slang</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SL: <em>Yup.</em></td>
<td>Yup An affirmative reply/yes (Jawaban mengiyakan/ ya)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL: <em>Ya.</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL: Who am I? What does it all mean? Why am I here? <em>Blah.</em></td>
<td>Blah Boring, predictable, or nonsensical talk or writing. (Omong Kosong)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL: <em>Siapa aku? Apa maksud semua ini? Kenapa aku disini?</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The findings of the research problems are discussed in this section. In which the first issue relates to what American teenagers' slang words appeared in Easy A movie. The second research question was about Gottlieb’s subtitling strategies used in the movie. The third research question was about what types of strategies mostly occurred in Easy A movie. In identifying the English slangs occurring in the movie Easy A, the researcher also made an in-
depth analysis by giving the explanation in each data of teenagers’ slang words in translation strategies. Here are the research data snip.

**Expansion**

This is a strategy used if an additional explanation in translation is needed by the original text (SL), due to some cultural nuance not available in target language.  
SL: No, I think she’s just a stuck-up **Jesus-freak**
TL: Tidak, kurasa dia hanya seorang fanatik ketuhanan yang sombong.

The translator translates **Jesus-freak** into ‘fanatic ketuhanan’ because the word **Jesus** is coming from the standard word means **the name of the man who Christians believe was the son of God**, and the word **freak** in which coming from the slang language means **a devotee**. It is represented in the scene when Olive and Brandon are talking about Marianne Bryant, a president of Cross Your Heart Club of the school who has spread the rumor about Olive that says she lost her virginity to a boy while actually she did not.

**Paraphrase**

Paraphrase is used in situations in which the original phraseology cannot be syntactically reproduced in the target language. This switches an unchanged expression, e.g. a language expression in the ST, such that the TT is of the same nature as the TT.  
SL: **And, boy**, did my terminological inexactitude accelerate with velocity.
TL: **Astaga**, istilah yang tak tepat untukku menyebar dengan sangat cepat.

The translator changes the word meaning **“and boy”** into **‘astaga’** to make a clear expression of being surprised. In slang, the word boy is an expression to express pleasure, surprise, etc. This slang word appears in the scene when Olive was figured out that the rumor about her has spread promptly.

**Transfer**

Transfer is a strategy of translating to the source text in full and accuracy.  
SL: A snide comment from a **snotty** girl in my class.
TL: Komentar mencemooh dari gadis **sombong** di kelasku.

The word **snotty** in slang language means **Impudent or insolent**. The translator translated it correctly into the target language.

**Imitation**

Imitation preserves the same forms, usually with names of individuals and places. It generates the same word in the target message. It may be used for proper nouns or greetings.  
SL: **Tallywhacker? Termagant? Yot? Frast?**
TL: **Tallywhacker? Termagant? Yot? Frast?**

The word **tallywhacker** is a slang language which means **the penis**. The translator translated it into the same term as the source language to imitate it because it was taken from the scene when Olive’s parents were curious about the word that Olive threw to Nina in the class. So, they were trying to guess it.

**Transcription**

Translation, for cases where a word is uncommon even in the source text, such as the use of a foreign language or a nonsense phrase, the term transcription is used. This is used for non-standard speech, dialects, or pronunciation with a special emphasis on a syllable, and in the source text, as well as uncommon speech, such as the use of third language or absurdity.

(Not Found)
Dislocation
Dislocation happens when the original uses a special effect, such as a dumb song in a cartoon film that is more relevant to understanding the effect than to the material. It generates a different word in the target text, which adapts the meaning of the source text to suit the target language. This is associated with music texts and metaphor phenomena. 

Condensation
Condensation is a typical strategy that has been used. It is the least persistent way to reduce the text down.

Decimation
It is an extreme condensation process in which even potentially significant elements for speed of speech are omitted.

Deletion
Deletion refers to the complete removal of less important aspects of the text.

Resignation
Resignation is defined when there is no solution and meaning is eventually lost. After the data were analysed, the researcher has summed the results up into the data charts that contain the detailed descriptions of the data that have been collected and analysed in the previous section.

Table 3.
The Percentage of Strategy used in Translating the American Teenagers’ Slang Expressions

According to the data above, the most dominant strategy used in translating this movie’s subtitle is the Transfer strategy. This is because the translator translates the slang terms in line
with the true meaning of words in slang language. They are the original slang words which are not the general word of English that is usually spoken.

**Discussion**

This section presents the findings of the research, addressing three primary aspects: the occurrence of American teenagers' slang words in the movie ‘Easy A’, the subtitling strategies employed by the translator using Gottlieb’s framework, and the most dominant subtitling strategy observed. According to the research, 64 distinct slang words appear in ‘Easy A’. These slang expressions are commonly used by American teenagers in their daily lives, both in academic and social settings. To address the second research question—“What are Gottlieb’s translation strategies used in translating American teenagers' slang words in Easy A’?”—the researcher analyzed the frequency of each of Gottlieb’s ten subtitling strategies. The findings indicate the following distribution: the Expansion strategy was used twice (1.49%), Paraphrase was employed 20 times (29.85%), Transfer was the most frequently used strategy, appearing 37 times (55.22%), Imitation was used once (1.49%), while Transcription, Dislocation, and Resignation strategies were not observed at all. Additionally, the Condensation strategy was used three times (4.47%), and both Decimation and Deletion strategies were used twice (2.99%).

These findings align with Henrik Gottlieb’s (1992) framework of ten subtitling strategies, though only seven strategies were identified in this particular study. The Transfer strategy emerged as the most dominant, used in over half of the instances. This prevalence suggests that the translator aimed to make the translation as equivalent to the original as possible, maintaining the integrity and meaning of the source language (SL) utterances (Prasetyo, 2016; Lestari et al. 2023). The frequent use of the Paraphrase strategy indicates efforts to adapt the SL expressions to make them more understandable for the target language (TL) audience, enhancing accessibility for non-English-speaking viewers. The study further explores the application of specific translation strategies through detailed examples. The Expansion strategy is used when additional explanations are necessary to convey cultural nuances not present in the TL (Yasuka, 2015). For instance, the term "Jesus-freak" is translated to "fanatik ketuhanan" to clarify the religious and cultural context for Indonesian viewers. This term appears in a scene where characters Olive and Brandon discuss Marianne Bryant, the president of the school’s Cross Your Heart Club, who spreads rumors about Olive.

Paraphrase is a frequently utilized translation strategy, especially in cases where the original phrase cannot be directly translated into the target language (TL) due to syntactical differences or cultural nuances (Turgay, 2012; Reaza & Widyastuti, 2021). This strategy involves rephrasing the original text to convey the same meaning in a way that is natural and comprehensible in the TL. For instance, in the movie ‘Easy A’, the phrase "and boy" is translated to "astaga," which appropriately captures the expression of surprise in Indonesian. This slang term is used in a scene where the character Olive is shocked by how quickly rumors about her have spread. By using "astaga," the translator effectively conveys Olive's astonishment in a culturally relevant way. Another example of the Paraphrase strategy is seen in the translation of the word "snotty." In the context of the movie, "snotty" means impudent or insolent, and the translator correctly renders it into the target language with a term that retains the original's derogatory connotation. This demonstrates the translator's skill in maintaining the original meaning while adapting the expression to fit the linguistic and cultural context of the TL audience (see Veronika, 2009; Yasuka, 2015). By using Paraphrase, the translator ensures that the nuances of the original dialogue are preserved, allowing the target audience to fully grasp the characters' emotions and intentions.

The imitation strategy is employed for proper nouns and specific terms that do not require translation, ensuring the same form is preserved in the TL. For instance, the term
"tallywhacker," slang for penis, is directly translated to maintain its explicitness and cultural reference, reflecting a scene where Olive’s parents guess the meaning of a term Olive used in class. While some strategies were frequently used, others, like Transcription, Dislocation, and Resignation, were not observed. Transcription typically applies to non-standard speech or foreign phrases, which were not prominently featured in the movie (Turgay, 2012; Reaza & Widyastuti, 2021). Dislocation, used for adapting special effects or songs, and Resignation, where translation is impossible, were also not relevant in the context of this film.

Decimation, an extreme form of condensation where significant elements may be omitted, was used sparingly. For example, the word "stuck-up," indicating irritability, was not translated in a scene between Olive and Brandon discussing Marianne Bryant. This omission might have been intended to streamline the dialogue and maintain the flow of conversation Turgay, 2012; Reaza & Widyastuti, 2021. Comparing these findings with previous studies reveals both similarities and differences. While the Transfer strategy was also dominant in this research, other studies have employed different problem formulations. For instance, Nilasari focused on the types of English slang expressions and their meaning equivalence, while Yasuka assessed translation strategies alongside translation quality. Rohmah discussed types of slang in line with Willis’s theory. Unlike these studies, the current research exclusively examines translation strategies based on Gottlieb’s framework, without delving into translation quality assessment or types of slang.

The findings of this study underscore the importance of selecting appropriate translation strategies to convey the cultural and contextual nuances of slang. The dominant use of the Transfer strategy highlights the translator's commitment to preserving the original meaning and context (Turgay, 2012; Reaza & Widyastuti, 2021), ensuring that the subtitled version remains faithful to the source material. The effective use of Paraphrase further indicates an effort to make the content accessible and relatable to the TL audience. By analyzing the translation of slang in Easy A, the study contributes to a broader understanding of how cultural and linguistic elements are navigated in translation. This research illustrates the complexities involved in translating culturally specific language, such as slang, which carries significant social and cultural connotations. The ability to accurately translate such terms is crucial for maintaining the authenticity of the dialogue and ensuring that the audience fully grasps the intended meaning.

The research provides valuable insights into the translation strategies used in subtitling American teenagers' slang in the movie Easy A. The findings highlight the prevalence of the Transfer strategy, reflecting the translator's efforts to maintain equivalence between the source and target languages. The study also emphasizes the importance of adapting translations to fit the cultural context of the TL audience, particularly through strategies like Paraphrase and Expansion. The analysis of subtitling strategies not only sheds light on the technical aspects of translation but also underscores the cultural intricacies involved in accurately conveying slang. By preserving the original meanings and adapting expressions to be culturally relevant, translators can enhance the viewing experience for non-English-speaking audiences. This research thus contributes to the field of translation studies by providing a detailed examination of the challenges and strategies associated with translating slang in audiovisual media.

**CONCLUSION**

The research findings highlight the occurrence of 64 distinct American teenagers' slang words in the movie ‘Easy A’, with these expressions commonly used in both academic and social settings. The study identified seven of Henrik Gottlieb's ten subtitling strategies, with the Transfer strategy being the most dominant, used in 55.22% of instances. This prevalence indicates the translator's focus on maintaining the original meaning and context of the source language (SL) utterances, ensuring the translated version remains faithful to the original...
content. The frequent use of the Paraphrase strategy also demonstrates efforts to make the SL expressions more accessible and understandable for the target language (TL) audience, enhancing the subtitled movie's appeal to non-English-speaking viewers.

The research emphasizes the importance of selecting appropriate translation strategies to convey the cultural and contextual nuances of slang. By using strategies like Paraphrase and Expansion, translators can effectively adapt content to fit the cultural context of the TL audience, preserving the original meanings while making expressions culturally relevant. This study underscores the complexities involved in translating slang, a culturally specific language carrying significant social connotations. Accurately translating such terms is crucial for maintaining dialogue authenticity and ensuring the audience fully grasps the intended meaning. By providing a detailed examination of the challenges and strategies associated with translating slang in audiovisual media, this research contributes valuable insights to the field of translation studies.

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