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### The Methods Used in Translating Green's *Looking for Alaska* into *Mencari Alaska*

Ni Putu Tisna Ristya Dertayanti<sup>1</sup>, Made Susini<sup>2</sup>, Ni Wayan Kasni<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>1,2,3</sup>Universitas Warmadewa, Denpasar

e-mail: susipermana89@gmail.com

**Abstracts:** This research aims to find out the translation methods used in translating Green's (2005) novel *Looking for Alaska* into *Mencari Alaska* (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014). The data were collected by reading, marking, and note-taking every sentence or word spoken by the main character in the source and target language. They were classified based on the methods used and calculated to find out what types of translation methods are frequently used in translating novel from English into Indonesian. The analysis was based on the eight types of translation methods by Newmark (1988). The result of the analysis showed that there are eight translation methods used to translate novel from English to Indonesian. They include word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantics translation, adaptation, idiomatic translation, free translation, and communicative translation. Free translation is the most frequently used method, while faithful translation method is the least.

**Keywords:** source language; target language; translation methods

#### INTRODUCTION

Translation is the process of transferring an intention contained in one language to another or in translation term it is called as transferring meaning from source language (SL) into target language (TL) by using some methods (Rahmanwati, 2017). Translation is such a tool in transferring culture in unequal conditions responsible for biased and distorted translations, since both languages and countries have been connected each other (Newmark, 1988). By any meaning, the text in a language cannot be translated just how it is without considering what is carried out by the language, which is going to affect the meaning in target language.

In the process of translating, the translators may do some adjustments to achieve the equivalents in target language. The adjustments carried out are by applying translation methods. This implies that the translation results are also influenced by the translation methods chosen by the translators. Since the results of the translation also depend on the translation methods applied, translation methods become important to be handled by the translators and need to be discussed and examined.

Translation methods have become researchers' concerns. A number of researches on translation method have been conducted (Susini, 2017; Susini et al., 2018; Nughi & Eslamieh, 2020). The studies carried out viewed translation methods from different perspectives. By referring to translation methods (Newmark, 1988), this research is to find out the translation methods used in translating sentence or word in a novel. It is also to reveal what translation methods are widely used in the translation process.

#### METHOD

In conducting the research, the method used in this research was mixed method. Mixed method is research which includes the combination of qualitative and quantitative approach (Johnson et al., 2007). There were two kinds of data sources. Data sources in this research were the original novel of *Looking for Alaska* (Green, 2005) and its Indonesian version of *Mencari Alaska* (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014).

The data were collected by observation method. According to Sugiyono (2018: 404), observation method is data collection technique through observation (Sugiyono, 2018: 404). Observation method in this study was carried out by going through several processes. Firstly, all of the theories related to this study (either in the form of e-books or hard copies) were studied. Secondly, the novel in English and Indonesian were read by scanning reading technique to find out the sentence or word spoken by Miles

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*by Ni Wayan Kasni*

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as the main character as the object of the study. Thirdly, sentence or word found in each novel was marked, noted, and collected.

After collecting the data, all of the data were classified. The classification was based on the kinds of translation methods (Newmark, 1988). The data in English and Indonesian version were compared each other to find out the equivalence between the source and target language texts.

In the process of analyzing the data, the sentence or word spoken by Miles as the main character were analyzed and calculated as a percentage to determine which method was commonly used in translating sentence or word in the novel from English into Indonesian. The result of this step was served in simple table.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In translating sentence or word spoken by main character in the novel *Looking for Alaska* (Green, 2005) into *Mencari Alaska* (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014), some methods were applied by the translators. The methods are elaborated in the followings.

### Word for Word Translation

Newmark (1988: 45) expressed that in exactly the same words interpretation is generally called interlinear. It is interlinear since the TL is in a split up <sup>2</sup> underneath the SL words. In this technique, the social texts or words are interpreted straightforwardly, the SL word request is kept, and the words are deciphered just by their normal significance without concerning the specific circumstance. The following examples are the data found in the dialogues both in the English and Indonesian novels.

Datum (1):

SL: "You can fight with me," (Green, 2005: 63).

TL: "Kau bisa bertengkar denganku," (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 88).

The datum <sup>11</sup> above can be classified as word-for-word translation. The translators translated every single word in the source language into the target language. The analysis goes by the first word 'you' which is translated into 'kau', the word 'can' into 'bisa', the word 'fight' into 'bertengkar', and the last two words 'with me' 'denganku'. This analysis shows that every single word in the source language is translated one by one based <sup>8</sup> in their meaning and placed in the same structure as in the source language.

From the analysis, it can be said that translators used word-for-word translation to produce meaning in the target language without concerning the grammatical structure in the target language itself, whether it is acceptable or not as long as the meaning of each word is derived correctly. There is no reduction or a replacement found in the target language, which means that the translators do nothing but keeping the word translated slightly into the meaning.

Datum (2):

SL: "Hey, she wrote something in here after flood," I said (Green, 2005: 138).

TL: "Hei, dia menulis sesuatu di sini setelah banjir," kataku (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 196).

The datum <sup>21</sup> (2) above shows that the translators used word-for-word translation in translating the sentence. The word 'Hey' is translated into 'Hei', the words 'she' into 'dia', the word 'wrote' into 'menulis', the word 'into' 'sesuatu', the words 'in here' into 'di sini', the word 'after' into 'setelah', and the word 'flood' into 'banjir'.

This can be seen in the way the translator translated every single word in the source language into the target language with the exact grammatical structure and there is no reduction or replacement of word in the target language. The translators reproduce meaning in target language based on general meaning or by any meaning, out of context.

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### Literal Translation

<sup>4</sup>

Newmark (1988: 46) noted that in literal translation method the source language grammatical structures are transformed to their closest target language equivalent, but the lexical words are translated slightly without context. Literal translation is translation method in which the source language text is translated as its literal meaning to the target language and this method is called linear translation, where it is located between word-for-word translation and free translation.

The data below are presented to support the analysis of using literal translation method in translating sentence or word in the novel.

Datum (3):

SL: "Is it safe here?" (Green, 2005: 19).

TL: "*Apakah di sini aman?*" (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 24).

The datum (1) above shows that the source language text is translated by literal translation. The words 'is it' is translated into '*apakah*' by adding suffix '-kah' and the translators neglected the word 'it' to create a proper equivalent and to keep up with the structure of the target language, so it sounds more natural. If the translators translated the words 'is it' into '*apa ini*', this translation sounds unnatural referring to the target language grammatical structure. The word 'safe' is translated into '*aman*' and the word 'here' into '*di sini*'.

Based on the analysis above, it can be recognized that the translators used literal translation to translate the text into the target language. It is supported by the way the translators reconstructed the grammatical structure in the source language to fit the target language grammatical structure. Reduction in the source language words showed that the translators tried to produce proper equivalent in the target language by eliminating unnecessary word.

Datum (4):

SL: "I couldn't just swim out," (Green, 2005: 28).

TL: "*Aku tak bisa berenang keluar begitu saja,*" (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 39).

From the datum above the word 'I' is translated into '*aku*' instead of '*saya*' to show the situation in the dialogue that the first character was talking to his friend, so the word '*aku*' is more natural to this conversation. The word 'couldn't' is translated into '*tak bisa*'. The verb phrase 'swim out' is translated into '*berenang keluar*' and the translators tried to emphasize the meaning of 'swim out' to make the readers understand the context that the character tried to save himself from drowning, that is why the translators translated the verb phrase into '*berenang keluar*'. The word 'just' is translated into phrase in the target language as '*begitu saja*' and this process shows that translators added new words to adjust the target language structure.

The analysis of the sentence above shows that the translators used literal translation method. This is proven by the use of reconstruction in the source language. This reconstruction is needed to create a proper translation in the target language. The translators still translated the word literally, but reconstructing it based on the grammatical structure of the target language.

### Faithful Translation

Faithful translation as explained by Newmark (1988: 46) tries to reproduce the exact contextual meaning of the original text within the conditions of the target language grammatical constructions. The cultural words are transferred and held in the level of grammatical and lexical variation from the source language terms in translation.

The data found in the novel are presented to show the use of faithful translation in translating sentence or word.

Datum (5):

SL: "Not here, **dude**," (Green, 2005: 96)

TL: "*Tidak di sini, **dude**,*" (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 134).

The focus discussion from the datum above is the translation result of 'dude' in the source language. The word 'dude' is translated into 'dude' in the target language. It shows that the translators used faithful method to translate the word. The use of word 'dude' in the target language shows faithfulness to the context of the source language and the word 'dude' is translated into a language that is not common in the target language. The translators should translate the word 'dude' into more intelligible terms in the target language, but this is the characteristics of faithful translation and still acceptable.

Datum (6):

SL: "Your mom doesn't know **pig Latin**?" (Green, 2005: 85).



TL: *"Ibumu tak mengerti bahasa Latin jadi jadian?"* (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 119).

The datum (6) above can be classified as faithful translation by looking at the translation result of the word 'pig' in the target language. The word 'pig' is translated into *'jadi-jadian'*. The translators translated the word into the cultural meaning in the target language, where the contextual meaning of 'pig' in the target language refers to someone imitating something or in traditional term, the word *'jadi-jadian'* refers to the practice of black magic. But this translation does not provide the context intended by the source language. Nevertheless, the word 'pig' should not be split off from the word 'Latin', it must be translated as a phrase 'pig Latin'. The phrase 'pig Latin' in the source language refers to a particular language system or language game, where English words are r11ified.

From the analysis, it can be said that the translators tried to deliver the contextual meaning of the source language in the phrase 'pig Latin' but they failed to transfer the context 2 the target language. The structure of the sentence in the target language is still preserved, but they fail to transfer the meaning of the source language.

### Semantic Translation

Newmark (1988: 46) stated that semantics transla5n is looking more deeply into the nature of the language or considering the context of the language. This method is more flexible than the faithful translation. In semantic translation, there is no assonance, repetition, or word-play occurs in the target language. The use of semantic translation in translating sentence or word both from English and Indonesian novel can be seen in the following data.

Datum (7):

SL: "Yeah, you're not bad either," (Green, 2005: 23).

TL: *"Yah, kau juga lumayan,"* (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 30).

In the datum (7) the sentence 'you're not bad either' is translated into *'kau juga lumayan'* and this translation is recognizable as semantics translation. The analysis of this statement can be seen from the literal meaning of 'not bad either' which can be interpreted as good enough. Therefore, instead of translating it into *'kamu tidak buruk juga'*, it is wise to translate it into *'kau lumayan juga'* which is equivalent to the deeper meaning of the source language.

In this case, the sentence is translated by semantic translation method since the translators look over to the deeper meaning of the sentence. It is also proven that there is no word-play, repetition, or assonance found in the target language, which makes this translation sound more natural.

Datum (8):

SL: "It wasn't big deal. I got out fine," (Green, 2005: 29).

TL: *"Sudahlah, aku tidak apa-apa kok"* (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 40).

20 The translators in the datum (8) above used semantic translation to translate the source language text. It is seen from the translation of the sentence 'it wasn't big deal' into *'sudahlah'*, the sentence in the source language means that the event in the story is not that bad and do not need to worry about. Therefore, the translators see that the sentence is not an important thing or something not to worry about. The word *'sudahlah'* in the target language indicates that it is not a big problem or not that bad, where this translation fits the target language equivalent meaning of 'it wasn't big deal'. The second sentence in the source language 'I got out fine' is translated into *'aku tidak apa-apa kok'*. The translators translated the sentence in the proper equivalent meaning of the target language. The sentence 'I got out fine' semantically means that the person is fine or in a good condition, therefore the equivalent *'aku tidak apa-apa'* is the correct interpretation of this sentence.

From the analysis above, it can be concluded that the translators is looking into the contextual meaning of the sentence spoken by the character. The matching between the SL meaning and TL equivalent created a proper translation result.

### Adaptation

Newmark (1988: 46) explained adaptation method as the freest meth1 of all translation methods he purposed. Adaptation method produces translation result by converting the source language culture to the target language culture and rewriting th6text in the target language. As a result, the meaning of the text is discovered based on the culture in the source language and sometimes the text in the target

language is rewritten based on the culture and sometimes does not relate to the literal meaning of the source language text. The followings are the data found in the novel performed to support the idea of using adaptation in the translation.

Datum (9):

SL: “**The Beast** got me.” (Green, 2005: 61).

TL: “*Si Raksasa menghantamku.*” (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 84).

The datum (9) above is translated by using adaptation method. The focus analysis in the SL text is the bold text ‘the beast’. The word ‘beast’ is associated as a wild animal, but in the target language culture there is no term like that. Therefore, the translators tried to adjust the TL culture and translated it as ‘*raksasa*’. The word ‘*raksasa*’ can be the best equivalent of the TL culture, because in the target language culture the word ‘*raksasa*’ is interpreted as something wild and dangerous. The translators had successfully transferred the culture from SL to the closest equivalent of the TL.

From the explanation above it can be seen that the term in the source language is adjusted to the culture of the target language. As Newmark (1988: 46) stated that the adaptation method is converting the culture in the SL and producing the closest equivalent of the target language culture, so that the readers can easily understand the context.

Datum (10):

SL: “Um, that’s out of the blue,” (Green, 2005: 115).

TL: “*Mm, pertanyaanmu tidak ada ujung pangkalnya.*” (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 163).

The datum above shows that the translators used adaptation method to translate the text in SL. The phrase ‘out of the blue’ means unexpectedly or something done suddenly and if this phrase was translated based on its meaning, it would be ‘*tiba-tiba*’ in the target language. In the other hand, the translators translated ‘that’s out of the blue’ into ‘*pertanyaanmu tidak ada ujung pangkalnya*’. The analysis of this translation result comes from the replacement of the word ‘that’s’ into ‘*pertanyaanmu*’ which refers to the question from the interlocutor in the dialogue and ‘out of the blue’ into ‘*tidak ada ujung pangkalnya*’ as a response to the main character situation, where he should answered the never ending question from the interlocutor. The phrase ‘*tidak ada ujung pangkalnya*’ in TL culture is an expression to respond to something that has no end. The translators translated the phrase in the SL, but kept defending the theme of the dialogues and produced a proper equivalent in the TL.

Along with the analysis above, it can be recognized that the translators used adaptation method to translate the SL text. The characteristic of adaptation method can be easily found in how the translators convert the culture of SL into the TL culture and in this case, the translators produced equivalent based on the culture of the TL.

### Free Translation

Newmark (1988: 46) stated that free translation reproduces content without context, it is so-called as intra-lingual translation, often lengthy and haughty, and not a translation at all. The matter in free translation is reproducing without manner or without the original structure of the SL text. The result of the free translation is often in the form of paraphrasing, where most of the result is served in longer structure than the original text.

The examples below are the data found in the novel and these examples are presented to show that the translators used free translation in translating sentence in the novel.

Datum (11):

SL: “I can unpack, Mom,” (Green, 2005: 12).

TL: “*Aku bisa melakukannya sendiri, Mom.*” (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 13).

The datum (11) above can be classified as the example of using free translation. The analysis can be seen from the text ‘I can unpack’ which is translated into ‘*Aku bisa melakukannya sendiri*’. The literal meaning of ‘I can unpack’ is ‘*aku bisa membuka*’, but this text is not the meaning of the source language. The literal meaning of that text is not acceptable because the readers will not be able to understand the context and what is going on in the dialogue. Furthermore, the text ‘*aku bisa membuka*’ cannot explain the situation in the dialogue, therefore the translators paraphrased the meaning of ‘I can unpack’ into ‘*aku bisa melakukannya sendiri*’ to create the contextual meaning and to deliver the

meaning for the readers. This is acceptable since the context of the dialogue is about the main character can do the activity by himself and the translation result can be accepted in the target language.

By the analysis before, it can be concluded that the translators used free translation to translate the text in SL, so the readers in TL can easily understand the meaning. Other than that, the translators also paraphrased the text into certain length so that the readers get the information of the dialogue.

Datum (12):

SL: "That's pretty amazing, the countries thing," (Green, 2005: 16).

TL: "*Luar biasa, hafalan nama-nama negara tadi*," (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 18).

The datum (12) has two different analysis. The first one is the translation of the text 'That's pretty amazing' and the second one is 'the countries thing'. The text 'That's pretty amazing' is translated into '*luar biasa*'. The translators tried to reproduce nearest equivalent in the TL text by not translating the literal meaning, because the literal meaning of 'That's pretty amazing' is '*itu cukup menakjubkan*' and this translation is not natural. Therefore, the translators translated it into '*luar biasa*' to emphasize the meaning of the text, so it does not sound strange and more acceptable. The phrase 'the countries thing' is translated into '*hafalan nama-nama negara tadi*', in here the translators added the word '*hafalan*' and '*tadi*' to refer the previous topic in the dialogue. Other than that, the translators here eliminated some words in SL text, like 'the' and 'thing', they paraphrased those words into clearer information. As a result, the translators changed the literal meaning of the phrase 'the countries thing' into readable phrase as '*hafalan nama-nama negara tadi*', so that the readers can comprehend the meaning of the text.

Along with the explanation above, the text is undoubtedly translated by using free translation method. The rewritten phrase and text in the TL shows that the translators have paraphrased the text and created more comprehend text. Free translation was used to produce a natural translation result and performed to create such an acceptable text.

### Idiomatic Translation

Idiomatic translation is called as natural translation. Newmark (1988: 47) explained that idiomatic translation produces the 'message' of the original but supervises to change the differences of meaning by choosing colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original text (Newmark, 1988).

The data found in the English and Indonesian novels are performed to support the idea of using idiomatic translation in translating sentence or word.

Datum (13):

SL: "Sometimes, I don't get you," (Green, 2005: 52).

TL: "*Kadang aku tidak memahamimu*," (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 73).

The analysis of the datum (13) above is focusing on the bold text. The bold text in the source language is translated by using idiomatic translation. The sentence 'I don't get you' is translated into '*tidak memahamimu*'. The clause 'don't get you' has the equivalent meaning with *do not understand* or *hard to understand*, where in the target language culture this text is equivalent with '*tidak memahamimu*'. The text '*tidak memahamimu*' can be the closest equivalent, since this is more natural and in accordance with the idiom in the TL culture.

From the translation above it can be said that the translators used idiomatic translation to transfer the meaning from the SL to the TL. Besides, the translators reached out the actual meaning of the phrase by considering its context in the target language.

Datum (14):

SL: "Um. I'm in favor of it?" (Green, 2005: 57).

TL: "*Mmm. Aku mendukungnya?*" (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 79).

In the translation (14) the bold text is one of idioms in the source language. The sentence 'I'm in favor of it' is translated into '*aku mendukungnya*' in the target language. As seen from the result in TL, it is recognizable that the sentence is translated by its idiomatic meaning. The sentence 'I'm in favor of it' is showing a support or an agreement of something, therefore the translators translated it into '*Aku mendukungnya*'. The translators here tried to reproduce more natural translation result, so the readers can understand the context of the text.



Based on the explanation above, the translators used idiomatic translation to deliver the meaning of an idiom in the source language so that the result in the target language is based on the meaning of the source language. This translation result is produced to create a proper equivalent in the communication culture of the target language.

### Communicative Translation

According to Newmark (1988: 47) communicative translation is a method to generate the same contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership. In the other meaning, communicative translation tries to produce a readable and understandable translation to the audience.

The followings are the data of using communicative translation in translating novel from English into Indonesian.

Datum (15):

SL: "You lost your virginity to her?" (Green, 2005: 63).

TL: "*Dia orang pertama yang bercinta denganmu?*" (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 87).

The datum (15) above is recognized as communicative translation. This is because the text in the source language contains taboo word or unfamiliar term in the target language culture. The use of the word 'virginity' in the source language is not commonly used in the target language and because of that, the translators try to reproduce more familiar and understandable meaning in the target language. The sentence 'you lost your virginity to her' has the same meaning as '*dia orang pertama yang bercinta denganmu*' in the target language. The text 'lost your virginity' is translated into a commonly used text in the target language and the text '*pertama bercinta denganmu*' can be the equivalent for 'lost your virginity'.

From the example above, it can be said that the translators aim to translate contextual meaning in the source language, both in the linguistic aspect and the content aspect so that the result can be accepted and understood by the target language readers. Communicative translation supports the idea of delivering the most familiar and understandable meaning in the target language.

Datum (16):

SL: "I know, Mom. I miss you guys, too. But I really **want to do well** here" (Green, 2005: 73).

TL: "*Aku tahu, Mom. Aku juga merindukan kalian. Tapi aku sangat ingin nilaiku bagus di sini*" (Ruzini & Wulandari, 2014: 101).

The focus discussion from the datum (16) above is the translation result of 'want to do well'. The text 'want to do well' is translated into '*ingin nilaiku bagus*' because the translators look over to the context of the dialogue. If the text 'want to do well' is translated literally, the result would become '*ingin melakukan yang terbaik*' but this result is not the context of the SL text. The situation in the dialogue talks about the study of the main character and translating the phrase into '*ingin nilaiku bagus*' can fulfill the communication aspect in the target language. The topic in school and learning activity in the target language is mostly about a grade, therefore the SL text is translated properly based on the target language culture.

The data found in the English and Indonesian novel entitled *Looking for Alaska* are served in the table and listed based on the use of translation method purposed by Newmark (1988). The classification of the data below is based on the eight translation methods and grouped by how many times the methods are used to translate the SL texts from English into Indonesian. This classification can be seen in the table below.

Table 1 The Occurance of the Translation Methods

| No. | Translation Methods       | Amount | Percentage |
|-----|---------------------------|--------|------------|
| 1.  | Word-for-word Translation | 70     | 23,4%      |
| 2.  | Literal Translation       | 62     | 20,7%      |
| 3.  | Faithful Translation      | 2      | 0,9%       |
| 4.  | Semantics Translation     | 25     | 8,3%       |

|    |                            |            |             |
|----|----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 5. | Adaptation                 | 12         | 4%          |
| 6. | Free Translation           | 94         | 31,4%       |
| 7. | Idiomatic Translation      | 12         | 4%          |
| 8. | Communica-tive Translation | 22         | 7,3%        |
|    | <b>Total</b>               | <b>299</b> | <b>100%</b> |

From the calculation above, it can be concluded that the translators used eight translation methods to translate the SL texts from English into Indonesian novel of *Looking for Alaska*. As seen in the table above, it can be said that the free translation is the method frequently used by the translators, with the total number of 94 or 31,4% of all. The following method with the total number of 70 or 23,4% is word-for-word translation, literal translation in the number of 62 or 20,7% of the use by the translators. In the fifth position with the total number of 24 or 8,3% is semantics translation and followed by communicative translation with the total number of 22 or 7,3%, adaptation and idiomatic translation with the total number 12 or 4%, and the less-used method is faithful translation with the total number of 2 or 0,9%.

The table shows that, free translation is the method frequently used in translating the SL texts from English into Indonesian novel. Free translation method is very suitable for translating novel, because the free translation considers the meaning and the context of the source language and reproduces more clear translation result so that the readers in the target language understand the meaning of the text. On the other hand, the process of translating novel must consider the language style as novel is one of prose fictions. There are so many diction, imagery, and idiomatic expression.

Furthermore, Newmark (1988: 170) added that novel contains idiomatic expressions and the phrases in the dialogues which are often in the form of meaningful context based on the socio-cultural context in the source language. Likewise idiomatic expressions or phrases contain connotative meaning so the translator must correctly find the equivalent according to the social and cultural context of TL users. Therefore, the free translation method is the suitable method to transfer the idiomatic expression and the connotative meaning in the SL since this method focuses on the content of the text rather than the structure of the text itself.

## CONCLUSION

The translators used more than one method to translate the text from English into Indonesian. The aim of using more than one method is to produce the closest equivalence and to achieve more natural translation results in the target language. Free translation is the most frequently used method in translating sentence or word from English into Indonesian novel. This method transfers the closest meaning from the source language into the target language in long translation result by paraphrasing the meaning in the target language to deliver the information naturally.

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