# AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN NOVEL PAPER TOWNS BY JOHN GREEN

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## Abstract

The objective of this research is to identify the types of figurative language and the translation procedures applied in the translation as well as to find out the translation quality assessment based on Newmark's and Nababan et al's theories. Descriptive qualitative research is the method used in this study. The result shows that there are 100 sentences that have figurative language, they are :metaphor 21%, hyperbole 25%, simile 34%, personification 18%, and idiom 2%. The translation procedures includes compensation 18%, expansion 8%, through-translation 39%, naturalization 1%, transference 8%, synonymy 9%, and transposition 17%. Finally, the outcome of the translation quality assessment indicate that 1 data is less accurate, less acceptable. Whilst, 2 less readable. The rest of the translation are accurate, acceptable, and readable.

**Keywords**: Figurative Language, Translations, Newmark, Translation Quality Assessment

## INTRODUCTION

Language can be defined as a communication in human life. As humans we cannot escape from communication and social interactions. Language can be used to express someone's feelings or emotion as well as their ideas and imaginations which can be expressed through speaking or writing. For instance of written language are poetry, novel newspaper, and magazine, while spoken language can be found in songs, speeches, and other forms of expression discussion. Therefore we must understand language as a way of survival. Translation is important but the process of translating will be difficult because of the differences in language system and culture between the source language and the target language. According to Newmark (1988, p.5) "Translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text." Not to mention, translating a figurative language is another challenge that translators have to face. We may frequently read figurative language in any media yet we do not understand the figurative language contains in the text. According to Kennedy (2002, p.479) "Figurative language refers to words, and groups of words, that exaggerate or alter the usual meaning in figures of speeches of the component of words. A figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, from the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotations of words." The writer is interested in finding out what the meaning of the figurative expressions and what type of figurative language is used in the chosen novel by John Green entitled Paper Towns because he shows his style with figurative language when he is describing characters. This novel tells the story of a girl named Margo Roth Spiegelman who always leaves a clue before the next day she disappears. One night Margo invites Quentin her childhood friend on an adventure before the next day Margo disappears and leaves a clue for Quentin. And Quentin did everything he could to find Margo with the clues left by the girl.

Previously, many researcher have done their research on figurative language, three of the similar ones were chosen to be presented here. Firstly, an article written by Trisna Dinillah Arya (2016) who used theory by Leech to analyzed the types of figurative language and to identify

contextual meaning of figurative language found in novel 'Alchemist', the results of the study shows: from 70 data, he found 30 items or 42.9% of simile, 27 items or 38.6% of personification, 12 items or 17.1% of metaphor, and 1 item or 1.4% of hyperbole. Secondly, a research done by Fika Pratiwi Putri (2017) who classify and describe the meaning of figurative language from Kodaline album entitled 'In The Perfect World' using theory by Kennedy, the writer found 3 similes, 14 metaphors, 4 personifications, 9 hyperboles in the album. Lastly, a work conducted by Bertaria Sohnata Hutauruk (2019) who analyzed students' poetry to identify figurative language and found three types of figurative language based on the data which are: symbol, metaphors and personifications. The differences between this study and the ones previously mentioned is that this study analyzed the translation quality assessment while the others are not, also the theory being used, this research use Newmark's and Nababan's theories. The similarity are the topic that is figurative language, and the analyzation of the types of figurative language and to explain its meaning.

## Translation Procedure

According to Newmark's (1988) theory, there are nineteen translation procedure namely; the role of context, transference, naturalization, cultural equivalent, functional equivalent, descriptive equivalent, synonymy, through-translation, shifts or transposition, modulation, recognized translation, translation label, compensation, compentional analysis, reduction and expansion, paraphrase, other procedure, couplets, notes-addition-glosses. This study only uses compensation, expansion, through-translation, synonymy, transposition. Newmark's (1988) explained **Transference** is "emprunt, loan word, transcription, the process of transferring a SL word to a TL text as a translation procedure." (p.81). Then **Expansion**, "For expansion, a not uncommon shift, often neglected, is SL adjective, English TL adverb plus past participle, or present participle plus object." (p.90). Next is **Through-Translation** "The literal translation of common collocations, names of organisations, the components of compounds and perhaps phrases is known as caique or loan translation." (p.84). After that **Synonymy** is "This procedure is used for a SL word where there is no clear one-to-one equivalent, and the word is not important in the text, in particular for adjectives or adverbs of quality which in principle are outside the grammar and less important than other components of a sentence. A synonym is only appropriate where literal translation is not possible and because the word is not important enough for componential analysis." (p.84). Lasly is **Transposition** "a translation procedure involving a change in the grammar from SL to TL. One type, the change from singular to plural." (p.90).

## Translation Quality Assessment.

According to Nababan et al (2012) there are three aspects of translation quality assessment; accuracy, acceptability, and readability. Each component has a score, and the better the translation, the higher the score.

**Table 1** - Translation Accuracy Assessment Instrument

| Translation Category | Score | Quality Parameter |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Accurate | 3 | There is no meaning distortion while translating the meaning of a word, technical term, phrase, clause, sentence, or linguistic text from the source into the target language. |

| Less Accurate | 2 | The majority of word, technical term, phrase, clause, and sentence meanings from the source language text have already been accurately redirected into the language target. The integrity of the message is nonetheless compromised by a distortion of meaning, a double meaning in the translation, or an omitted meaning. |
|---|---|---|
| Not Accurate | 1 | A word's, technical terms, phrase's, clause's, sentences, or linguistic text's meaning is incorrectly translated into the target language or omitted. |

**Table 2** - Translation Acceptability Assessment Instrument

| Translation Category | Score | Quality Parameter |
|---|---|---|
| Acceptable | 3 | The translation sounds natural; the reader is familiar with the majority of the technical vocabulary used; the phrases, clauses, and sentences utilized follow Bahasa Indonesia. |
| Less Acceptable | 2 | The majority of translations feel natural, however there are occasional grammatical problems or issues with the use of technical terms.. |
| Not Acceptable | 1 | Translations don't seem natural or like they were done by translators; The reader is unfamiliar with the technical phrases used because they are not frequently used; The words, clauses, and sentences used do not follow Indonesian grammar rules. |

**Table 3** - Translation Readability Assessment Instrument

| Translation Category | Score | Quality Parameter |
|---|---|---|
| Readable | 3 | Words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences or translated texts can be easily understood by the reader |
| Less Readable | 2 | In general, translations can be understood by the reader; however there are certain sections that must be read more than one times to understand the translation. |

| Not Readable | 1 | Translations are difficult for readers to understand |
|---|---|---|

## METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative method. Fraenkel and Wallen (1993) say that descriptive method is a method used to explain, analyze, and classify, something through various techniques, survey, interview, questionnaire, and test. There are various processes taken in the data collection and analysis process; First, reading the novel *Paper Towns,* English and Indonesian version. Second, identifying and highlighting the figurative language expression in the English novel. Third, collecting all findings. Fourth, classifying the datas based on Newmark's theory. Then, the data are elaborated on how the translation strategy is applied to idiomatic translation from SL into TL. Finally, the supporting theories are applied to the analyzed data. In addition, this research used Nababan (2012) theory for the raters about the translation quality in terms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

The study findings from 100 data collected are: the writer found 25 Hyperbole, 21 Metaphor, 34 Simile, 18 Personification, and 2 Idiom. In terms of translation procedure the writer found 7 translation procedure applied in translating figurative languages there are, 39 through-translation, 9 synonymy, 18 compensation, 1 naturalisation, 8 expansion, 8 transference, and 17 transposition. The raters indicated the result of the translation quality assessment shows all datas a high level accuracy, high level acceptability, and high level readability.

**Table 4 –** Findings and Result

| Figurative Language | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Hyperbole | 25 | 25% |
| Metaphor | 21 | 21% |
| Simile | 34 | 34% |
| Personification | 18 | 18% |
| Idiom | 2 | 2% |
| **Total** | 100 | 100% |

### Discussion

As stated in the results above, there are 100 data. 8 of which are thoroughly evaluated in discussion.

| 01/PT/ENG/SL/P14 | "God, that is **one candy-coated hunnybunny**." |
|---|---|

| 01/PT/IND/TL/P22 | "*Ya Tuhan, **hunnybunny yang satu itu benar-benar kinclong**.*" |
|---|---|

The phrase "…***one candy-coated hunnybunny***." in the SL is translated into a metaphoric clause "…***hunnybunny yang satu itu benar-benar kinclong***." in the TL in which it cataphorically refers to "…she was so pretty. She was just so awesome." (p.14). The translation procedure used here is **Compensation** "this is said to occur when loss of meaning, sound-effect,

metaphor or pragmatic effect in one part of a sentence is compensated in another part, or in a contiguous sentence." (Newmark 1988, p.90). Catford (1965, p.79) stated that "unit shift as a change of rank, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL in a unit at a different rank in the TL." Stated in urbandictionary.com, *Candy-Coated* is "When a car has candy paint, or a high gloss paint finish, on it." and *Hunny-Bunny* is "a nickname said to a person who you love, like or very sweet." The translation procedure used here is **Transference** "transference (emprunt, loan word, transcription) is the process of transferring a SL word to TL text as a translation procedure" (Newmark 1988, p.81)

According to Nababan (2012) there are three aspects of translation quality assessment; the accuracy score (3), the acceptability (3), and the readability (3).

| 02/PT/ENG/SL/P7 | "I got up and opened window, but the screen stayed between us, **pixelating her.**" |
|---|---|
| 02/PT/IND/TL/P13 | "Aku bangkit dan membuka jendela tapi kasanya tetap terbentang di antara kami, *membuat wajahnya terlihat kotak-kotak.*" |

The two-word phrase "*... pixelating her.*" in the SL is translated into a four-word expression "…*membuat wajahnya terlihat kotak-kotak.*" in the TL. Thus, the Translation Procedure applied here is **Expansion**. According to Newmark (1988, p.90) "For expansion, a not uncommon shift, often neglected, is SL adjective, English TL adverb plus past participle, or present participle plus object:…"
According to Alan Duff (1981, p.23) "In good translation, length is determined by the structure of the target language and not by the number of words in the source language. Padding occurs when words are merely transferred without regard for the potential of the target language." According to urbandictionary.com *Pixelate* is "…making the image look 'blocky' and generally bad." According to Merriam-Webster (1828) *blocky* means "filled with or made up of blocks or patches."
According to Nababan (2012) there are three aspects of translation quality assessment; the accuracy score (3), the acceptability (3), and the readability (2).

| 03/PT/ENG/SL/P293 | "I looked down and thought about **how I was made of paper**." |
|---|---|
| 03/PT/IND/TL/P337 | "*Aku menatap kebawah dan berpikir **bahwa aku terbuat dari kertas.***" |

The metaphor **"…how I was made of paper."** in the SL is translated into **"…*bahwa aku terbuat dari kertas.*"** in the TL in which it anaphorically refers to "…I was the flimsy-foldable person". (p.293). Thus the Translated Procedure applied here is **Through-Translation.** Newmark (1988, p.84) stated "Through-Translation is the literal translation of common collocations, names of organizations and components of compounds. It can also be called calque or loan translation." Molina & Albir called this an **Literal Translation,** they explained "literal translation occurs when there is an exact structural, lexical, even morphological equivalence between two languages."

According to Nababan (2012) there are three aspects of translation quality assessment; the accuracy score (3), the acceptability (3), and the readability (3).

| 04/PT/ENG/SL/P139 | "Strips of cracked paint wrinkled away from the walls, **like insects clinging to a nest**." |
|---|---|

| 04/PT/IND/TL/P161 | "*Cat retak gugur terkelupas dari dinding,* ***mirip serangga menggelayut di sarang.***" |
|---|---|

The simile expression "…**like insects clinging to a nest.**" in SL is translated into "…***mirip serangga menggelayut di sarang***." in the TL. Thus the Translation Procedure applied is **Synonymy.** According to Newmark (1988, p.84) "Synonymy it is a near TL equivalent." Chesterman (2016, p.99) mentioned the semantic strategy **Synonymy** "this strategy selects not the obvious equivalent but a synonymy or near-synonymy for it."
*'cling' vi* 2. *melekat* (KII, 2017: 148) which is synonymous with '*menempel, menggantung, menggayut*' (TBI, 2008: 427). '*gayut*', '*bergayut*' *v* means '*menggelantung*' that is a synonym of '*bergelayutan*' (TBI, 2008: 162). Basic verbs starting with '*meng-*' in '*menggelayut*' can work grammatically as verb-forming affixes, "*verba dasar terikat adalah bentuk dasar yang secara potensial berkategori verba karena bentuk itu akan berubah menjadi verba setelah mengalami pengafiksan dengan prefix 'meng-'.*" (Moeliono et al, 2017, p.109)
According to Nababan (2012) there are three aspects of translation quality assessment; the accuracy score (3), the acceptability (3), and the readability (3).

| 05/PT/ENG/SL/P199 | "I had been imagining her without listening, without knowing that **she made as poor a window as I did**." |
|---|---|

| 05/PT/IND/TL/P228 | "Aku membayangkan dia tanpa mendengarkan, tanpa mengetahui bahwa ***dia adalah jendela yang buruk sama seperti aku.***" |
|---|---|

The simile expression "…**she made as poor a window as I did**..." in the SL is translated into ***"…dia adalah jendela yang buruk sama seperti aku…"*** in the TL. Thus the Translation Procedure applied is **Compensation.** According to Newmark (1988, p.90) "This is said to occur when loss of meaning, sound-effect, metaphor or pragmatic effect in one part of a sentence is compensated in another part, or in a contiguous sentence." According to Catford (1965, p.79) unit shift as a change of rank, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL in a unit at a different rank in the TL.
According to Nababan (2012) there are three aspects of translation quality assessment; the accuracy score (2), the acceptability (2), and the readability (2).

| 06/PT/ENG/SL/P201 | "**Chuck Norris's tears can cure cancer.**" |
|---|---|

| 06/PT/IND/TL/P231 | "***Air mata Chuck Norris dapat menyembuhkan kanker.***" |
|---|---|

The hyperbole expression **"Chuck Norris's tears can cure cancer."** in the SL is translated into "***Air mata Chuck Norris dapat menyembuhkan kanker***." In the TL. Thus, the Translation

Procedure applied here **Through-Translation**. According to Newmark (1988, p.84) "Through-Translation is the literal translation of common collocations, names of organizations and components of compounds. It can also be called calque or loan translation." Molina & Albir called this a **Literal Translation,** they explained "literal translation occurs when there is an exact structural, lexical, even morphological equivalence between two languages."
According to Nababan (2012) there are three aspects of translation quality assessment; the accuracy score (3), the acceptability (3), and the readability (3).

| | |
|---|---|
| 07/PT/ENG/SL/P215 | "For the longest time, it felt kind of like **my chest was cracking open**, but not precisely in an upleasant way." |
| 07/PT/IND/TL/P247 | "*Untuk waktu yang sangat lama, rasanya **dadaku retak dan terbelah** tapi tidak dengan cara yang tidak menyenangkan.*" |

The hyperbole expression **"…my chest was cracking open…" the continuous form** in the SL is translated into **"…*dadaku retak dan terbelah*…" the passive voice** in the TL. Thus, the Translation Procedure applied here is **Transposition.** According to Newmark (1988, p.85) "Transposition is is a translation procedure involving a change in the grammar from SL to TL." Catford (1965, p.6) called this **Structure Shifts** "occurs when there are two languages for instance source language and target language, which have different element of structure and they have formal correspondence." Stated in Oxford Dictionary *Crack* is "line where something has broken, but not into separate parts."
According to Nababan (2012) there are three aspects of translation quality assessment; the accuracy score (3), the acceptability (3), and the readability (3).

| | |
|---|---|
| 08/PT/ENG/SL/P200 | "**The clock was always punishing**,..." |
| 08/PT/IND/TL/P230 | "*Jam itu memang selalu melelahkan*,…" |

The SL personified expression **in the continuous form "The clock was always punishing…"** is translated into **the simple tense** "*Jam itu memang selalu melelahkan*…" in the TL. Thus, the Translation Procedure applied here is **Shifts or Transpositions**. According to Newmark (1988, p.85) "Shifts or Transpositions is a translation procedure involving a change in the grammar from SL to TL. The change from singular to plural, or in the position of the adjective, is automatic and offers the translator no choice." According to Catford (1965, p.79) "unit shift as a change of rank, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL in a unit at a different rank in the TL."
According to Nababan (2012) there are three aspects of translation quality assessment; the accuracy score (3), the acceptability (3), and the readability (3).

**CONCLUSION**

The researcher found 5 types of figurative language and 7 translation procedure applied in translating the novel entitled *Paper Towns* by John Green. The types of figurative language is Hyperbole, Metaphor Simile, Personification, and Idiom. For the translation procedure applied is through-translation, synonymy, compensation, naturalisation, expansion, transference, and transposition. The result of the translation quality assessment shows all datas have a high level

accuracy. The researcher found 5 types of figurative language and 7 translation procedure applied by the translator in translating the data found in the novel entitled *Paper Towns* by John Green. The types of figurative language found are Hyperbole, Metaphor Simile, Personification, and Idiom. For the translation procedure applied, there are through-translation, synonymy, compensation, naturalisation, expansion, transference, and transposition. The result of the translation quality assessment indicate that 1 data is less accurate, less acceptable. Whilst, 2 data are less readable. The rest of the translations are scored as accurate, acceptable, and readable.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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