

## TRANSLATING A RELIGIOUS BOOK “Why I am a Muslim” PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

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### Abstract

The idea translated is a concept or message that the author writes in his writings. Translating Books with religious nuances is more than just transferring the concept or storyline, because it has a high sensibility, which is loaded with sacred meanings that can only be understood well by adherents who really live the expression and means in earnest beside learn and explore the values of religion and belief earlier, but it should also be able to describe messages that can be affected by culture or literal. This article describes the authors' experiences when translating English religious nuances book containing personal experiences from MS. Asma Gull Hasan concerns grief as a minority Muslim group in America. Computer Assisted Translation (CAT) Tool using aid translators to edit, manage and store translations.

**Keywords:** *Religious, culture, translation process, CAT tools*

### INTRODUCTION

Language one ways interacting to other people to tell every mind, ideas, opinion, and feel. In the era of globalization, learning English is very important because. English able for linking and make easily people in the most of countries are communicated each other based on the development in the field of economic, business, education and also politic (Parmawati, 2018). Without language, interaction will be harder because language can tells the thing well. Language is also called as system that is a sound has character. Language is a system of communication in speech and writing used by people of a particular country (Press Oxford University, 2007). One of character of language is unique, the uniqueness of language is owned by each country because there are many languages in the world, one of International languages and the most used is English. English had been second a language for people in the world, but not at all to understand English. Commonly, to understand other language especially English someone needs to translate that language.

It is changing a language to other with the same meaning, original language is called source language (SL) and target language is called (TL). There are four definition translation, the first is a science, secondly, it is a skill. thirdly, an art. lastly, a matter of taste, and the variety of meritorious translations is the reflection of individual differences (Newmark, 1988).

To made easier the readers in read the book of Why I Am a Muslim, the writer can applied CAT Tools in this translation. Furthermore, it is interesting to enrich vocabulary, new term, and more about content of a book

Such as the translation of literature works, the translation of religion expressions has syntactic and complexity and high difficulty. Cannot be denied that religion expression have typical with own level of difficulty. Many factors influence the emergence of these difficulties, one of them

is religious expression are loaded with secret meanings that can only be well understood by adherents who truly live those expressions and meanings seriously in addition to learning and exploring the values of religion and belief.

Why I am a Muslim novel author by Asma Gull Hasan tells the personal experience of its author living as a Muslim minority in America. Muslim in minority country is different from other, it is make us for keep patient and fight down our way. Where, we should being up hold Islam. In this novel tells different about buffetings a Muslim, culture, and religious sect. To be a Muslim in another country especially America need to more patient. Although in ways she had wish to be a Jewish. She is Pakistani and India as a syiah Muslim like other American Muslim. Islam to be minority in America but Muslims is proud to be American.

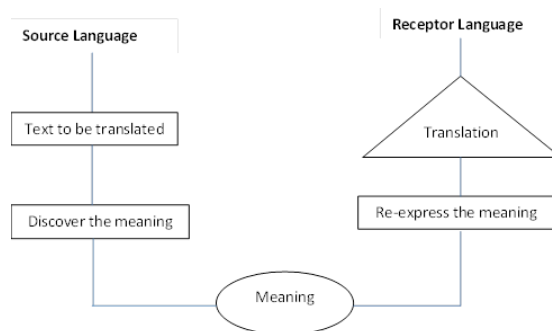
Ms. Asma tells about tenets of Islam as well as the interaction between the religion itself and various cultural traditions. That have gained religious status in some areas where Islam is followed. She explains that the majority of Muslims are not .She describes Sufism in glowing terms and points out the decentralized nature of Islam. And in her final chapter, she is tells a lot between Islam and American values.

### **The Translation Process**

Translation consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style (Nida & Taber, 2003) cited in (Ordudari, 2013). Then translation is expressing in another language the meaning of a text (Newmark, 1988).

To transfer the meaning in translation, a translator needs to follow several steps. Larson presents the process of translation in a diagram. What we have done when translating the book “Why I Am a Muslim” is similar with what is described above. The process begins from providing the text in source language, in this case is a English religious book. Then the translator should discover the meaning that is going to be transfered into receptor language. Hence, we read and tried to comprehend all about the book; and at the same time we figured out the unusual words such as religious words, words which are to be translated and strange or unfamiliar words. After the meaning has been discovered and understood very well, the translator re-expresses the meaning in the way that is accepted in receptor language. Finally the result is the text that has been translated into receptor language.

**Figure 1:** Translation Process (Larson, 1984)



The process begins from providing the text in source language, in this case is a English religious book. Then the translator have to discover the meaning that is going to be transfered into receptor language. Hence, we read and tried to comprehend all about the book; and at the same time we figured out the unusual words such as religious words, words which are to be translated and strange or unfamiliar words. After the meaning has been discovered and understood very well, the translator re-tells the meaning what that is accepted in receptor language. Finally the result is the text that has been translated into receptor language.

**METHOD**

The Methods sections should be brief, but they should include sufficient technical information to allow the experiments to be repeated by a qualified reader. Only some methods should be described in detail. Cite previously published procedures in References.

There are eight translation methods that are proposed such as Word for word translation, Literal translation, Faithful translation, Semantic Translation, Adaption, Free translation, Idiomatic translation, and Communicative translation, the most widely used methods are free translation and communicative translation. This is because these two types of translations translate the “concept” or content rather than “the language” (Newmark, 1988).

The Translation method applied when translating the book is *literal translation, faithful translation, Adaptation, free translation and communicative translation* because that method are more suitable for this book which have culture word aspecially religion word. So, it should be difference translating than other word. The translation will involve some translation procedures. In doing the translation, several dictionaries such as English – Dictionary, Arabic – English dictionary, English – Arabic dictionary, CAT Tool, and Quran are used.

In addition, since the source text contains a lot of proper nouns, cultural bound words, religion word. Below are the list of translation procedures that can be applied to submit of the text such as words and phrases (Newmark, 1988).

**Table 1.** Translation Procedures

Translation Procedures	Explanation
Transference	This procedure is used when the translator applies the exact word from the source language (SL) to the text in target language (TL). Then Newmark (1988) mentioned that the word becomes “loan word”

Adapted from Newmark

Functional equivalent	This procedure needs words that are not related to particular culture and makes the SL word neutral and general. It is applied to cultural words.
Descriptive equivalent	Sometimes it produces “new specific term” and adds more words for giving clearer explanation. Newmark (1988) emphasised that this procedure is “the most accurate way of translating” because it deculturalizes a cultural word.
Synonymy	This procedure transfers the SL word with the description of it.
Through – translation	The procedure is employed when the equivalent of the SL word is unclear. The the SL word in is translated to TL word that has near equivalent in a context.
Modulation	Through-translation applies literal translation in translating common collocations, names of organisations, components of compounds and phrases.
Shift or Transposition	<p>This procedure changes the point of view from SL to TL. In this procedure, “... the double negative is not as forceful as the positive ...”. It can also be in the form of :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abstract for concrete ,</li> <li>Cause for effect</li> <li>One part for another</li> <li>Reversal of terms</li> <li>Active for passive</li> <li>Space for time</li> <li>Intervals and limits, and</li> <li>Change of symbols</li> </ol> <p>This procedure is divided into three types. The first one is the changes of singular to plural. The second type is used when the grammatical structure in SL is not there in TL. The third type is the one where literal translation is grammatically possible but may not accord with natural usage in the TL,” (p.86). Several examples of transposition are :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SL verb, TL noun</li> <li>SL conjunction, TL indefinite adjective</li> <li>SL clause, TL noun group</li> <li>SL verb group, TL verb</li> <li>SL noun group, TL noun</li> <li>SL complex sentence, TL simple sentence</li> </ol>
Translation label	This procedure “is a provisional translation, usually of a new institutional term, which should be made in inverted commas, which can later be discreetly withdrawn” (Newmark, 1988, p.90)
Couplets	Discreetly withdrawn “(Newmark, 1988, P.90)
Notes	<p>This procedure involves two procedures to translate from SL to TL. Notes are additional information that are added to the translation. It can be :</p> <p>Within the text (in brackets, parantheses)</p> <p>At bottom of page</p> <p>At end of chapter</p>

	Glossary at the end of book
Compensation	The procedure occurs when loss (in meaning, sound-effect, metaphor or pragmatic effect) is compensated in another part of a sentence.
Reduction or Expansion Equivalence	This procedure delete or add more words in order to have clearer meaning in TL. According to Vinay and Dalbernet (1965) (qtd. In Newmark, 1988, p.90) equivalence is “an unfortunately named term implying approximate equivalence, accounting for the same situation in different terms, ... They are simply referring to notices, familiar alternatives, phrases and idioms.”
Adaption	Vinay and Dalberet (1965) (qtd. In Newmark, 1988, p.90) also proposed a procedure named adaption. This procedure changes words/ phrases from SL into a common form in TL, for instance : Dear Sir – Yang Terhormat
Explicitation	Delisle (1999) proposed this procedure in order to inform precise detail of source text for clarification.

### Using CAT Tool

In the modern era can be easier to translate language. Information from Blog of Wordpress CAT Tools are some application that can help someone to translate. The program consists of three main features, there are: terminology management, translation memory, and quality check (Sugeng, 2010). Terminology management tool is a package of the device that is used to create, maintain and using glossary. The glossary can be made while doing the translation, made before translated by an interpreter, or has been provided in advance by the client. Features translation memory (translation memory), as mentioned before, is useful to create a translation memory (TM), maintaining, and utilizing the translation memory. some of them are translation software. There are two kind Cat Tools for translation first word-interfaced Cat Tools like Trados, Wordfast, Metatexis. Second proprietary-interfaced Cat Tools like Transit and SDLX

In this project we use Wordfast for the proses of translating. Because wordfast supported source document formats, translation memory and glossary formats, moreover, Wordfast has been learn in the class translation.

### Cultural Words

Cultural words are words or phrases that are related to a specific culture and that do not have any equivalence in other culture. Cultural term are words or phrases that are related to a specific culture and that don't have any equivalence on other culture (Newmark, 1988).

In theory, the called for single person or object that are “ outside languages, belong ... to the encyclopaedia not the dictionary, have ... no meaning, are, therefore, both untranslatable and not to be translated (Newmark, 1988)

the cultural categories as follows (Newmark, 1988) :

- a. Ecology; e.g. flora, fauna, winds, plains, hills
- b. Material culture (artefacts): food, clothes, houses and towns, transport
- c. Social culture : work and leisure
- d. Organisations, customs, activities, procedures concepts: political and administrative, religious, artistic
- e. Gestures and habits

There are three aspects that should be considered (the translator should transfer the very accurate meaning into the target language). Readability (the result of the translation should be

understood by the reader), and naturalness (the translation does not sound unnatural in target language ). In order to produce a good quality translation, those aspects should be fulfilled (Larson, 1984). To translate tricky words or words which are rarely used or hard to be translated., I consult the words with the religious expert of Muslim.

**Translation Procedures**

Translation procedures were very helpful in doing this translation project. While translating the book, we found some difficulties in translating some words, phrases, and clauses. To overcome those, we looked again into the translation procedures by Newmark. They give alternatives of how to translate a word, phrase, or sentence appropriately.

As the result, the translation procedure mostly used for the difficult words is notes with 26%. This is followed by transference with 15%. The transference procedure was used for name of the character and name of place. Besides this procedure was applied to a cultural word that has been mentioned before in the translation. The third most used procedure is modulation. After that, transposition is the fourth most used procedure. It is followed by equivalent, cxsynonymy, explicitation, reduction, expansion, through-translation, descriptive equivalent, functional equivalent, compensation, translation label, an adaption, Meanwhile, Recognised translation, naturalization and cultural equivalent procedures are not used procedures. Here is the list of the procedures and their percentage presented in a table below :

**Table 2** The Percentage of Used Procedures

No	Translation procedures	Number	%
1.	Notes	24	26%
2.	Transference	14	15%
3.	Modulation	12	13%
4.	Transposition	8	9%
5.	Equivalence	7	8%
6.	Synonymy	5	5%
7.	Explicitation	4	4%
8.	Reduction	4	4%
9.	Expansion	3	3%
10.	Through-Translation	3	3%
11.	Descriptive Equivalent	3	3%
12.	Functional Equivalent	2	2%
13.	Compensation	1	1%
14.	Translation Label	1	1%
15.	Adaption	1	1%
			100%

The first procedure used is notes. Three kinds of notes (within text in brackets, as footnote, and glossary) were used in the translation to give clear meaning to the reader. Here are the examples.

**Table 3** Examples of Notes Procedure

Original Text	Translated Text
<i>Shalwar-Kameez</i>	Baju Etnis Pakistan Menggunakan Celana Panjang dan Tunik
<i>Hanukah</i>	Festival Pentasbihan Suci Umat Yahudi yang Dirayakan Setiap Tahun
<i>Yom Kippur</i>	Hari Liburnya Yahudi Sebagai Hari Suci

The next translation procedure applied is transference. It transfers the exact word of the source text to the target text. It as a loan-word (Newmark, 1988). This procedure is applied when translating a proper noun such as name and place. It is also used for a religion word that is mentioned for the second time in the translation. The application of this procedure can be seen in the table below.

**Table 4** Examples of Transference Procedure

Original Text	Translated Text
<i>this year, CNN will say “Eid Mubarik.”</i>	CNN akan mengucapkan “Selamat Hari Raya Idul Fitri.”
<i>Hajirah watched Abraham, the father of her child</i>	<b>Siti Hajar</b> menyaksikan <b>Ibrahim</b> , ayah dari anaknya

The next is modulation procedure. It is done by changing the point of view of the SL to the TL. Below is the example of modulation procedure.

**Table 5** Examples of Modulation Procedure

Original Text	Translated Text	Type of Modulation
<i>He it is who shapes you in the wombs as He wills.</i>	“Dialah yang membentuk kamu dalam Rahim menurut yang Dia kehendaki.	Active - Passive

After that, transposition procedure is used when the source text when the grammar or word order is not common in TL. Therefore the word order should be changed to make the translation sound natural.

**Table 6** Examples of Transposition Procedure

Original Text	Translated Text
<i>They were Muslims who had invaded</i>	Mereka adalah Umat Muslim yang telah diserang
<i>Throughout my school days and until only recently</i>	Sepanjang hari di sekolahku dan sampai baru-baru ini,

The next used procedure is equivalence. The translation of notices, idiom and phrases in the similar situation is included in this procedure. The example of application of this procedure is in the following table (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995) :

**Table 7** Examples of Equivalence Procedure

Original Text	Translated Text
<i>Muhammad sneaked out of Mecca, en route to Medina. Abu Bakr accompanied him</i>	Muhammad menyelinap keluar dari Mekah, perjalanan ke Madinah. Abu Bakar menemaninya
<i>She spoke to me in Urdu, the language of her home country, Pakistan, while I dozed in and out of naps as a baby</i>	Dia berbicara kepada saya dalam bahasa Urdu, bahasa negara asalnya, Pakistan, sementara saya tertidur dan bangun dari tidur siang seperti seorang bayi

Then the through translation is used when the TL has the same equivalence with the word in SL. Here are the examples.

**Table 8** Examples of Through Translation Procedure

Original Text	Translated Text
iqra	<i>Iqra</i>
Khadijah	<i>Siti Khadijah</i>

Then, the synonymy is used when a word in SL has no any equivalence in TL. However, there is alternative for the word in TL that has similar meaning with the translated word. For instance, the word multi-faith reign in the clause “about 300 years of a peaceful, multi-faith reign” is translated as “*selama 300 tahun, pemerintahan beragam kepercayaan.*” to still maintain the thrilling feeling from the word multi-faith reign .

The explicitation procedure is applied by explicitly tell the meaning to complete the information from the SL that might not be known by the reader in TL. For example, the clause ““*Camo estir?*” an older Latino man would say to my sister and me ” was translated into “*Camo estir*” *seorang pria tua Latin berkata kepada saya dan kakak saya*

In translating the cultural words, the original words are still mentioned as in the original text. It is intended to achieve the purpose of the project i.e. to introduce the Sundanes culture to the reader. However, to make it understandable, some translation procedures are used. Here are the examples of cultural words found.

**Table 9.** Examples of culture words especially religion word

<b>zamzam</b>	<i>Zamzam (air suci umat muslim yang ada sejak jaman para Nabi)</i>
a concept called <i>fitra</i>	<i>Yang di sebut dengan konsep Fitra (suci bagi anak yang baru lahir )</i>

**Table 10.** Use of Cultural Words

No	Cultural Words	Translation
2	<i>Hanukah</i>	<i>Hanukah (hari raya pentasbihan/penyucian umat Yahudi )</i>
3	<i>Yom Kipur</i>	<i>Yom Kipur (hari raya yang di anggap suci pagi umat Yahudi)</i>
4	<i>Eid Mubarak</i>	<i>Eid Mubarak (di Indonesia kita bias kenal sebagai hari raya idul fitri)</i>
5	Karbala	Karbala (ratapan atas kematian Husain bagi orang Syiah)
6	Pino	Pino (sebutan untuk mata khas bagi orang Mongolia)
7	Shalwer-Kameez	Shalwer-Kameez (merupakan pakaian khas Pakistan yang terdiri dari celana khas timur dan tunik)
8	Ghazwas	Ghazwas (raja umum yang di lakukan oleh bangsa Arab pada pra-Islam)

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

In conducting this translation project, there are problems that we faced. The first problem is the difficulty to find the equivalence of some words or phrases that are commonly used in the target language. This problem was found especially when translating the cultural words especially religion word. To overcome this problem, looking up the dictionaries and browsing on the internet were very helpful.

The next problem is to make sure that our translation is appropriate to have it proofread by other people who are just good in Bahasa is difficult. For those who are going to conduct a similar project, there are some recommendations that may be useful to make a better translation



result. First, we have to master and understand both source language and target language; it can help to produce an accurate, readable, and natural translation. Second, choose a literary work rich with cultural events or informations. This will make our work interesting and the same time can be challenging.

### Discussion

Translating an English religious book into Bahasa Indonesia is challenging. To do it, we have to have a wider knowledge about some religion and culture in some country. We hope my work can inspire other to do similar work. What we have translated is a novelette or prose. It would be interesting to translate other types of literary works such as poems and short story.

### CONCLUSION

From the results of this study, the researchers concluded that Translating Books with religious nuances is more than just transferring the concept or storyline, because it has a high sensibility, which is loaded with sacred meanings that can only be understood well by adherents who really live the expression and means in earnest beside learn and explore the values of religion and belief earlier, but it should also be able to describe messages that can be affected by culture or literal

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