The Translation Analysis of Figure of Speech: Metaphorical Expressions in

Galbraith's The Novel Entitled "Cuckoo's Calling" and it's Translation "Dekuk Burung Kukuk"

Dwi Ernawati

Universitas Sebelas Maret

Author Note

Author is student of English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Jalan Ir. Sutami 36A, Surakarta, Indonesia

Abstract

This research aims at mapping out categories of metaphorical expressions found in the novel

entitled Cuckoo's Calling, identifying translation techniques used in translating the metaphors

and describing the impact of translation techniques on translation quality in terms of accuracy,

acceptability and readability. In collecting the data, this research applies content analysis and

questionnaire. In addition, the source of data: the documents, the raters, and the respondents are

selected based on the objectives of this research. As the basis in translating metaphors, besides

understanding metaphorical expressions, the translator should have competencies in selecting

and applying appropriate translation techniques in producing high quality translation. Different

cultures and customs might trigger problem and cause barrier for the translator.

Keywords: metaphorical expressions,   translation techniques, translation quality

The Translation Analysis of Figure of Speech: Metaphorical Expressions in Galbraith's The

Novel Entitled "Cuckoo's Calling" and It's Translation "Dekuk Burung Kukuk"

Nowadays, there are many literary works translated into many languages, one of which is

translated into Indonesian. Through literature, authors can express their feelings, ideas,

ideologies, and insights. Authors can substitute expressions suggesting happiness or sadness into

something creative in literary forms such as poetry, drama, novel, or other literary works. Some

literary works contain expressions with figures of speech, in the form of a word or a phrase that

possesses separate meaning from its literal meaning.

There are many kinds of figure of speech, such as simile, metaphor, pun, personification,

hyperbole, paradox, understatement, and oxymoron. A figure of speech cannot be taken literally.

As a result, to translate such expressions into different languages may cause misinterpretation. If

it is still translated literally, word-for-word, into another language, it can often produce

completely different meaning. In the novel Cuckoo's Calling, there are many figures of speech,

one of which is metaphor. Metaphor can be defined as an indirect comparison between two or

more apparently unrelated things or subjects. Newmark (1988) notes that the point of similarity

'may be physical but often it is chosen for its connotations' (p. 85). Metaphor consists of three

elements: topic, which is the thing being compared, image, which is the best thing that the topic

is compared to, and point of similarity, that is, the same characteristic that topic and image share

(Larson, 1998,p.279). In his book, Meaning-Based of Translation, Larson notes that if metaphor

is translated literally or word-for-word, the result will often contain misperception. The problem

occurs because the culture of the society who speak in the source language is not always the

same as the culture of the target language.

Metaphors cannot be taken literally. As stated by Mata and Tangkiengsirisin (2005) as metaphors are known as comparative language avoiding "like" or "as" in the expressions, they need special treatment in translation. The objective becomes a translation problem depends on different languages, cultures, attitudes and other aspects. In addition, as one type of figure of speech, metaphors should be translated properly because translating metaphors deals with cultural background. As stated by Rahmawati and Ratnadewi (2015), metaphor is pervasive in language; it is also reflected in our everyday life from the way we think and act. To communicate something, we do not just speak literally; we also use metaphor to convey our intended meaning, for example, ordinary metaphor, "That's what you and your family do to me. Trap me in this hole". The perceptual interpretation describes the hole as 'deep' so that it can entrap someone inside it, and the psychological interpretation of this dialogue is the arranged marriage. Thus, metaphors cannot be separated from cultural background.

A number of researches in metaphor translation have been conducted by Mata and Tangkiengsirisin (2005), Rahmawati and Ratnadewi (2015), Arfianti, Nababan, and Santosa (2018). The studies decisively focus on the techniques in translating metaphors. Moreover, Mata and Tangkiengsirisin in their article The Strategies in Translating English Metaphors into Thai: A Case Study of the American Novel Percy Jackson. The research collected the data from foreign news released between April 16 – May 31, 2002 referring to Sunchawee Saibua's translation theory of 1985. The research summarizes that transliterated sounds from English into Thai was the major translation technique used in this study and the technique used the least is the modification of structure of words. This research explains translation techniques that are applied in translating live metaphors. It is relevant with what Arfianti, Nababan, and Santosa (2018) discusses in their research Techniques and Accuracy of Ideational Grammatical Metaphor

Translation in Diary of Wimpy Kid Novels, which describes the techniques in translating

metaphors. Meanwhile, Rahmawati, and Ratnadewi (2015) in their article entitled An Analysis

of Metaphorical Expressions in Postcolonial Novel: A House for Mr.Biswas By V.S Naipul ,

describe and classifies the types of metaphor and analyze the illocutionary meaning of metaphors

in dialogues.

Almost all of the previous researches identify metaphor in literary works and found out

the appropriate techniques used in translating the studied metaphors. Having link to the

researches, this research takes the Novel entitled the Cuckoo's Calling to analyze the types of

metaphorical expressions, to find out the techniques and to describe the impact on translation

quality in terms of accuracy, acceptability and readability. In analyzing the types of metaphors, it

employs the theory proposed by Larson, categorizing metaphors into dead and live metaphors.

Thus, the study attempts to investigate whether the metaphors found in the text are already

translated accurately, acceptably, and readably.

Methods

This research applies descriptive method with qualitative approach. As cited by Arsalan,

descriptive method is 'a method used to explain, analyze, and classify something through various

techniques, survey, interview, questionnaires, and test" (Fraenkel & Wallen, 1999, p. 23).

Suryawinata and Hariyanto (2003) state that there are some methods that can be applied in

researching works of translation but of course, all methods are descriptive in nature. It can be

qualitative and quantitative research depending on the aim of research. This research belongs to

qualitative research because the objective of this research is not to find out result in the form of

numbers, but in the form of qualitative information regarding translation techniques and their

impact on translation quality. This research does not formulate or test hypothesis, and this research emphasizes on meaning, reasoning, and the definition of a situation.

The source of data of this research is the dialogues in the novel which are treated as the source of primary data. The other source of primary data are the informants: the raters and the participants. Three raters are selected to provide information about the accuracy and acceptability of the translation. Three participants are also selected to provide information on the readability of the translation. In selecting the informants or raters, the researcher determined some criteria. The raters are those who master structure and grammatical aspect of two languages, Bahasa Indonesia and English. The raters have translation skill. The three raters also possess knowledge about metaphorical expressions. They are also willing to participate in this research.

Result

The research findings show that there are two types of metaphorical expressions in Novel Cuckoo's Calling: dead metaphor and live metaphor. Dead metaphors are those which are a part of constructions of lexicon of the language. When they are used, the person who listens or reads does not think about the primary sense of the words, not only the idiomatic sense directly. The dead metaphor is commonly defined as a metaphor which has lost its metaphorical sense (e.g. Leg of the table). Meanwhile, live metaphor is defined as a metaphor which can be identified by its readers after give special attention to the primary meaning of the words which are used metaphorically (e.g. Ina's decision is a nightmare for her brother) (Larson, 1998, p.274).

The research identifies two types of metaphors in Novel Cuckoo's calling: death metaphor and live metaphor.

Table 1.

The Translation Techniques Used and the Types of Metaphors

No	Translation Technique	DM	LM	Sub Total
1	Translating metaphorical expressions which are translating metaphor into metaphor with similar meaning and form,	18	12	30
2	Translating metaphor into simile	8	12	20
3	Translating metaphor into metaphor with similar meaning but different form	13	8	21
4	Translating metaphor without keeping the metaphorical imagery	3	2	5
		42	34	76

Specific notes:

DM: Dead Metaphor

LM: Live Metaphor

Based on the table above, it could be seen that the translator uses techniques put forward by Larson in translating metaphors in Novel Cuckoo's Calling. The technique of translating metaphor into metaphor with similar meaning and form is dominantly used by translator. Most translation techniques produce accurate, acceptable and readable translation. From the total of 76 data of metaphors 73 data belong to accurate translation, 3 data are categorized as less accurate translation, 66 data are acceptable, 8 data are less acceptable and 2 data are unacceptable, 44 data are readable, 25 data are less readable and 7 data are unreadable translation. The following

diagram is the figure showing the distribution of accuracy, acceptability and readability of
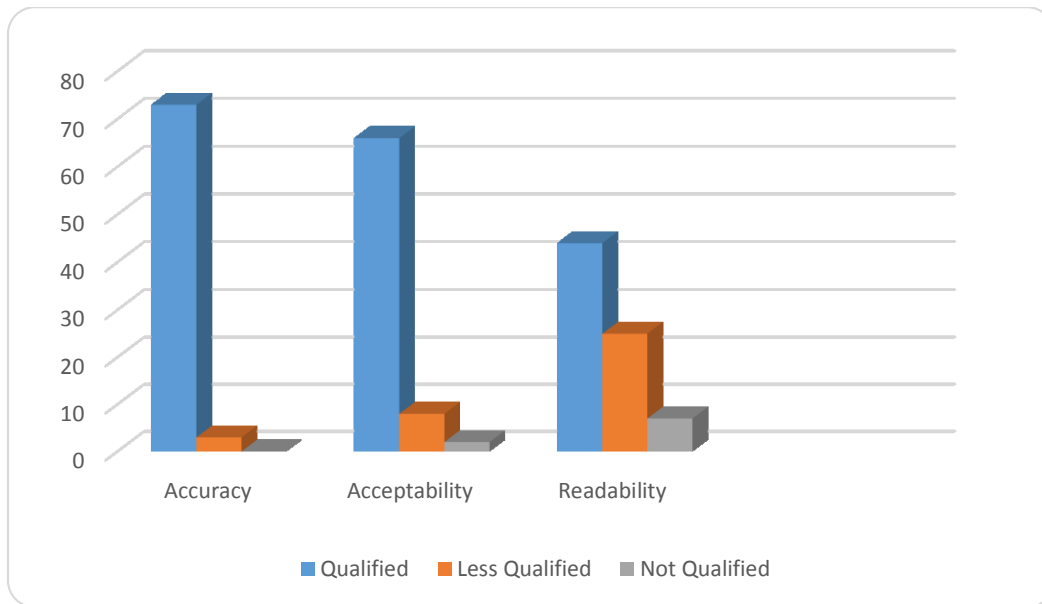
metaphors translation.

Figure 1 Distribution of accuracy, acceptability and readability of metaphors translation

       Translating metaphorical expressions with similar meaning and form is the technique

which is mostly used by translator to translate the metaphors. There are 30 data that are

translated by using this technique.

    The examples of the use of the technique are presented below:

Technique 1:

Example 1

(Datum 11/CCN)

ST   : "...... Explosion of happiness"

TT   : "...... Ledakan Kebahagiaan".

       The metaphorical expression is dead metaphor, which has the meaning of "***very happy***".

The translator keeps the metaphorical expression in translating explosion of happiness into

"ledakan kebahagiaan". The translator uses the same choice of words in the target language in

translating this metaphor. The message of the source text is the same as that in the target text. In the target language, looking at the context, *"ledakan kebahagiaan"* can be easily understood by the readers. In the target language, the metaphor is commonly used to express the same meaning in the source language. Although the expression has the similar form as the form of the original expression, it can still be understood and sounds natural. The translation is considered accurate, acceptable and readable translation.

Example 2

(Datum 11/CCN)

ST   : "........ Her heart leapt".

TT   : "........ Jantungnya melompat sedikit"

It is a dead metaphor. According to the context of situation, "leapt" in the metaphor **"her heart leapt"** means **"jumping up".** This metaphor has a meaning that someone feels happy, excited about something until her/his heart is like jumping up. The translator keeps the metaphorical expression in target language resulting same meaning and message as in the source language expression. In Indonesian language, the metaphor *"jantungnya melompat"* is normally used in daily conversation, although it has metaphorical imagery. By using this technique, the expression in target language can be easily understood by target readers and the meaning of the metaphor is conveyed accurately. Thus, in the metaphors translated using this technique, the message contained in the original metaphor can be delivered without any distortion and the expression sounds natural. The translation is identified as accurate and acceptable translation, but it is less readable.

Example 3

(Datum 27/CCN)

ST   : "It was a bitterly cold night".

TT   : "Malam itu dingin menggigit".

The metaphorical expression **"bitterly cold"** has the meaning that the weather is really cold that night. In this context, it is very cold because it is snowing. The translator keeps the metaphorical imagery in translating live metaphor. The translator translates **"bitterly cold"** into ***"dingin menggigit"*** which has the same imagery and message. As a result the translation ***"dingin menggigit"*** is not difficult to be understood by target readers since the context of situation indicates the condition. The translation is classified into accurate, acceptable and readable translation.

Example 4

(Datum01/CCN)

ST   : "Their long-snouted cameras poised"

TT   : "Kamera mereka yang berbelalai panjang".

The metaphor ***"their long-snouted cameras poised"*** is a live metaphor because it can be identified after giving it special attention to the primary meaning of the metaphor. To understand the metaphor, special attention has to be paid to the primary meaning of the word "**poised**". The topic of the metaphor is ***"long-snouted",*** while the image is ***"poised".*** The point of similarity is the photographers with their cameras in the murder scene.

The translator translates this metaphor using the technique keeping metaphor. In the source text, **long-snouted** means that there are a lot of cameras of photographers. Their cameras are big and long, they look like the snout of elephant. The translator keeps the source text's form because it has the same message in the target language and both have the same figurative meaning, thus the effect of the utterance is the same as the original. Since the message of the

translation is the same as that of the source text, this translation is classified into accurate

translation. Three raters agree that the datum is accurate, but less acceptable and less readable.

Technique 2:

Example 1

(Datum 13/CCN)

ST   : "Suggested a grizzly bear".

TT   : "Memberi kesan bak beruang grizzly".

The metaphor is categorized as a dead metaphor. It is translated into simile by adding the

word "like" or "as". The translator translates the metaphor "**suggested a grizzly bear**" into

"memberi kesan bak beruang grizzly" in the target language. The translator adds the word "bak"

in target languae to make the readers understand and make the translation acceptable. It can

cause misunderstanding if the metaphor is translated literally. The metaphor means someone

who has a big body like a grizzly bear. By using this technique the translation is accurate,

acceptable and readable.

Example 2

(Datum 21/CCN)

ST   : "Diamond-cut beauty....."

TT   : "Kecantikan bagaikan irisan berlian sempurna......."

The metaphor is marked as a live metaphor. The expression "diamond-cut beauty" is used

to address someone special. The word "diamond" means something precious. Diamond-cut is

part of a diamond that also has a high value. The metaphor is translated as a simile by means of

the addition of the word "bagaikan" to make the readers understand the meaning of metaphor.

This metaphor is characterized as accurate, but less acceptable and in terms of readability the metaphor is readable.

Technique 3:

Example 1

(Datum 19/CCN)

ST   : "He was sliding ever deeper into debt"

TT   : "Karena utang-utangnya semakin menggunung".

The dead metaphor has a meaning that Strike is in a bad financial condition. He slides deeper into debt means that his debt is too much. The translator translates the metaphor by using technique translating metaphor into metaphor of the target language which has similar meaning. All raters agree that the metaphor is classified into accurate, acceptable and readable.

Example 2

(Datum 29/CCN)

ST   : "An edge of flaming cheek".

TT   : "Tepi pipinya yang membara"

The expression is checked as live metaphor. The metaphor is translated by using translating metaphor into metaphor with similar meaning but different form. It has a meaning that the source language and target language have similar metaphor which has equivalent message. The metaphor has a meaning that someone is in blush condition. The three raters is determined that the metaphor are accurate, acceptable and readable.

Technique 4:

Example 1

(Datum 54/CCN)

ST   : "A serious salary as some fat cat's PA"

TT   : "Gaji besar sebagai asisten pribadi seorang bos kaya"

The metaphorical expression is included in dead metaphor, which has a meaning that someone who is worried about not being able to pay high salary of his assistant. The translator translates the metaphor by ignoring the metaphorical imagery and changing into different form. The translator ignores the expression "fat cat" in the source language and only pays attention to the message contained in the source language text. PA means that Personal Assistant, while fat cat means that bos kaya is the image. Fat means that something big (having a lot of money), cat is attributed to the boss who has a lot of money. The metaphorical expression is defined as accurate, acceptable and readable.

Example 2

(Datum 62/CCN)

ST   : "Mad bitch"

TT   : "Wanita gila"

The metaphorical expression is classified into live metaphor. The metaphor has a meaning that someone is crazy because she is doing something foolish. The translator translates the metaphor without keeping the metaphorical imagery. The culture is the main problem that makes the translator ignore the word "bitch" in the source language and only gives attention to the message contained in the metaphor. This metaphor is accurate and acceptable translation but it is less readable.

Most of the translations are mostly accurate, acceptable and readable translation. On the other hand, other translations of metaphors are less accurate, less acceptable and less readable translation. In addition, some translations of metaphors are inaccurate, unacceptable and

unreadable translation. There are some factors which influence the quality of the translation of the metaphors. Larson (1998) notes that there are eight reason why metaphors are difficult to be translated literary (p. 275), namely:

a) The image used in the metaphor or simile may be unknown in the target language.

b) The fact that the topic of metaphor is not always clearly stated

c) The point of similarity that is implicit and hard to be identified.

d) One of the most serious problem is the fact that the point of similarity may be understood differently in some culture from another.

e) There are also the possibilities that the receptor language does not make comparison of the type which occurs in the source text metaphor.

f) Language differs in how frequently metaphors are used and in how easily new metaphors are created in the language.

g) There are some languages in which new metaphors are seldom created

h) In languages where metaphors are used very frequently, many of the images will already have a metaphorical meaning in the language.

The result of discussion above relates to the type of metaphorical expressions. In this research, translating metaphor into metaphor with similar meaning and form mostly produces accurate, acceptable, and readable translations in Novel Cuckoo's calling. It happens the metaphors are mostly unfamiliar and uncommon in the target language. Therefore, the translator leaves the metaphors unchanged and finds the similar metaphors in the target language in order to make the readers understand. The finding above is relevant with the previous research by Arfianti, Nababan, & Santosa (2018) in their article entitled *" Techniques and Accuracy of Ideational Grammatical Metaphor Translation in Diary Wimpy Kid Novels"*. It precisely

indicates that, there are some cases that the original metaphors have some implied meaning. In this case, the translator keeps the form of the original metaphors in the target language to make the readers understood. The translator tends to apply technique by Molina & Albir (2002). In this research, established equivalent is translation technique which contributes the production of translations with the highest score for accuracy. It means that there is no change in terms of form in the target language and the metaphors are already translated in an acceptable way based on the terms that are familiar in the target language.

Contrastive points can be identified by linking this research to the research conducted by Mata & Tangkiengsirisin (2018) entitled "*The Strategies in Translating English Metaphors into Thai: A Case Study of the American Novel Percy Jackson*". In their study, live metaphors are mainly investigated, and the translation techniques applied in the analysis are those adapted from the theory pointed out by Newmark (1988). The technique which produces the highest level of accuracy is the reproduction of source metaphor with the preservation of the same image in the target language. It means that the metaphor in the target language having the same meaning as the original can be used.

By contrast, this research focuses on two types of metaphors namely dead and live metaphors. Further, the impact of the use of the techniques based on Larson's theory on the translation of metaphors in Novel Cuckoo's calling is studied. The technique mostly used in this research is translating metaphor into metaphor with similar meaning and form. One point of similarity in both researches is the dominantly used technique to translate metaphors. The translators mostly translate metaphors by keeping the original metaphors from the source language in the target language.

Additionally, this research can be linked to the one conducted by Rahmawati, & Ratnadewi (2015) which analyzes the types of metaphor in a research entitled *"An Analysis of Metaphorical Expressions in Postcolonial Novel: A House for Mr.Bisway by V.S Naipul"*. The research aims to get clear descriptions of the types of metaphor found in the novel. The data analyzed in this research are the metaphors found in the dialogues. Twenty one metaphors are identified, which are categorized into six types: dead metaphor, ordinary metaphor, cliché metaphor, standard/stock metaphor, image metaphor, and original metaphor.

From the researches, it can be concluded that metaphors can be translated using several techniques applied by the translator, and metaphors can be classified into several types of metaphors.

Conclusion

There are two kinds of metaphorical expressions found in the novel Cuckoo's calling, namely dead metaphor and live metaphor. The most frequent metaphorical expressions found is dead metaphor which covers 42 data and live metaphor which comprises 34 data. The analysis on translation techniques reveals that there are four techniques used to translate metaphorical expressions found in the novel Cuckoo's calling. The techniques are; translating metaphor into metaphor with similar meaning and form, translating metaphor into simile (by adding "like" or "as"), translating metaphor into metaphor with similar meaning, but different form, translating metaphor without keeping the metaphorical imagery.

From the translation quality assessment analysis, the result shows that the translation of the metaphorical expressions tends to be accurate and acceptable by using "translating metaphor into metaphor with similar meaning and form". Translating metaphor into simile (adding "like" or "as") highly contributes to the production of readable translation. From the thorough

translation quality assessment, it can be concluded that most of the translations are accurate, acceptable and readable.

In the end, translating metaphors absolutely needs some considerations. The translators should pick the translation technique in translating each metaphor which is appropriate to the context. In this research the context of cultural background of the source language become the main consideration when translating metaphorical expressions. Some metaphors are rarely used in daily conversation, making the metaphors unfamiliar and unknown by the target readers. Thus, proper techniques are needed in translating metaphors to describe the meaning of metaphor in the source language within the target language, so the target readers can easily understand and make the metaphors acceptable and readable in the target language. Above all, considering the appropriate techniques in translating metaphors is a must in producing high quality translation.

References

Arfianti, N. I, Nababan, MR, &Santosa, R. (2018). *Techniques and accuracy of ideational grammatical metaphor translation in diary wimpy kid novels.* 3(2). UNS

Baker, M. (1992). *In other words (A coursebook on translation).* MPG Books Ltd. Bodmin. Cornwall.

Fraenkel & Wallen. (1999). *How to design and evaluate research in education.* McGraw-Hill Education.

Larson, M. L. (1984). *Meaning-based translation.* University Press of America Inc.

Mata, R & Tangkiengsirisin, S. (2018). *The strategies in translating English metaphors into Thai: a case study of the American novel Percy Jackson.* Pp. 169- 186   DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.24093/awejtls/vol2no2.12.:https://works.bepress.com/awejfortranslation-literarystudies/76/. Arab World English Journal (AWEJ).

Rahmawati, I &Ratnadewi, D. (2015). *An analysis of metaphorical expressions in postcolonial novel: A House for Mr.Bisway by V.S Naipul.* 3(1).2338-8927. Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya

Suryawinata, Z & Hariyanto, S. (2003). *Translation: bahasan teori & penuntun praktis menerjemahkan.* Yogyakarta: Kanisius

Yusuf, F, & Amelia, A.R. (2018). *Metaphor expression in fall for you song lyrics.* 5(1). State Islamic University of Alauddin Makassar