

The Translation Analysis of Strategies and Qualities of Onomatopoeic Verb in Novel *Room* by Emma Donoghue

Azmi Nadiyah

Sebelas Maret University, Indonesia

¹nadiyahazmi2@student.uns.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

This research studies the translation of onomatopoeic verbs in Emma Donoghue's novel ROOM. The aims of this research are to identify the translation strategies applied in the translation of onomatopoeic verbs used by the translator in the ROOM novel and to assess their quality in terms of accuracy and acceptability. This research applied descriptive qualitative method where the data were analyzed using Baker's theory and by applying Nababan, Nuraeni, and Sumardiono's model of translation quality assessment. The approaches used to collect and analyze the data of onomatopoeic verbs are content analysis and Focus Group Discussion. The results reveal that there are five translation strategies that are applied in the translation of the onomatopoeic verbs. The majority of the translation strategies used in the ROOM novel involve the use of non-onomatopoeic words with similar meaning and form. The translation quality assessment shows that translation of onomatopoeic verbs in the novel is less accurate and less acceptable, because of various factors that are discovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

Onomatopoeia is the imitation of the sound made by an object (Dofs, 2008:4). Onomatopoeias are prevalent in all languages around the world, according to some linguists, and they were the first words humans said when language was established (Thomas & Clara, 2004:7). If an example is presented, onomatopoeia will be clearer since it can help the reader visualize the sound of the words and the situations (Hidayat, 2016:1).

Every people's onomatopoeia, particularly animal sounds, has a different connotation. Japan, America, and Korea are three prominent countries that have diverse onomatopoeia. Furthermore, animal sounds vary by region or culture; for example, the sound of a dog in Japanese is "wan-wan," whereas in America it is "bark-bark," and in Korean, it is "wang-wang." Furthermore, according to Kambara (2010: 1), onomatopoeia words describe states, movements, sentiments, emotions, and their manifestation to give words more life.

Onomatopoeia is used in a variety of ways, for example, the sound of a goat in English is baa, whereas the sound of a goat in Indonesian is *mbek*. Another example is the sound of heartbeat, which in English is thump thump, but in the Indonesian, it is *dug dug dug dug dug*. Thus, it can be assumed that it is impossible to translate onomatopoeia in a novel without adjustments. Translators must consider the context in which onomatopoeia occurs while translating it, as different situations will yield various interpretations (Siwi, 2015: 2).

Onomatopoeia can also be a verb in a sentence and can be found in part of a sentence or a grammatical structure. This is a fascinating phenomenon since onomatopoeia is a unique expression that is not always easy to find in dictionaries.

Because translating onomatopoeia is a fascinating case in which translators must consider both linguistic (because English and Indonesian have different phonological systems, particularly articulatory phonetics and diphthongs) and cultural (because English and Indonesian have different cultural conventions). All of this will have an impact on the translation's quality.

What happens when an onomatopoeic verb appears in a sentence and the translator not only looks for an identical counterpart but also examines the structure of the sentence and how may the translator make it more natural? This situation makes onomatopoeic translation more difficult. As a result, the goals of this study are to identify the different types of onomatopoeic verbs found in the novel ROOM, to explain how onomatopoeic verbs are translated from English to Indonesian, and to describe how translation strategies affect translation quality in terms of accuracy and acceptability.

According to Harder J.G Keraf (1996: 3), the term onomatopoeia stems from the ancient Greek language onomatopoeia, which denotes the construction of a name or phrase that sounds like an object. He has stated that onomatopoeia is established when humans try to imitate the noises of dogs, chickens, the wind's hiss, crashing waves, and so on. He has also claimed it will allude to the things or behaviors associated with these sounds. This is how the language sound is formed. Onomatopoeia is defined as a natural sound produced by an object to depict an action. Onomatopoeia can also be found in animal sounds, such as moo, the sound of a cow, roar, the sound of a lion, and meow, the sound of a cat, and is frequently found in cartoon films or Western comics.

Onomatopoeia is divided into different word classes. According to Kaindl (in Siddiq, 2019: 106-107), onomatopoeia is classified into three sorts of word classes. They are onomatopoeic interjections, onomatopoeic nouns, and onomatopoeic verbs. Interjections are words used to indicate a speaker's emotional outcry or reaction, and they are a relatively open class since onomatopoeia can make them free (Siddiq, 2019: 107). Dealing with onomatopoeic nouns, there are a large number of nouns that come from onomatopoeia, because people in early civilization constantly associated onomatopoeia with sound-producing things, many onomatopoeic nouns have been formed in practically all languages. (Siddiq, 2019: 106). Onomatopoeic verbs, like murmuring, mumbling, cracking, and a variety of other onomatopoeia can be turned into verbs in languages like English. (Lestari, 2014: 13).

In this study, the researcher will concentrate the efforts on explaining the onomatopoeic verb. Onomatopoeic verbs, according to Dokulil (in Kroupová, tpánková, and Vodráková, 2018: 150), are verbs driven by interjections or, when the interjection is simply possible or does not exist, by verbs with onomatopoeic roots. He has also stated that, aside from the viewpoint of the sound itself, onomatopoeic verb has three functions: to emit a sound, to cause a sound, and to produce one with a sound employed for a resonant sound.

The theory that is used to study onomatopoeia is continually evolving, and there is no definitive theory that can be utilized to analyze onomatopoeia. Because both idiomatic expressions and onomatopoeia must be translated in an acceptable way in the target language socio-culturally, the researcher employed a theory adopted from Mona Baker to study onomatopoeia, particularly the theory used to translate idioms (Hartona, 2012: 1).

Besides studying translation strategies, the other investigation is conducted on the translation quality. This study attempts to assess the quality of translation using the Nababan, Nuraeni, and Sumardiono model. They have claimed that when translating a text, the translator must include the consideration regarding the rules that apply to the target language. They have also said that a good translation must fulfill three aspects; accuracy, acceptability, and readability.

2. METHOD

This is a qualitative descriptive study using documents as data sources, namely Emma Donoghue's novel ROOM. The research objectives are to describe the data of onomatopoeic verbs in the novel ROOM and their translation, as well as the quality of the translation. The content analysis method was applied to map the specific types of onomatopoeia (onomatopoeic verb) and also to assess the translation quality. At the beginning of the study, the data were collected by reading the ROOM Novel. After that, onomatopoeic verbs found in the novel were taken note of and used as data for analysis and numbering and coding were done to make the analysis easier. Another method of collecting data is Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with raters by using a questionnaire as a tool for collecting the data. The data for assessing translation quality that cover accuracy and acceptability were obtained in the form of scores and direct arguments provided by the raters. Furthermore, the FGD session yielded an alternative translation that are more accurate and acceptable.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Translation Strategies

There are 62 data of onomatopoeic verbs in ROOM novel from many onomatopoeic words that are classified as onomatopoeic verbs. Based on the data, the study shows that there are 5 translation strategies applied in translating onomatopoeic verbs. The translation strategies theory is adapted from Mona Baker (1992: 23-86). They are translation using an onomatopoeic word with similar meaning and form (9 data), translation using a non-

onomatopoeic word with similar meaning and form (40 data), translation using a non-onomatopoeic word with similar meaning but dissimilar form (3 data), translation using a word with different meaning but similar form (8 data), translation by a more general word (2 data). See the pie chart below to get a clear distribution of the translation strategies that are revealed in the study.

Figure 1. Distribution of translation strategies in translating onomatopoeic verbs.



For a more in-depth examination of translation strategies, the table below provides one example of each translation strategy and its explanation based on the theory adapted from Mona Bakers (1992: 23-86):

Table 1. Examples of Translation Strategies

No.	Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Translation Strategies
1.	“Why are you hissing so long?”	<i>Kenapa kau mendesis panjang sekali?”</i>	Translation using onomatopoeic word with similar meaning and form
2.	I hum “Row, Row, Row Your Boat,”	“Row, Row, Row Your Boat	Translation using non-onomatopoeic word with similar meaning and form
3.	It flushes by itself	<i>ia langsung menyalakan penyiram sendiri</i>	Translation using non-onomatopoeic word with similar meaning but dissimilar form
4.	“I zapped you.”	“ <i>Kumusnahkan kau.</i> ”	Translation using a word with different meaning but similar form
5.	“you should have buzzed —” Like bees? “The buzzer right by your bed?”	“Anda seharusnya membunyikan —” “Bel di samping tempat tidur Anda?”	Translation by a more general word

In (1), the datum is classified as translation using onomatopoeic words with similar meaning and form because the meaning of *mendesis* in TL is similar to that of *hiss* in SL, and *mendesis* is classified as an onomatopoeic verb because the root word *mendesis* is *desis*, which means an imitation of a sound softer than whisper (<https://kbbi.kemdikbud.go.id/entri/desis>). They have similar meaning based on KBBI (Accessed on March 31st, 2021). The word *mendesis* means to let out a hissing sound, which means *mendesis* is included in the hissing sound. Then, lexically, the word *hiss* means to make a noise like the sound of the consonant "s" (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hiss>). Therefore, It is identified that the translator translates the datum using onomatopoeic words with similar meaning and form.

The word *hum* in datum (2) is classified as onomatopoeia because it represents the sound made by bees and hummingbirds, such as “bee hums” (www.writtensound.com). Because the word *menyenandungkan* has a similar meaning to hum but is not classified as an onomatopoeic verb, the translation of datum in (2) is classified as translation using a non-onomatopoeic word with similar meaning and form. The word *menyenandung* has a similar meaning to hum because the word *hum* means to make a low continuous sound (www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com) and *menyenandungkan* means singing in a low voice which is included in

low sound (<https://kbbi.web.id/senandung>). Therefore, it can be assumed that the translator translates the datum using non-onomatopoeic words with similar meaning and form.

The word flush in datum (3) is classified into onomatopoeia because it represents the sound and movement of water (www.writtensound.com). The datum (3) is characterized as translation using a non-onomatopoeic word with similar meaning but dissimilar form because flush and *penyiram* have similar meaning, but the word *penyiram* does not belong to an onomatopoeic word and it has dissimilar form. The translation of flush has a different form because the word *penyiram* is classified as a noun with the meaning of watering or flushing (<https://kbbi.web.id/siram>), whereas the onomatopoeia flush in this data is classified as a verb. So, in this case, there is a structural change, it changes from a verb to a noun. Therefore, it can be determined that the translator translates the datum using a non-onomatopoeic word with a similar meaning but dissimilar form.

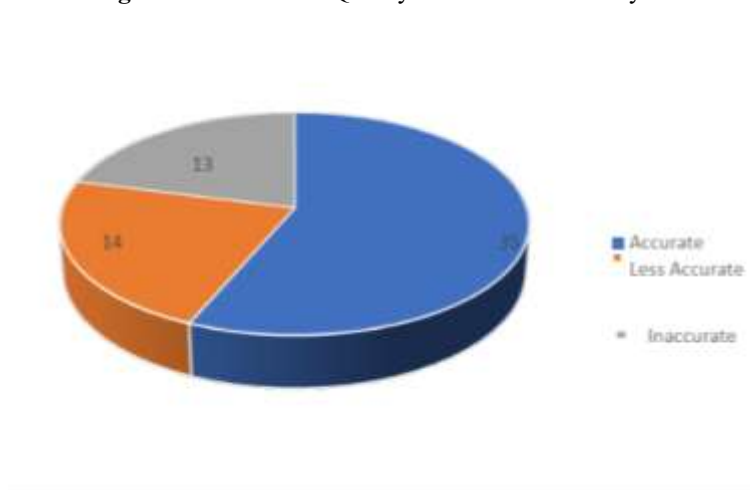
The word zap in datum (4) is also classified as onomatopoeia because it represents the sound produced by a gunshot (<http://www.writtensound.com/>). The datum (4) is classified as translation using a word with different meaning but similar form because zap and *musnah* have different meanings. The onomatopoeia zap means to get rid of or kill something or someone (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/zap>), but there are still traces of it, but the word *musnah*, refers to something that truly removes something without trace (<https://kbbi.web.id/musnah>). It can be determined that the translator translates zap using a word with different meaning but similar form.

The word buzz in datum (5) is classified as onomatopoeia because it represents miscellaneous sounds because it comes from the object (www.writtensound.com). The translation of datum in (5) is classified as translation by a more general word because onomatopoeia buzz is translated into *membunyikan*, where the translator translates the word buzz using more general word, which is literally translated into *mendengung*, instead, it is translated into *berbunyi* (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-indonesian/buzz>). In this case, the translator uses a more general term (*bunyi*) for a more specific term (*mendengung*). Therefore, it is identified that the translator uses translation by a more general word strategy.

3.2. Translation Quality

In a product-oriented translation research, it is necessary to assess the translation quality in order to find out the impact of translation strategies on translation quality. The first analysis of the translation quality of onomatopoeic verb deals with accuracy. Of the 62 data that are categorized as onomatopoeic verbs, there are 35 data that are translated accurately, 14 data that are translated less accurately, and 13 data translated inaccurately. The mean of accuracy quality is 2.35, which means the quality of accuracy aspect is less accurate. See the pie chart below to get a clear distribution of the translation quality, especially the accuracy aspect.

Figure 2. Translation Quality in terms of Accuracy



For the further analysis of translation quality in terms of accuracy, the following table gives one example of each category based on the accuracy of the translation and its explanation, as below:

Table 3. Examples of Accuracy Assesment

No.	Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Translation Quality
1.	Ma sniffs me all over	<i>Ma mendengus sekujur tubuhku juga</i>	Accurate
2.	I sniff, there's nothing in my nose	<i>Aku Menyedot hidung, tidak ada apa pun di hidungku.</i>	Less Accurate
3.	She puffs her breath when she's getting the cubes out of Freezer	<i>Dia menggembungkan pipinya ketika dia mengambiles batu dari Freezer</i>	Inaccurate

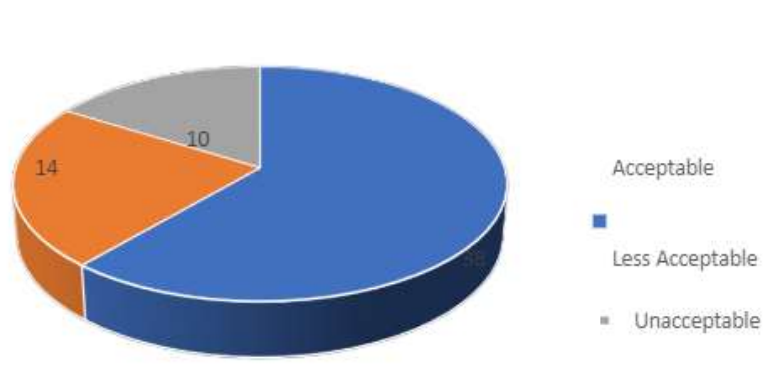
In (1), the translated onomatopoeic verb is assessed as accurate by the raters since the meaning of *mendengus* is equivalent to sniff. The word sniff is classified as onomatopoeia because it represents human sounds as an act or sound of drawing air through the nose (<http://onomatopoeialist.com/sniff/>). The onomatopoeia sniff has a similar meaning to *mendengus*. Based on KBBI, *mendengus* means smelling (<https://kbbi.web.id/endus>), which means an act with the means of nose. It can be marked that the datum is translated accurately.

The translation of onomatopoeic verb in (2) is less accurate because it produces double meanings. The onomatopoeia sniff is translated into *menyedot hidung*. Based on KBBI, *menyedot* means sucking or inhaling, which means doing one of the two acts through the nose (<https://kbbi.web.id/sedot>). Despite the fact that sniff and *menyedot* have the same meaning, double meanings are produced. The word *menyedot* has two meanings: sucking fluids through the nose or inhaling air through the nose. As a result, the translation is less accurate.

Datum (3) is translated inaccurate because the non-equivalence of meaning. The word puff is classified as onomatopoeia because it represents the sound of wind (<http://onomatopoeialist.com/>). The onomatopoeia puff and the word *menggembungkan* are not equivalent in meaning because *menggembungkan* means to inflate or to enlarge (balloon or another thing) (<https://kbbi.web.id/gembung>), and it has no relation to the meaning of the word puff itself. The translation is unsuccessful in conveying the meaning and it belongs to an inaccurate translation.

The second analysis of the quality of the translation of onomatopoeic verbs discusses the acceptability. There are 38 data that are translated in an acceptable way, 14 data that are translated less naturally, resulting in less acceptable translations, and 10 data that are translated into unacceptable translations of the 62 data that are classified as onomatopoeic verbs. Based on the calculation, the mean score for the acceptability of the translation is 2.45, which means that the overall assessment of the translation is less acceptable. See the pie chart below to get a clear distribution of the translation quality, especially the acceptability.

Figure 3. The Distribution of translation quality in terms of acceptability



For the further analysis of translation quality focusing on acceptability, the Table 3 gives one example of each category and its explanation, as presented below:

Table 3. The examples of acceptability

No.	SL	TL	Translation Quality of Acceptability
1.	I get to squirt the lemon that’s not an actual but a plastic.	<i>aku sebagian memeras lemon yang tidak asli tapi plastik</i>	Acceptable
2.	She taps it	<i>Dia mengetuk kepalanya</i>	Less Acceptable
3.	I’m zooming it in the air	<i>ku memelesatkannya ke udara.</i>	Unacceptable

Squirt is translated into *memeras* in Example 1. The word *squirt* is classified as onomatopoeia because it represents the sound of water movement (www.writtensound.com). The onomatopoeia *squirt* and the word *memeras* have similar meanings because *memeras* means putting pressure (pressing, etc.) so that water comes out and also represents the sound of water movement (<https://kbbi.web.id/peras>). The datum translation also feels natural, familiar to readers and commonly used in the target language. Therefore, the raters conclude that the datum above is acceptable.

Datum (2) is a less acceptable translation because it has an unclear meaning. The word *tap* is classified as onomatopoeia because it represents striking lightly and it imitates sound that comes from the sound of an object (<http://www.writtensound.com/>). The onomatopoeia *tap* is translated into *mengetuk*, which means to hit something with knuckles, hammerheads, and others. It requires a more complete information to make the translation more natural, namely with what object Ma knocked on his head. As a result, the datum is labeled as a less acceptable translation.

The translation of an onomatopoeic verb in (3) is unacceptable because it has an unnatural word form. The word *zoom* is classified as onomatopoeia because it imitates sound when something is motorized and is classified as the sound of an object (<http://www.writtensound.com/>). The onomatopoeia *zoom* is translated into *memelesatkan*. The word *zoom* means to move very quickly (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/zoom>). The word *memelesatkan* is not commonly used and not listed in KBBI (<https://kbbi.web.id/melesat>). The context is an event in which a jack is holding a jeep while zooming it through the air, and *memelesatkannya* is not the correct translation due to the use of the word *memelesat* in Indonesian language. As a result, the datum is labeled as an unacceptable translation.

The analysis of accuracy and acceptability is complemented by the analysis of some factors influencing the quality of the translation. The summary of the factors that influence the translation quality is presented in the table below.

Table 4. Factors Influencing the Translation Strategies

Translation Quality	Factors Influencing the Translation Strategy
Accurate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Having the same meaning and message in TT b. Being interpreted accurately in TT
Less Accurate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Creating double meanings in TT b. Distorting meaning in TT c. Omitting meaning that interferes the integration of the message
Inaccurate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Failing in the choice of appropriate words that correspond with context in TT

	b. Carrying a very different meaning in TT
Acceptable	a. Being commonly used and familiar to readers b. Being recognized in TT dictionaries c. Being sensed as natural in TT
Less Acceptable	a. Failing in the choice of appropriate words that correspond with context b. Producing the feel of not so natural translation in TT
Unacceptable	a. Giving the impression of a translated work b. Producing the feel of peculiar translation in TT

Furthermore, as the factors influencing the quality of the translation of onomatopoeic verbs are identified, problems in translating onomatopoeic verbs in ROOM novel can be deduced. Most of the problems come from linguistic complications, such as problems with choosing correct equivalent words.

For example:

SL: She puffs her breath when she's getting the cubes out of Freezer.

TL: *Dia mengembungkan pipinya ketika dia mengambil es batu dari Freezer.*

SL: I sniff, there's nothing in my nose

TL: *Aku menyedot hidung, tidak ada apa pun di hidungku*

ST: ... and judge bangs the hammer.

TL: *dan hakim memukul palu.*

The three examples above clearly show the translator's problem with choosing the appropriate equivalents. In the first example, the word puff has no relation to the meaning of the word puff itself because it has a different meaning, so the translation is unsuccessful in conveying the meaning of ST. In the second example, the words sniff and menyedot have the same meaning, yet the source text onomatopoeic verb is translated into menyedot hidung, so it creates a double meaning. They are sucking the liquid in the nose, or inhaling with the nose. As a result, it would be preferable if the translation could be more specific, such as menyedot ingus. In the third example, the word memukul is correctly used in this sentence, hakim memukul palu. Memukul palu is not familiar to readers of TT. It would be better if the translation was hakim mengetuk palu because it is more familiar to target text readers.

The quality of the translation of onomatopoeic verbs in the ROOM novel is focused on two parameters, the accuracy and the acceptability. Assessed in terms of accuracy, the score for all of the data indicates an average of 2.3. It can be inferred that the translation is less accurate. In addition, in terms of acceptability, the average score is 2.45, which can be understood that the translation is less acceptable.

Based on this fact, the translator needs to use the right strategies to translate the onomatopoeic verbs. Although a dictionary tool can be used to facilitate the translation process, the competence of a translator plays a more important role in producing an accurate and acceptable translations of onomatopoeic verbs. Even though equivalent onomatopoeic terms can be found in the dictionary, a translator must be able to translate these words by looking at each context encompassing the use of onomatopoeic items as a whole, to produce high-quality translation.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In conclusion, based on the analysis on 62 data of onomatopoeic verbs that are found in ROOM novel, different translation strategies, five strategies are applied by the translator when dealing with onomatopoeic verbs. Translation using non-onomatopoeic words with similar meaning is the most frequently used strategy since the majority of the translations of onomatopoeic verbs are recognized in TT dictionaries. The implementation of the translation strategies affects the quality of the translation. The strategy of translation using non-onomatopoeic words with similar meaning gives a positive impact on the quality of the translation in terms of accuracy and acceptability. On the other hand, the application of translation using a word with different meaning in translating onomatopoeic verbs tends to produce low quality translation. In order to produce high-quality translations, the improvement of competence along with knowledge of onomatopoeic verbs both in ST and TT is expected to be able to make translators more aware of the proper use of the onomatopoeic translation in order to reduce the misinterpretation of translation during the process of translating.

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