

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Translation is a process of transferring meaning from source language to target language (Larson, 1998). According to Newmark (1988), translation is defined as rendering the meaning of a text into another language according to the author's intention. Translation plays an important role in human's life, especially in communication between languages (Saha, 2020). To communicate cross-language, people need translation in order to understand meaning (Damar & Kurnia, 2021). In translation studies, (House, 2015) classified translation into overt and covert translation. Overt translation refers to a translation that clearly shows its connection to the source language and culture, while covert translation functions as if it were originally written for the target audience and culture. These two types demonstrate how translators may preserve or adapt cultural elements in the translation process.

There are many Indonesian literary works that have been translated into English. In literary works, there are usually many figures of speech. These texts are often more challenging to be translated as it might contain cultural terms. Figurative language is a language that uses interpreted meaning instead of its literal translation (Harya, 2017). Inferring the meaning of a figurative language is needed because the literal translation might produce different translation from its actual meaning. Previous studies have mentioned that translators find difficulties in preserving the actual meaning and emotional depth due to the difference of cultural nuances and linguistic structure (Warminingsih & Syamrurrijal, 2025). A word of figurative language cannot be translated literally (Gustema & Tanjung, 2020)

Written by Andrea Hirata, *Laskar Pelangi* is one of Indonesian literary work that is known worldwide. It has been translated into many languages, including English with the title "The Rainbow Troops". The story in the novel took place in Belitong Island, specifically in Lenggang village. It portrays the struggle of ten children to pursue education despite their economic limitations. Consequently, there are many Indonesian figurative languages contained in the novel. Some researchers have examined the translation of *Laskar Pelangi*

from various perspectives, including the missing information, acceptability, and addition of information.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What types of figures of speech are found in *Laskar Pelangi* and its English translation?
2. What type of translation is used in translating figures of speech from *Laskar Pelangi* into *The Rainbow Troops*?

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To analyze the types of figures of speech are found in *Laskar Pelangi* and its English translation.
2. To identify the translation types is used in translating the figures of speech from *Laskar Pelangi* into *The Rainbow Troops*.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

This study compares the figures of speech found in the novel *Laskar Pelangi* and its English translation. To conduct the analysis, this study applies overt and covert translation theory and figurative language theory.

House explains that translation is not only a linguistic process but also involves transferring meaning across different cultural contexts. In her model, House distinguishes two types of translation: overt and covert translation. Overt translation maintains the cultural characteristics of the source text, while covert translation adapts the text to fit the target culture and audience. Therefore, House's model is used in this study to examine the translation of figurative language in *Laskar Pelangi* by comparing the ST and TT based on the concepts of overt and covert translation.

This study also uses the theory of figurative language proposed by Perrine (2018) to identify the types of figures of speech found in the *Laskar Pelangi*. Figurative language refers to expressions that go beyond their literal meaning. Figures of speech are classified as simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, overstatement, understatement, and irony. These types are used to classify the data before analyzing the translation.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study will provide several contributions. First, for students who engage in literature and translation studies. It will help them understand figurative language in literary translations. Second, for translators, particularly in translating figurative expressions. Third, for future researchers. This study may be used as a reference, specifically studies related to figurative language and translation.

1.6 Scope and Limitations

This study focuses on the translation of figures of speech. The writer wants to analyze the types of figures of speech found in *Laskar Pelangi* and the English version (*The Rainbow Troops*). This study also analyzes the overt and covert translation in translating figures of speech.

However, this study is limited to the analysis of the figures of speech based on Perrine (2018). It does not analyze the other translation aspects and does not provide the alternative translation for the figures of speech. This study also does not analyze the translation quality. The study is limited by the use of different editions of the source text and target text, resulting in some differences in chapter organization and content.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

1. **Translation:** A process of transferring meaning from source language to target language. (Larson, 1998)
2. **Figures of Speech:** A way of saying something other than the ordinary way, or a way of saying one thing and meaning another. (Perrine, 2018)
3. **Source text:** The original text produced in the source language. (House, 2015)
4. **Target text:** The translated version of the source text in the target language. (House, 2015)
5. **Overt translation:** A translation in which the target text openly shows that it is a translation of a source text rooted in another culture. (House, 2015)
6. **Covert translation:** A translation in which the target text functions as if it were originally created for the target audience and culture. (House, 2015)
7. **Laskar Pelangi:** A book written by Andrea Hirata in 2008

8. **The Rainbow Troops:** The English translation of Andrea Hirata's *Laskar Pelangi* which is published in 2009 translated by Angie Kilbane.

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

Chapter I provides the introduction, including the background of the study, research questions and objectives, theoretical framework, scope and limitations, significance of the study, definition of key terms, and the organization of the thesis. Chapter II presents a review of related literature, previous research, and the relevance of the studies. Chapter III covers the methodology, including research design, data sources, selection of terms, and analytical methods. Chapter IV presents the findings, results and discussion. Chapter V summarizes the conclusion and provides suggestions.