

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The background of the study

Language is a means of communication. One of the international languages is English so that many books, magazines, newspaper, etc are written in English. In order to get more information and knowledge, people need to understand the language such as English. Some people want to make it easier by translating it into their mother tongue. This condition made some people did translation studies but most of them emphasize on the product. Translation is quite a long process in which human mind is at work in analyzing the source text to get the source message, transferring the source message into the target message and restructuring it into the final product. A study to reveal the real mental process will give contribution in understanding what is really going on in the translator's mind during the process. According to Bernardini (2005) investigating human mind at work is not easy to analyze but it is not possible to do. One way to know what is going on in human mind at work is by using think aloud method. It is a research technique which is used by cognitive psychologists.

Bernardini (2005:2) said that information is kept in different memory stores with varying access and storage capabilities and human cognition as information processing is used as a model. Meanwhile, Short Term Memory (STM) has limited storage space and access easily. It is different from Long Term Memory (LTM) which more difficult but has larger storage space. Only information in STM which is static and conscious knowledge states rather than

dynamic and unconscious cognitive processes can be accessed and reported. The cognitive processes in STM can not be reported directly. It must be inferred by analyst on the basis of the verbalizations which does not interfere with the cognitive process. The verbalizations only slow down performance.

The concept of translation as problem solving process and cognitive process support think aloud to represent the translators' mental process while they are doing the translation task

1.2 The statement of the problem

This study is to analyze the cognitive process when the subjects do the translation task. It is expected that by doing it the strategies can be known. The writer, therefore, formulates the problem statement as “What process do the students do in translating the texts?”

1.3 The objective of the study

An analysis of translation as a product will not expose what happens during the translation process in translating the text. In order to know it the study aims at revealing the processes which takes place when the subjects translate the given expository texts.

1.4 The Theoretical framework

This study uses cognitive theory of translation. This theory states that translation is a cognitive process which includes understanding, transferring, and restructuring. Understanding is an effort to comprehend the meaning of the source language. Then transferring is the changing of the source language into the target language. And restructuring is reorganizing the target language. It is difficult to

identify those processes in the brain. In order to reveal those processes, Think Aloud is used in this study. Here the subjects are asked to verbalize whatever comes into their mind while the process of translating.

1.5 The significance of the study

This study emphasizes the mental process of the students while they are doing the translation task. It is expected to give useful insight for the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, especially the translation teachers and students. By recognizing the mental process, teachers and students can know the strategies that are used and it is hoped to improve the strategies that they use.

1.6 Scope and limitation

The writer limits this study only for the English Department students of Widya Mandala Catholic University academic year 2006/2007. Ten students were chosen to be the subjects. There were three students from semester 7 who had passed the translation subject, three students from the semester 5 who were taking the translation subject and four students from semester 3 who had not got the translation subject. The texts that the subjects translated were expository texts. There were a text in English to be translated into Indonesian and a text in Indonesian to be translated into English.

1.7 The definition of the key terms

The writer would like to define some key terms which are used in this study. These definitions are used in order to avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity. Those are:

1. Think Aloud is a method where people are asked to verbalize whatever comes into their mind.
2. Think-aloud protocols are verbalization of whatever thought comes to mind while somebody is translating.
3. Translation is the process of transferring a text in the source language into the target language which involves understanding, transferring and restructuring.
4. Cognitive process is the stages of acquiring knowledge and understanding
5. Expository text: a text which conveys and communicates fact.

1.8 The organization of the thesis

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter I discusses about introduction which is divided into eight sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter is background of the study. The second sub-chapter is the statement of the problems. It is continued with the objective of the study and theoretical framework. The fifth sub-chapter is significant of the study and the sixth sub-chapter is the scope and limitation. It is followed by definition of key terms. The last is organization of the study.

In Chapter II the writer discusses about review of related literature which consists of five sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter deals with translation theories. Then the second sub-chapter deals with Think-Aloud Protocols. The third sub-chapter presents the use of Think Aloud Protocols in investigating translation process which is followed by expository. The last is the review of previous studies.

In Chapter III, the writer presents the research methodology. It consists of five sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter is research design which is followed by the subjects of the study and the instrument of the study. The next sub-chapter is data collection procedures. The last is data analysis procedures.

The next is Chapter IV which is data analysis. It consists of English-Indonesian expository text, Indonesian-English expository text and the results of interview.

The last chapter is Chapter V in which the writer presents the conclusion and suggestions.