

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the thesis. It covers five main sections. The first is background describing the rationales for conducting the research. The second is formulating the problem covering the basic question to be answered consisting of one research questions. The third is operational definitions containing some definition of terms related to the research. The fourth is aim of the research containing of the objective to be achieved at the end of the research. The last is the uses of the research describing the advantage of conducting the research.

A. Background

Translation is a highly complicated process. It requires translation skills which are a basic part of language learning, such as conceptualizes the meaning and using vocabulary and grammatical structure appropriate for the target language (TL), reconstructs the meaning of the statement in a new cultural context (Larson, 1998). Beside translation skills are important to make people easy to communicate in a multicultural context, wheter culture and communication have a tight correlation. As Kaindl (2005) stated that, “popular songs are important mass media products through which cultures are articulated and hence communicated to people of different linguistic, historical and cultural backgrounds”.

The translation of song lyrics is a relatively new field of linguistic research. Several studies have examined the ways songs can be translated,

one of them has defined it as a piece of music which are designed for a singing performance (Franzon, 2008). Researcher addresses the EFL students' experience of making a 'singable' target text (TT) and describe translation strategies intended "to permit the actual performance in the target language (TL) of foreign songs, with their pre-existing music" (Low, 2008).

In case of translation in one of universities in Indonesia, the students should take Translating and Interpreting course at sixth semester. They should have to do the song translation task. Although they did not use any song translation strategies which they have learned and focused on translations strategies in general or this study called non-poetics translations such as word-for-word translation, literal translation, semantic translation, adaptation, freetranslation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation (Newmark, 1988) but they did it.

In song translation, the translator was given several choices in the way they render the text. They should determine their purpose (*skopos*) and the result will be a translation, an adaptation, or a replacement text (Low, 2013). Another choices were Newmark's strategies (1988b) such as adaptation and semantic translation. One of the translation strategies should be chosen by the translator and derived the translation purpose to make the translation result be natural and singable, as Low (2013) said that, "a good song lyric is a complex and poetic text, a good singable translation requires a mastery of non-semantic aspects, such as rhythm and singability, in order to satisfy its particular *skopos*" (p. 230).

Previous study focuses on strategy of song translation used by translator. This study differs from the previous, this present study focuses on students' experiences in translating English song lyrics by presenting an analysis of relevant aspects of student narratives that was collected as a part of a boarder inquiry into three student's experiences within three classes in an English Department at the university who have experienced translating English song lyrics projects.

B. Research Question

Based on the issues, the current problem is formulated in a question "What are the EFL students' experiences in translating English song lyrics?"

C. Operational Definition

To avoid misunderstanding, the operational definitions of each keywords are as follows:

1. Translation : Translation is a process and a result of transferring one language into another, which is aimed to reproduce the closest equivalents from the source language into the target language. In this case, song translation is a part of translations which engage the translator in all among the text types. Song translation also can be used for some projects such as subtitling/surtitling assignment for a film, or of a special publication where there

are lyrics cited (Franzon, 2008).

2. Students' Experiences : Experience is a process of doing and seeing something: problems, solutions, and steps to cope the problems.
3. EFL students : EFL is an abbreviation for "English as a Foreign Language". This is used to talk about students (who first language is not English) learning English while living in their own country. EFL students are three students from one of the Universities in Tasikmalaya, West Java, Indonesia.

D. Aims of the Research

The present study aimed to portray the EFL students' experiences in translating English song lyrics.

E. Significances of the Research

There are three uses of this research: theoretical use, empirical use, and practical use, as follows:

1. Theoretical Use

The present study is expected to develop translation theory related to the song translation in translating English song lyrics.

2. Empirical Use

This research is expected to offer the readers with a new concept of doing the translating English song lyrics.

3. Practical Use

This research is hoped to make students could to translate English song lyrics well. The last, this research will give a description about the way to teach translating course to the students by seeing students' ability.