5.1 Summary

This study was a case study designed to find out the difficulties of the subjects in translating Balinese cultural concepts into English. The design of this study is non-participant observation. The source of data were the students’ think-aloud protocols in translating Balinese cultural concepts as tape recorded and transcribed and their answer to the questions in the interview session. The data were the students’ think-aloud protocols which reflected the difficulties in translating Balinese Cultural concepts into English. By using think-aloud protocols, therefore, it was hoped that the difficulties of the subjects in translating Balinese cultural concepts would be revealed.

When translators are translating, they are engaged in a translation process. They perform a series of actions in their attempt to transfer messages from a source language into a target language. Nida stated that to do the revision, translators need to go back and forth to the original text to ensure that the revision does not distort the intended messages. He divided translation into three stages: 1) the analysis of the source language text, 2) the transfer of content, meaning or message, and 3) the restructuring in the target language. So far, translation studies in the English Department are in the form of product analysis. The analysis conducted is based on what the researchers have thought might be going on in the mind of the translator in the process of translating; and therefore, they have not been able to provide necessary insight into the problems faced by the students in doing their translations. Bernardini (2005) stated that it is not possible to directly investigate human mind at work. An indirect access to the translator’s mind is by using Think-Aloud Protocols, which is an
attempt to ask the translators to reveal their mental process while performing a translation task.

The participants of this study were the best ten students of the English Department Faculty of Letters Udayana University. They were asked to translate two culture-bound texts about Balinese culture by using think-aloud protocol. They were in the fifth semesters, particularly those who have passed the translation and Balinese culture subject. Furthermore, the participants were those who having Balinese background.

The results of the study shows that the subject used these following procedures when translating the text entitled “Hari Raya Nyepi” and “Sekaha”. It was found that some subjects used cultural equivalent, descriptive equivalent, naturalization, notes (additional information), the use of brackets or quotations and the combination about those following procedures such as naturalization is combined with descriptive equivalent which was written between brackets. The example of cultural equivalent is when some subjects translated the word leteh into cultural equivalent as following sin, filthy, the bad, and viles. Next, the use of descriptive equivalent such as the subject described the word sekaha into traditional organization. Then, the use of naturalization can be seen when the subject translated the word pengerupukan. The word pengerupukan was not translated into the cultural equivalent in TL. While, the combination of naturalization and descriptive equivalent can be seen when the subject translated the word pretima . The subject kept the word pretima and described the word pretima into instruments for praying which was written between brackets.

From the interview session, most subjects stated that the text entitled “Hari Raya Nyepi” is much more difficult to be translated than the text entitled “Sekaha”. Most subjects may fully understand the whole text but they still had problems in
translating cultural concepts that was indicated by their failure to translate the concept of the cultural term. Moreover, some subjects had problem when they adopted the English structure.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the above summarized findings, several conclusions can be drawn

1. The difficulties in transferring process

   Some subjects fully understand the intention of the source language text but they still face problems to convey it into target language. The use of dictionary did not offer much help for them to overcome problems with cultural meanings so that they tried to guess and fix the word to its context. Moreover, it can be seen that the subjects still had problem in transferring process which was indicated by their failure to translate the concept of the cultural term. If the subjects did not find the cultural equivalent in TL, they tried to use translation procedure by combining the translation procedures such as naturalization which was combined with description equivalent. Moreover, when she got stuck with complex sentences, the subject tend to translate the complex sentence into shorter ones.

2. The difficulties in restructuring process

   In this study some subjects still had a problem when they tried to adopt the English structure. Some of them reread some part of the sentence or the whole translation and did some improvement to the translation while others did not.

5.3 Suggestions

   The writer realizes that her study was far from being perfect. Based on the findings previously mentioned, the writer would like to offer three suggestions:
1. Suggestion related to transferring process

Since the subject still had a problem in transferring the concepts into English, the teacher have to teach the students about the concepts of Balinese culture. In translating a cultural term, it will require the broad understanding of the cultural background. Due to the fact that the cultural background plays a very important role during the translation process of the message from the SL to the TL, a translator must be able to find the equivalent expressions. When the subject got stuck to restructure the word into the most appropriate in TL. The students may use translation procedure by using addition, componential analysis, cultural equivalent, descriptive equivalent, literal translation, modulation, recognized translation, reduction, synonymy, transference, deletion, and combination when translating cultural term.

2. Suggestion related to restructuring process

Careless translation of the style will affect the reader’s interpretation of the whole story. Here, the students should pay a careful attention to English structure and tense. The students should carefully reread the whole translation and check for the semantic, stylistics, etc. It may help the students in producing a good translation product.

3. Recommendation for further study

It is expected that the result of this study will give input for other similar studies. The writer would like to suggest other writers to make a research of the related topic in order to cover the weakness of this study. In this study, the writer only adopted two topics about Balinese culture associated with religion and social issue. Here, the writer suggests that the further study have to deal
with various topic related to cultural aspects since culture involve all the ways of life which includes all aspects of a human right during his life includes code of manners, dress, language, religion, rituals, norms of behaviors and system of belief.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


