

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language plays a great part in our life. No one knows exactly when and how it started to exist. As quoted by Rahman (1986:39), Max Mueller, a German scholar said, "It is quite clear that we have no means of solving the problem of the origin of language historically". According to Raman himself (1986:40) that all the present existing languages must have had their historical background of a long development process a long with each of the people's culture. In other words, they are inevitably growing and developing according to the needs of the community who use them.

Each nation has its own language which is called a native language, or a national language, or a first language, or whatever name it is, with which the people of a country communicate, interact, and cooperate with their fellow citizens in their day-to-day life. People can not imagine what life will be like if there is no communication. Without language, society and culture would not exist, for it is one of the natural needs of people as social beings.

Since language is part of culture, it grows and develops according to the need of the culture on the basis of each nation's potentials, environment, and historical background. It is, therefore, the culture that has led to the differences of patterned ways of acting, talking, thinking,

and feeling of the people in the world. Both language and culture are certainly reflected in written languages in the form of various kinds of sentences. As a result, there are no exactly the same languages, eventhough they belong to one language family, they are different and have their own unique features. As it is stated by Jacob Ornstein (1973:9) that no matter how well-done a translation may be, something will always be lost from the original because every language is inextricably interwoven with the peculiar culture of its speakers or writers.

Based on the writer's experience when she read 'Alice's adventures in Wonderland', she found out that the content of the Indonesian translation was different from the original one. There were some cultural aspects that are lost. Being interested in this matter, the writer decides to write this thesis entitled: "An analysis on the loss of cultural aspects in the process of translating 'Alice's adventures in Wonderland' retold by Anne Forsyth into Indonesian".

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In line with the background, that every language has its own unique features, this study is meant to analyze the loss of cultural aspects in the process of translating 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' retold by Anne Forsyth into Indonesian. Thus, the problem of this study is formulated as follows:

1. What types of cultural aspects are lost in the process of translating 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' retold by Anne Forsyth?
2. Why do some cultural aspects get lost in the process of translating 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' retold by Anne Forsyth?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Derived from the problem stated above, the main objective of this study is to find out:

1. The types of cultural aspects that are lost in the process of translating 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' retold by Anne Forsyth.
2. The reasons why some cultural aspects get lost in the process of translating 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' retold by Anne Forsyth.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The result of this study is expected to give a contribution in the field of translation to the English department students so they will have a clear picture about the loss of cultural aspects in the process of translating that may influence translators in translating books.

### **1.5 Theoretical Framework**

In this study, the writer uses the following theories:

### *Culture and Language*

Language is a substantial but partial reflection of a culture. As stated by Benjamin Lee Whorf (1956:107) that no language can exist unless it is steeped in the context of culture; and no culture can exist which does not have at its center, the structure of natural language. Language, then, is the heart within the body of culture, and it is the interaction between the two that results in the continuation of life-energy.

### *Translation*

According to Rahman (1986:39) translation is part of communication, which has a significant role of transferring a source language ideas or message, especially those of great importance to the development activities being conducted by most developing countries. Most people consider that translation is difficult because in doing translation there must be at least two languages involved, the source and the receptor language. The other element is the message. Without these three basic elements, there will be no translation.

### *Translation and Culture*

According to Nida (1964:90) that the person who is engaged in translating from one language into another ought to be constantly aware of the contrast in the entire range of culture represented by two languages. Further, Perez (1995:89) state that source and target

language readers live in different countries, share different customs and see their worlds in different ways. That is the reason that there will always be a translation problem, especially when it is dealing with culture. Nida (1964:55) distinguishes five types of culture in translation: (1) material, (2) religious, (3) social, (4) linguistic, and (5) ecological.

### *Tale*

According to Little (1963:102) an adventure novel can be classified as a tale rather than a novel. It stresses on suspense, action, and adventure. A deep characterization is not expected in the tale. A tale is as interesting as romance because both of them are light reading especially for young people and children.

### *The Process of Translating Literary Works*

In all kind of communication, especially literature, there exists a complicity between senders and receivers that guarantees their understanding. This complicity is based upon the cultural environment and background that both groups share. In the process of translating literary works like tale, novel, poet, etc, as the consequences, a translator's cultural background will certainly contribute to his personality and attitude and lead to the differences of view point and association with words.

### *Losses of Meaning in Translation*

According to Newmark (1978:83) that the basic loss of meaning in translation due to four factors. The first is the cultural background of the text. The second is the relation between the language and culture. The third is the individual use of language between writer and translator do not coincide. The last factor is the translator and the writer have different theories of meaning and different values.

### *The Role of Translators*

According to Nida (1985:82), a translator must have at least three characteristics. First, translating must aim primarily at reproducing the message. Second, the translator must strive for equivalence rather than identity. Third, the translator's task has always been defined in terms of an accurate representation of what the original author intended to say, and not what the translator might prefer that author to have said.

### *The Role of Receptors*

According to Nida (1985:83) the role of receptors in the translation process should be viewed from two related perspectives: (1) the reaction which a particular translation produces in receptors, (2) the expectations which receptors have as to what constitutes legitimate translating.

## **1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

Being aware of how broad the topic of this study will be and the limited time available, the writer thinks it is necessary to limit the scope of the study. This study is limited only to the analysis on the loss of cultural aspects in the process of translating 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' retold by Anne Forsyth. The analysis will be based on Nida's division of culture.

## **1.7 Definition of the Key Terms**

To give the readers a clear picture of what the writer is going to discuss and to avoid misunderstanding or misinterpretation, the writer feels it is necessary to define the following terms used in this study:

### **1. Analysis**

According to *Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current* by Hornby (1974:292), analysis means a careful examination of something that is written or done in order to find out as much as possible about it.

### **2. Culture**

Newmark (1988:94) defined culture as the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression.

### **3. Process of Translating**

According to Newmark (1981:27) process of translating is transferring the meaning of a stretch or a unit of language, the whole or a part of a text, from one language to another.

### **4. Cultural Aspect**

According to Nida and Taber (1982:199) cultural aspect is part of culture which contains a lot of information that distinguish one culture into others.

### **5. Cultural Loss**

According to Newmark (1988:95) cultural loss is something that occur in the process of translating especially culture because culture is untranslatable.

## **1.8 Organization of the Study**

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter One is introduction, Chapter Two deals with review of related literature, Chapter Three presents the research methodology, Chapter Four is the data analysis and the interpretation of findings, and Chapter Five is conclusion and suggestions.