The Choices in Translating Song that Emma Heesters Used When Translating the Lyrics

by . .
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Abstract: The aims of this study were to investigate the techniques translating choices found in translated covered lyrics of “Melukis Senja”, “Maafkan Aku”, and “Cuek” by Emma Heesters. The study was conducted by using a content analysis research. The data of this study were taken from the lyrics of “Melukis Senja”, “Maafkan Aku”, and “Cuek”. The data of this study were the translated lyrics songs that appeared in “Melukis Senja”, “Maafkan Aku”, and “Cuek” songs. The data analysis was taken by observing, take notes, make a table the data based on the theory proposed by Franzon and Low. There are four kinds of translating choices techniques found in Emma Heesters covered lyrics. The result of analysis for each kind of translation choices were: Leaving the song untranslated, there were 1. Writing new lyrics but not taking the music into account, there were 8. Translating the lyrics and adapting the music accordingly, there were 26, and Adapting the translation to the original music, there were 22.

Keywords: covered songs lyrics, Melukis Senja, Maafkan Aku, Cuek, techniques translating choices

INTRODUCTION

There are many cover versions of popular songs had been recorded and posted on some platforms like Youtube, Twitter, Instagram, Tiktok, etc. It comes up with a significantly different style and sometimes really different from the original. Also, a song may be covered and translated into another language. In this modern era, there are many songs from some countries that go international and make the listener feel interested to make the cover into a different language to make them easier to sing the song. To make the cover songs in another language make the cover maker had to be a good translator to make the song still sound the same as the original in the aspect of rhyme and rhythm.

The act of translation is so complex in poetic works, which include so many non-semantic variables such as rhyme, rhythm, and singability, that it seemsless straightforward in music containing literary texts. Refers to Low (2005); Franzon (2008) An exact word-for-word translation or an exact translation of a song usually results in an unsung song that contradicts the original music. The severe constraints imposed on translators by non-semantic variables make translation approaches that center on the work of the interpreted lyrics a viable option for translating singable lyrics. Due to limitations imposed by non-semantic variables, most singable song translations do not exhibit the same high level of semantic conveyance as literary translations. (Low 2013). Loss of semantic transmission and different strategies of translation make this area of research interesting. Here is one of the Indonesian lyrics being translated into English by Emma Heesters; Hanya Rindu by Andmesh, as can be seen in the following examples:

I want you to be here with me know it sounds crazy
I miss your laugh and I miss everything we used to be
And even if it is just for a while then god please give us the time
I can’t deal with the reality that there’s nothing left that I can do
Cause my heart is just missing you

From the example above, the translated lyrics were translated by Emma Heesters and it was found that there are many changes in the English version like the words and the rhyme too.
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