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Research Article

Strategy For Translating Cultural Words in Ahmad Tohari's Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk

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KEYWORDS

translation strategy;
 cultural words;
 ronggeng dukuh paruk.

A B S T R A C T

The purpose of this research is to find the translation strategies, taken by the translator in translating cultural words into English. The source of the data is Ahmad Tohari's Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk and its translated version, "The Dancer," translated by Rene.T.A. Lysloff. This research uses descriptive qualitative as the research method; in this case the researcher collected, classified, identified the data concerning the translation of cultural words; and the cultural strategies dealing with cultural words proposed by Newmark's categories of cultural words (1988). The results show that there are eight strategies which are used by the translator to translate the cultural words. From one hundred and sixty-two data which are identified, there are 43 data (26,5%) cultural words by descriptive equivalent, 35 (21,7%) cultural words by loan word or loan word plus explanation, 32 (19,8%) cultural words by using general words, 31 (19,1%) cultural words by cultural substitution, 7 (4,3%) cultural words by omission, 6 (3,7%) cultural words by functional equivalent, 6 data (3,7%) cultural words by literal translation, and 2 data (1,2%) cultural words by naturalization. But it should be noted that the best strategy for translating cultural words is using descriptive equivalent, by employing the procedure of notes.

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INTRODUCTION

Language is an abject in translation and translation is a process conducted in language. Translation is a process between two different written languages, the original language or the language a translator translates from source language and a different language or the language a translator translate to target language. Meanwhile, according to Newmark (1988) in Trias (2019) stated that Translation is a process in which messages are conveyed from one language to another as intended by the author.. Sometimes, there are some changes in the process of translation. The change consists of some aspects, such as

grammatical, semantic, and also phonetic. In other words, translation is an access to the innovation of science, technology, art and culture. Willis (2001) stated that translation is a procedure carried out to guide the realization of the transfer of a written source language text to a target language text with an optimal level of equivalence and requires an understanding of the syntax, semantics, stylw, and pragmatics of the text from the translator of the original text.

That is why, in translating text from one language into another needs skill. It because the meaning of the source language text (SLT) into the target language text (TLT)

must be in the same meaning. In translating the text, the translator has to understand the rules that apply in the target language. It because of each language has the owned grammar itself.

One of the difficulties the translator faces is translating the words or groups of words related to culture. The translation of cultural words needs some consideration and recognition of the cultural achievements referred to in the source language (SL) text, and respect for all foreign countries and their cultures (Newmark, 1998; Baker, 2018). It can be said that when we are communicating with people from different cultures, it is best to know what is appropriate in their culture and act with regard to that, so as to avoid misunderstandings caused by culture differences (Fitriyah, Emzir, & Ridwan, 2019).

Translation does not only concern on reproducing a text in the target language but also concern on the meaning of the source language, making the closest natural equivalent, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style (Nida and Taber, 1969; Munday, 2016).

Hatim, B., & Munday, J. (2004) stated that The translation process cannot be separated from the surrounding social and cultural context.

The diversity of cultures and language of every people in the world is unique. English grammar is quite different from Indonesian grammar. Borrowing word from other languages is important to translate words. While the translator does not find the equivalent words in the target language, so he/she could translate those words by using borrowing words accurately. For example the word *dingklik* is translated into *dingklik*, a short bench to sit or to put a foot down. *Dingklik* does not have the cultural equivalent in the target language. That is why the translator has to use the borrowing strategy in order to communicate the meaning accurately. Hence, in this research, the researcher would like to find out the translation strategies for culture words which do not have the equivalents in the target language.

The problems of the research are to find out the translation strategies of cultural words by examining the novel Ahmad Tohari's *Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk* and its translated version, "The Dancer" translated by Rene.T.A. Lysloff. and, What are the difficulties encountered by the researcher during the process of translation the cultural words? Therefore, in this research the researcher uses several theories of translation to analyze the data namely Baker (2018), Newmark (1988), and Larson (1984).

There are six principles of translation are taken from Translation written by Alan Duff (2009 p. 10-11). In relation to translation problems that arise because of cultural words, Alan offers some translation strategies to

identify the words or terms which are not known in the target language, such as:

Translation by using a general word.

Translation by using cultural substitution

Translation by loan word or loan word plus explanation

Descriptive Equivalent

Functional Equivalent

Literal Translation

Naturalization

Translation by Omission

The strategies in translating of cultural words can be used whether in Indonesian as the Receptor Language or English as the Receptor Language. In this research, the researcher would like to discover translation strategies taken by the translator in translating words in terms that do not have the equivalents in the receptor language. In this way, from Indonesian as the Source Language (SL) into English as the Receptor Language (RL).

METHOD

In this research, the researcher used the descriptive qualitative method or content analysis method. The data used in this research are in the form of cultural words in Indonesian novel version *Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk* (year published?) and its translation (year published?), that is, *The Dancer*. Qualitative research is the collection of the data analysis of extensive narrative data to gain insights into a situation of interest not possible using other type research. This approach is led to the background and the individuals themselves holistically. Therefore, this approach does not permit isolation of individual or organization into the variable, but individual or organization must be included in one complete package.

Descriptive research involves a collection of the technique used to specify, delineate, or describe naturally occurring phenomena without experimental manipulation. Based on the description above, both qualitative and descriptive research are concerned with providing descriptions of phenomena that occur naturally, without the intervention of an experiment. While it is true that both types of research are concerned with the description, they approach research from a different perspective. The researcher uses descriptive qualitative research on analyzing the translation technique of the novel Ahmad Tohari's *Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk* and its translated version, "The Dancer" translated by Rene.T.A. Lysloff in cultural words in particular.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Translation by using a general word

1. Ecology/Animal

Alap-alap = a hawk

Alap-alap is a kind of bird.

Alap-alap is a name for birds of prey members of the Falconidae family. The rapids have narrower, more pointed wings, shorter and curved beaks, rounded heads, dark iris and, faster and acrobatic flight styles. Meanwhile, a hawk is a bird of prey with broad rounded wings and a long tail, typically taking prey by surprise with a short chase. Hawk is also a bird or dragonfly, hunts on the wing for food. That is why that target language does not give the message of the original.

2. Material Culture/Food

Soto = food

Soto is an Indonesian specialty food, such as soup made from meat and vegetable broth.

Housing/*Balai-balai* = the bed

Balai-balai is seating or bed made of bamboo or wood meanwhile the bed is a piece of furniture for sleeping on.

Cungkup = grave

Cungkup is a building to cover the grave.

Balai-balai is translated into the bed while *cungkup* is translated into a grave it shows that has more the general idea that the source language text.

3. Equipment/*Belati* = knife

Belati is a kind of sharp weapon whose function is to stab. The size can be smaller or larger than the knife. Meanwhile, a knife is a tool used to cut an object. The knife consists of two main parts, namely the blade and the handle of the knife.

Bedil = rifle

Bedil is a mechanical device that fires projectiles at high speed, using a pusher such as gunpowder or compressed air.. Meanwhile a rifle is a [portable](#), long-barrelled [firearm](#) designed for precision-oriented shooting, to be held with both hands and braced against the shoulder for stability during firing. The translator translates the words *belati* into knife and *bedil* into rifle that have more the general idea from the SL text *belati* and *bedil*

4. Transport/*Sado* = the carriage

Sado is a traditional two-wheeled, three or four wheeled transportation vehicle that does not use engines but uses horses instead.in translating *sado* into the carriage that has more general idea than the

source language text.

5. Clothes/*Kebaya* = lace blouse

A *kebaya* is a traditional blouse-dress combination worn by women in Indonesia. It is sometimes made from sheer material such as silk, thin cotton or semi-transparent nylon or polyester, adorned with brocade or floral pattern embroidery. A *kebaya* is usually worn with a sarong, or a batik long cloth, or onather traditional woven garment such as *ikat*, *songket* with a colorful motif. The translator translates the word *kebaya* into lace blouse that has more the general idea than the source language text.

6. Social Culture/Work

pedagang minuman = drinks vendor

The translator translates the word *pedagang minuman* into drinks vendor as the equivalent because the word has general idea than the source language text. *Pedagang minuman* is a person who sells the drinks by peddling. Meanwhile, the word vendor is a person or company offering something for sale, especially a trader in the street.

Translation by using cultural substitution

1. Organization, Ideas

Emak = mother

The translator translates the word *emak* into mother because they have the same meaning, namely, is named for women who deserve to be called mothers considered equal to mothers.

2. Social (castes)/*Ningrat*=aristocrat

The translator uses the word aristocratic as the equivalent of the word *ningrat* because they have the same meaning. *Ningrat* is a title given to someone who is the heir to the royal throne in Java. *Ningrat* is another term of "blue blood". One characteristic of nobility is the appearance of knighthood and courage, as well as courage in a man, and seems to be subtle and graceful, for a woman. Meanwhile, aristocrat means nobility and high in dignity.

3. Social Culture/Work

Lurah = village headman

The translator translates the word *lurah* into village headman because they have the same meaning.

4. Material Culture/Housing

Kakus = outhouses

Kakus is a toilet, meanwhile, the meaning of outhouses is toilet too, therefore, the translator translates the word *kakus* into outhouses.

5. Gestures/habits

Punten = scuse us

The translator translates the word *Punten* into scuse us because they have the same meaning. *Punten* is a polite Sundanese greeting,

Translation by loan word or loan word plus explanation

1. Ecology/Animal

Burung bluwak =bluwak bird

Bluwak is a local bird. The translator translates the word by using the source language as a loan word.

2. Plants

Bunga bungur = bungur tree

Bunga bungur is an Indonesian local tree. The translator translates the word by using the source language as aloan word.

3. Material Culture/Drink

Ciu = ciu

Ciu is the term for a type of alcoholic beverage produced from the fermentation process of liquid yam which is wasted in the process of making *tapai* (drops of *tapai*). *Ciu* contains alcohol. The translator translates this word using the source language text as a loan word.

4. Food

Terasi = terasi

Terasi is made from fermented fish and/or rebon shrimp, shaped like a dough or paste and is black-brown in color: usually used to make chili sauce. The translator translates the word by using the source language text as aloan word added by an explanation.

5. Equipment/*Badongan* =*badongan*

Badongan is puppet equipment. The translator translates this word using the source language text as a loan word

6. Activity/*Bukak kelambu*

Bukak kelambu = opening of the mosquito net.

Bukak kelambu is the last ritual step that must be passed by a prospective *ronggeng* Night opening mosquito nets is the night where *Ronggeng* candidates will give their purity to men who have won the competition by fulfilling the conditions that have been

determined. The translator translates the wordby using the source language text as aloan word added by an explanation

7. Gestures/habits

Mangga = *mangga*

Mangga is a polite Sundanese word. It is used when we answer someone's saying *punten*. The translator translates this word using the source language text as a loan word.

8. Organization, Ideas

Religion

Bhatara Kala = *Bhatara Kala*

Batara Kala is the god of the underworld in traditional Javanese and Balinese mythology, ruling over it in a cave along with *Setesuyara*. *Batara Kala* is also named the creator of light and the earth. He is related to the Hindu concept of *Kala*, or time. In mythology, he causes eclipses by trying to eat the Sun or the Moon. The translator translates this word using the source language text as a loan word.

9. Artistic

Ronggeng = *ronggeng*

Ronggeng is a traditional Indonesian dance art in which couples exchange poetic verses as they dance to music from drums and inflatable gongs. The translator translates this word using the source language text as a loan word.

10. work

Tobang = *tobang*

Tobang is like a servant of the army or police in charge of buying cigarettes, preparing food, and cleaning military equipment. The translator translates this word using the source language text as a loan word.

Descriptive Equivalent

1. Ecology/Plants

Pohon Bacang = mango tree

Bacang is one kind of mangos. It is translated into the mango tree; the translator uses this strategy to communicate the meaning accurately.

2. Plains

Pematang = wet rice field

pematang is a small, slightly elevated road in the rice fields, in a marshy place, etc. *Pematang* is translated into the wet rice field; the translator uses this strategy to communicate the meaning accurately.

3. Material Culture/Food

Gaplek=tapioca made from dried cassava.

Gaplek is a food ingredient that is processed from dried cassava. *Gaplek* is an Indonesian traditional food. The translator translates the word *gaplek* into tapioca made from dried cassava to communicate the meaning accurately.

4. Cloth

Ancingan = Javanese style trowsers

The translator translates the word *ancingan* into Javanese style trowsers to communicate the meaning accurately.

5. Equipment

Pintu Bambu = bamboo front gate

The translator translates the word *pintu bambu* into the bamboo gate to communicate the meaning clearly.

6. Social Culture/Work

Mantri = the health official

The translator translates the word *mantri* into the health official is to give a more detailed description of an entity in the target language.

7. Leisure

Bertayub = to dance socially

Bertayub is to dance with a professional dancer, such as *ronggeng* translated into to dance socially to communicate the meaning clearly.

8. Organization, Ideas/Customs

Ahad Pahing = a village tradition that can not be transgressed.

Ahad pahing means that all *Dukuh Paruk* communities must sleep in their own homes in the village. The translator translates the word *ahad pahing* into a village tradition that can not be transgressed to communicate the meaning accurately.

9. activities

duduk bersila = sitting cross-legged

Duduk bersila means sitting with your legs crossed in front of you. The translator translates the word *duduk bersila* into sitting cross-legged to give a more detailed description of an entity in the target language.

10. Religious

Kamitua = a respected elder

Kamitua is a deputy village chief in Central Java. The word *kamitua* is translated into a respected elder to communicate the meaning accurately

11. Political and Administrative

Siten Wedana = a regional administrator

Sisten wedana is an assistant to a district head. The translator translates the word *sisten wedana* into a regional administrator to communicate the meaning accurately

12. Artistic

Klangenengan = a beautiful song

Klangenengan is a kind of traditional song. The translator translates the word *klenengan* into a beautiful song to give a more detailed description of an entity in the target language.

13. Gestures/Habits

Ucapan salam = customary greeting

It is a habit that Indonesian people do. The word *ucapan salam* is translated into the customary greeting to communicate the meaning clearly.

Functional Equivalent

1. Material Culture/Equipment

Gardu ronda= night watch man's shelter.

The translator translates the word *gardu ronda* into the night watch man's shelter based on the function.

2. Cloth

Blankon = traditional headdress

The translator translates the word *blankon* into the traditional headdress based on the function.

Literal Translation

1. Organization, Ideas/Concept

Lampu minyak = oil lamp

Lampu minyak is translated word for word according to English structure in the target language.

2. Material Culture/Equipment

Titian bambu = bamboo footbridge

Titian bambu is translated into bamboo footbridge; it is suitable with English Structure in the target language.

Naturalization

1. Material Culture/Clothes

Sarung = sarong

The word *sarung* is translated into sarong is the naturalized strategy with the adaptation of English pronunciation.

2. Food

Tempe bongkrek = tempeh bongkrek

The word *Tempe bongkrek* is translated into tempeh bongkrek is the naturalized strategy.

Translation by Omission

1. Organization, Ideas/Concept

Mbok = *mbok*

The word *mbok* is not translated because it is not important, but this strategy does not change the meaning of the sentence.

2. Activities

slametan and *melumah*

The word *slametan* and *melumah* is not translated because it is not important, but this strategy does not change the meaning of the sentence.

3. Material culture/Food

Jengkol

The word *jengkol* is not translated because it is not important, but this strategy does not change the meaning of the sentence.

Translation by using general words

After classifying the data based on general word strategy, the researcher finds out that the translator uses that strategy in translating the novel. There are 32 words (19,8%) from 162 words which are identified.

Tabel 1. Translation by using general words

No	Source Language	Target Language
1	Sawah	Paddy fields
2	Gangsir	Criket
3	Ketapel	Slingshot
4	Alap-alap	Hawk
5	Soto	food
6	Motor ubluk	Motorcycle
7	Balai-balai	The bed
8	Nasi lontong	Rice
9	Bedeil	Rifle
10	Sado	The carriage
11	Kebaya	Lace blouse
12	Petelesan	Sheet
13	Pedagang minuman	Drinks water
14	Biji dadap	Seed
15	Kiblat	Focus
16	Caping	Hat
17	Warung cendol	Food stall
18	Pecel	Food
19	Pedagang lontong	The Proprieter

20	Konde	Hair
21	Bocah ayu	The child
22	Parang	Weapon
23	Nasi lontong	Rice
24	Ketupat	Rice cakes
25	Sarung	A length of cloth
26	Branjangan	Bird
27	Bocah bagus	The boys
28	Sado	The carriage
29	Sais	The coach man
30	Tegalan	Fields
31	Nasi lontong	Food
32	Cangkup	Grave

Translation by using Cultural Substitution

After classifying the data based on cultural substitution strategy, the researcher finds out that the translator uses that strategy in translating the novel. There are 31 words (19,1%) from 162 words which are identified.

Tabel 2. Translation by using Cultural Substitution

No	Source Language	Target Language
1	Priyayi	Gentlemen
2	Kakus	Outhouses
3	Punten	Scuse me
4	Tempayan	Jar
5	Emak	Mother
6	Kang	My dear
7	Ningrat	Aristocrat
8	Penggawa	An official
9	Jenganten	Young lady
10	Mas	Young man
11	Balai-balai	Porch
12	Nyai	Mama
13	Sampur	Scarf
14	Mantra	Incantations
15	Kiriman	Spell
16	Pengawa kantor	An official
17	Pedagang lontong	Shopkeeper
18	Kain	Batik cloth
19	Yu	Ma'am
20	Mas	Sir
21	Rani	Queen
22	Kawula	Servant
23	Krupuk	Shrim-cracker
24	Perjaka	Young man

25	Nek	Ma'sm
26	Nyai	Lady
27	Bocah bagus	A fine young man
28	Semang	Trainer
29	Ikat wulung	Tuirban
30	Priyayi	Important person
31	Kirima	Missive

Translation by using Loan Word or Loan Word Plus Explanation

After classifying the data based on loan word or loan word plus explanation strategy, the researcher finds out that the translator uses that strategy in translating the novel. There are 35 words (21,7%) from 162 words which are identified.

Tabel 3. Translation by using Loan Word or Loan Word Plus Explanation

No	Source Language	Target Language
1	Gowok	Gowok
2	Burung luwak	Luwak bird
3	Bunga bungur	Bungur tree
4	Keroncong	Keroncong
5	Bhatara kala	Bhatara kala
6	Ronggeng	Ronggeng
7	Tobang	Tobang
8	Pisang raja	The large variety known as pisang raja
9	Kula nuwun	Kula nuwun
10	Mangga	Mangga
11	Ciu	Ciu, a brandy made from fermented cassava
12	Badongan	Badongan
13	Rambutan	Rambutan
14	Keris	Keris
15	Bukak klambu	Bukak klambu, openin ceremony of the mosquito net
16	Pohon dadap	Dadap tree
17	Bunga kenanga	Kenanga flower
18	Terasi	Terasi, a spice made from fermented fish and/or rebon shrimp, shaped like a dough or paste and is black-brown in color, sometimes added with coloring agents to make it reddish.

19	Burung sikatan	Sikatan bird
20	Roh indang	Indang spirit
21	Dukun ronggeng	Dukun ronggeng
22	Bongkrek	Bonkrek
23	Kecapi	Kecapi
24	Pecel	Pecel, it is a food consisting of vegetables, namely kale, bean sprouts, long beans, spinach which is eaten with spicy peanut sauce.
25	Tari baladewa	The Baladewan dance
26	Lagu gunung sari	Gunung sari song
27	Burung sikatan	Sikatan bird
28	Burung bence	Bence bird
29	Tembang pucung	Pucung song
30	Hahayaman	Hahayaman
31	Pohon wangkul	Wangkul tree
32	Burung Kaces	Kaces bird
33	Susuk	Susuk, inserting slivers of gold or a small diamond under the skin behind an eyebrow or lip, or in the buttocks
34	Nek	Nek
35	Kuda lumping	Kuda lumping dancer

Translation by using Descriptive Equivalent

After classifying the data based on descriptive equivalent strategy, the researcher finds out that the translator uses that strategy in translating the novel. There are 43 words (26,5%) from 162 words which are identified.

Tabel 4. Translation by using Descriptive Equivalent

No	Source Language	Target Language
1	Pematang	Wet rice field
2	Buah randu	The boll f the kapok plant
3	Pohon bacang	Manggo tree
4	Gaplek	Tapioca made from dried cassava
5	Tanah kapur	The hardened and gravelly earth
6	Ancingan	Javanese style touser
7	Blankon	A traditional headdress

8	Pintu bamboo	Bamboo front gate
9	Pacak Gulu	Move a head in dance
10	Mantri	The health official
11	Bertayub	To dance socially
12	Ahad pahing	A village tradition that can not be transgressed
13	Baju lurik	A jacket of traditional lurik fabric
14	Duduk bersila	Sitting cross-legged
15	Tembang pucung	A verse from a traditional song
16	Kamitua	A respected elder
17	Siten wedana	A regional administrator
18	Kain batik	A neatly folded wrap-around skirt
19	Lurah	Adulterous headman
20	Klangenan	A beautiful song
21	Ucapan salam	Customary greeting
22	Kain kebaya	Wrap—around kain
23	Susuk	Body piercing with talisman
24	Gamelan bambu	The bamboo keyset xylophones
25	Bersimpuh	Legg tucked under
26	Orang pandai	Man so well versed in esoteric knowledge
27	Pedupaan	Incense burner
28	Gregetan	To explode with desire
29	Tukang jamu	A traditional herbal medicine specialist
30	Indang	Ronggeng spirit
31	Perayaan agustusan	The August 17 Independence Day celebration festivities
32	Wangsit	A command from the dead
33	Dipingit	Keeping the young girl seclusion
34	Ngasrep	Avoid eating salt
35	Ahad pahing	A village tradition
36	Lompong bandung	A wild food
37	Senthe urang	A wild food
38	Ngeloni	Watching over a child as he fell asleep
39	Asmara dahana	A love song
40	Banjul buntung	A son of bitch
41	Berdagang	To go into business

42	Gadis kencur	A naïve little girl
43	Lidi	Palm leaf fiber

Translation by using Functional Equivalent

After classifying the data based on functional equivalent strategy, the researcher finds out that the translator uses that strategy in translating the novel. There are 6 words (3,7%) from 162 words which are identified.

Tabel 5. Translation by using Functional Equivalent

No	Source Language	Target Language
1	Blankon	Traditional headdress
2	Tikar pandan	Sleeping mat
3	Gardu ronda	Anight watch man's shelter
4	Iket wulung	A turban around the head in traditional fashion
5	Angkruk	A bamboo shelter
6	Lincak	A bamboo couch on the verandah

Literal Translation

After classifying the data based on literal translation strategy, the researcher finds out that the translator uses that strategy in translating the novel. There are 6 words (3,7%) from 162 words which are identified.

Tabel 6. Literal Translation

No	Source Language	Target Language
1	Upacara pemandian	Ritual bath
2	Bocah ayu	Beautiful child
3	Kehidupan kebatinan	Spiritual lives
4	Menanak nasi	Cook rice
5	Lampu minyak	Oil lamp
6	Titian bambu	Bamboo footbridge

Naturalization

After classifying the data based on naturalization strategy, the researcher finds out that the translator uses that strategy in translating the novel. There are 2 words (1,2%) from 162 words which are identified.

Tabel 7. Naturalization

No	Source Language	Target Language
1	Sarung	Saroong
2	Temped bongkreng	Tempeh bongkreng

Translation by Omission

After classifying the data based on omission strategy, the researcher finds out that the translator uses that strategy in translating the novel. There are 7 words (4,3%) from 162 words which are identified.

Tabel 8. Translation by Omission

No	SourceLanguage	Target Language
1	Mbok	-
2	Slametan	-
3	Jengkol	-
4	Tua Bangka	-
5	Kubangan	-
6	Beranda	-
7	Kampret	-

CONCLUSION

From one hundred and sixty-two words, which have been identified, the researcher finds that:

1. There are eight translation strategies used by the translator to translate the cultural words in the novel *Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk* by Ahmad Tohari.
2. The translator uses the descriptive equivalent strategy in translating the cultural words, most of the time (26,5%).
3. The translator uses the loan word or loan word plus explanation strategy in translating the cultural words, some of the time (21,7%).
4. Some of the time (19,8%) the translator uses the general word strategy in translating the cultural words.
5. Some of the time (19,1%) the translator uses the general word strategy in translating the cultural words.
6. Seldom (4,3%) the translator uses the omission strategy in translating the cultural words.
7. The translator uses the functional equivalent strategy in translating the cultural words very seldom (3,7%).
8. The translator uses the literal translation strategy in translating cultural words very seldom (3,7%).
9. Very seldom (1,2%) the translator uses the naturalization strategy in translating the cultural words.

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