

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

Brian Friel's *Translations* shows the condition in imperial era when the British Empire tries to establish its power in Ireland. Through an Ordnance Survey of Ireland, the British Army is ordered to map the land and standardize the Irish place names into English. The setting of this play is a small village of Baile Beag in 1833. The mapping of the land is made to get an accurate position of Baile Beag, so it can help the Irish community to reduce unequal taxation in their place. Through standardizing the Irish place names into English, the new language will become the dominant language in Baile Beag.

The condition of the Irish community is uncertain. It can be seen from social condition, political life, also its culture and language. Many people starve because of potato famine. The Irish community only gets education in the hedge school, and the condition of the room is very miserable. At the same time, they must face the coming of the British along with a new national school in Baile Beag. Political life in Baile Beag is also unstable because of several laws that forbid the Irish community to do their political activities. On the other side, the Irish community always maintains its culture and language. Irish culture and language is equal with their identity and allegiance. Through its culture and language, they show their pride about their origin and lineage as Irish community.

Along with the condition of the Irish community in Baile Beag, the British Empire orders its army to map Baile Beag and standardize the Irish language into English. They will use their authority to force the Irish community cooperate with them. The new map of Baile Beag is made for getting accurate information about every corner of its land. Then the British will give new names in the new map. These Irish place names will be anglicized. The Irish place names will be standardized into English through transliteration process. Transliteration process is used because the Irish community speaks in different languages; Greek, Latin, and English.

*Translations* shows possession of the British Empire to Baile Beag through the mapping of the land and standardizing the Irish place names into English. By mapping the land and standardizing the Irish place names into English, the British will identify Ireland as a part of its power. The British maintains its power in Baile Beag by force. The Irish community is forced to use English as a dominant language in Baile Beag. Through standardizing the Irish language into English, Baile Beag will have a new language. It means that they will get a new culture too. The Irish community may lost its culture, and the British will give its influence to them.

In conclusion, *Translations* is an example that imperialism can be achieved by dominating the native language. The British dominates the Irish community through standardizing the Irish language into English. Then, the British will eliminate the Irish language, along with it Irish culture. Language becomes a tool to establish a hierarchical structure of power. Through language,

**the British will establish its power in Baile Beag. Besides that, standardizing the Irish place names into English can be seen as a means of possession. At last, along with an Ordnance Survey of Ireland and a new national school in Baile Beag, Friel shows the way the British destroys the Irish language and culture.**

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**