

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In this globalization era, our generation is exposed to the influence of foreign countries' culture, music, TV shows, movies, and others. This influence is spreading on the internet, which many people are exposed to. In watching foreign movies, we usually use subtitles to understand what the dialogue is about, the meaning of some contexts in the movie, etc. In this context, subtitles refer to the words that appear at the bottom of a film or television picture to explain what is being said in a different language (Cambridge Dictionary 2020). The subtitle of the movie is going through the process of translation before it is added to the movie.

Translation is an act in which a text's content from the source language is transferred to the target language (Foster, 1958 as cited in (Osman 2017)). The original language that is to be translated is called Source Language (SL), while the language to be translated into is called the Target Language (TL). In translating a text, comprehending the source text's meaning is critical to have the proper equivalent in the target text (Ghazala, 1995 as cited in (Osman 2017)). Thus, Ghazala (1995) has slightly different views on translation from Foster (1958, as cited in Osman, 2017). It is not only translating source language into a target language, but it is all the procedures and approaches used to communicate the meaning of the source language into the target language. It is meaning that is translated according to grammar, style, and sounds.

A translator might have difficulties translating the SL into the TL if s/he does not understand the actual meaning or the context of the source language. This might result in translation errors that sometimes occur in movie subtitles provided by some movie streaming sites. According to Zúniga (2016), translation error is a grammatical or spelling mistake or an incorrect word choice considering the original words' meaning or the text's target audience. Suppose a translation error occurs in a subtitle of a movie, in that case, it might misinterpret the actual meaning or context, and the audience would misunderstand the meaning of certain words from the movie. Thus, by analyzing translation errors in subtitle, we are able to know what kind of categories of errors that might occur in subtitles, so that the misinterpretation of meaning in subtitles by the audiences will not happen.

Mulan (2020) is a live-action version of its animated movie back in 1998. People around the world highly anticipate the live-action movie of Mulan. Disney website (2020) describes Mulan as a movie that tells a story about a young woman named Mulan, who disguises as a man to fight Northern Invaders that attacks China. She is the eldest daughter of the Hua family and has spirited, decisive, and quick on her feet. Her father was an honored warrior when he was younger. The emperor publishes a decree that one man per family must serve in the Imperial Army. She fills in to take the place of her ill father. She claimed that her name is Hua Jun and becoming one of China's greatest warriors. This movie won an award in People's Choice Awards in the nomination of The Action Movie of 2020. Mulan was also nominated in HPA Awards in the nomination of Outstanding Color Grading – Feature Film and Outstanding Visual Effects – Feature Film.

According to CNet's website (Solsman 2020), *Mulan* was set to release on March 27, 2020, but delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic. Disney finally released *Mulan* on their platform, Disney Plus, on September 4, 2020, which was only available for the platform's subscribers with paying \$30 more of the subscription fee. On the other hand, Bioskop Gaul, which is one of the biggest Indonesian free streaming site that provides movies and series with Indonesian subtitles, provided the movie just a few days after its release. It even provides the movie with Indonesian subtitles. This would make a lot of Indonesian audiences visit the website because of their quickness in providing Indonesian subtitles. This is one reason why the writer chose to analyze the possibility of translation errors occurred in *Mulan*'s subtitle due to the short time process.

In fact, there are errors spotted in this movie's subtitle. For instance, some of words or phrases in English are translated literally without considering the context. In the *Mulan* movie subtitles provided by Bioskop Gaul, there is a dialogue where the commander of the war said "Charge!" when they started the war. Bioskop Gaul translated this word into Indonesian as "Biaya!" which does not fit the scene's actual context. The audience who does not understand English may find the subtitle confusing and out of context. That is why, this study investigated the errors that occur in the subtitles. Using Nord's (2018) translation errors theory, this study identified the categories of errors and the most dominant category of error that occurred in the Indonesian subtitles.

According to Nord (2018), there are four categories of error in translation: linguistic, pragmatic, cultural, and text-specific translation errors. Pragmatic

translation errors appear from the difference between the source-text and target-text circumstances and mainly focused on factors other than language. Cultural translation errors are a result of the differences in the norms and conventions guiding verbal and non-verbal behavior in the two cultures involved. Structural differences in the vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and suprasegmental features of the two languages may also create linguistic translation errors. Some translation errors are specifically bound to a single source text, as is the case for certain figures of speech, neologisms, or puns.

There are several studies conducted on translation error. In the movies "The Help" and "Hidden Figures," Sihotang, Tadjuddin, and Ekowati (2020) did a study on translation errors in movie subtitles. The aim of the study was to find cultural translation errors in the movie's subtitle in terms of gender and racial discrimination. The data of the study is gathered through a qualitative technique and content analysis of the conversation in the movie's subtitles. Krippendorff's (2004) theory on conversational analysis is the content analysis used in the study. The findings of the study show that there are four types of cultural translation errors in the context of gender and racial discrimination: word choice translation errors, number translation errors, cultural material translation errors, and text translation problems in understood SL.

Krisetyawati (2010) investigated at an error analysis of fifth-semester students from Sebelas Maret University's English Department's Teacher Training and Education Faculty's translation of English noun phrases into Indonesian. This study has three aims: to identify students' errors in translating English noun phrases into

Indonesian, to identify the types of errors committed by students, and to explain the frequency distribution of student errors. The descriptive method was used in this investigation. The data then analyzed by using error analysis.

Li and Liang (2019) conducted research on subtitle translation errors in the film "The Wandering Earth." The study classified the translation errors in the movie's Chinese-English subtitle translation using Nord's categories of translation errors. The investigation discovered that the subtitle has a large number of translation errors. In the area of cultural translation errors, there is a translation that does not use the correct usage in everyday use.

Kafipour (2016) investigated the errors in the translation of discourse markers from English to Persian. The aim of this study is to examine and investigate errors caused by Persian translators when translating discourse markers from English to Persian in drama movie subtitles. This research focuses on five films from each decade since the 1970s. The collected data were analyzed by categorizing the errors. This study used the Chi-square statistical approach to see if there was a significant difference in statistical results. The three prior studies employed the qualitative method, which is also the nature of this study, however Kafipour's (2016) study analyzed the data using a statistical test called Chi-square. Krisetyawati (2010) examined a text written by students, while the writer researched movie subtitles, which is similar to the research done by Kafipour (2016), Li and Liang (2019), and Sihotang, Tadjuddin, and Ekowati (2020). Krisetyawati (2010) and Kafipour (2016) conducted research to determine the types of errors that occur in each subject and object. Some studies aimed to identify the most dominant error, which is similar to

the goal of this study. Therefore, the writer uses Nord's theory, the same theory that is used in Li and Liang's (2019) research, which has four categories of errors; pragmatic, cultural, linguistic, and text-specific.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

This research investigates the translation errors that occur in *Mulan* (2020) at the Bioskop Gaul site. There are some questions that need to be answered.

1. What categories of translation errors occur in *Mulan* at Bioskop Gaul based on Nord's theory?
2. What is the dominant category of error based on Nord's in the movie subtitle provided by Bioskop Gaul?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

From the research questions above, the writer developed the objectives of the study below:

1. To identify categories of translation errors that occur in *Mulan* (2020) at the Bioskop Gaul site.
2. To identify the dominant category of error in the movie subtitle provided by Bioskop Gaul.

1.4 Significance of the Study

By conducting this research, the writer aims for two benefits, theoretical and practical. Theoretically, this research may expand knowledge about translation

errors, particularly in movie subtitles and also elaboration on Nord's theory on translation error. Practically, this research is expected to become a reference for future researchers that intend to conduct a similar study about translation errors on movie subtitles. As well as understanding that translation errors may occur in movie subtitles, especially from free streaming sites such as Bioskop Gaul.

1.5 Definition of keywords

- Translation errors : A failure to carry out the instructions implied in the translation brief (Nord 2018)
- Streaming media : Video or audio content sent in compressed form over the internet and played immediately, rather than being saved to the hard drive (Rouse 2009).
- Subtitle : Translation of an audiovisual product's spoken (written) source text into a written target text that is placed on the original product's images at the bottom of the screen (Karamitroglou 2000)