

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Surabaya is one of historic cities in Indonesia. Surabaya obtained its freedom in 1293 after Majapahit troops conquered Tar-Tar army from Mongolia. Then, the Dutch and Japanese also invaded Surabaya. Old buildings around Surabaya are the evidence of their colonization. Fortunately, the city government preserves some of these buildings and put them under cultural heritage protection program. In order to illustrate the functions and impacts of those buildings in the past, the Department of Surabaya Culture and Tourism put inscription in front of Surabaya's old buildings.

According to Oxford Dictionary, monument is a “building, statue, etc., to remind people of a person or event” (Oxford: Learner's Pocket Dictionary, 2011, p. 285). Then, one feature of a monument is “very old interesting building” (Oxford: Learner's Pocket Dictionary, 2011, p. 285). In fact, there are many old and interesting buildings in Surabaya which are also the witness of the history of the hero's city. These monuments can be found at the north to south of Surabaya, as well as on several streets in Surabaya. These monuments are accompanied by inscriptions which are also functioned as public signs for pedestrians and tourists. Inscription is “words written in the front of a book or cut in stone or metal” (Inscription, 2015). Some of those inscriptions are in Indonesian, while others are in Indonesian and English. It is obvious that the “bilingual” monument

inscriptions still have several errors in the translation from the source language (SL), Indonesian, into the target language (TL), English. The errors may create confusion for the target readers. For example:

ST: KAWASAN DELTA PLAZA INI DULUNYA RUMAH SAKIT UMUM (C.B.Z)...

TT: THIS COMPOUND WAS FORMERLY THE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL OF SOURABAYA...

*Source: Plaza Surabaya Monument Inscription

In English, there is an error in translating “THIS COMPOUND”. In source text, it is clear that Delta Plaza area was used as a general hospital. Different in target text, it is only translated into “THIS COMPOUND”. If the readers read the target text, they will be confused. First, the Plaza Surabaya monument is placed between Delta Plaza and Mandiri Bank, opposite to RRI Radio Station. Second, Delta Plaza area is very large and since the monument is not placed at exact position, the readers will think “THIS COMPOUND” variously whether it is Mandiri Bank which is located next to Delta Plaza, RRI Radio Station which is located opposite to Delta Plaza, or WTC which is located behind Delta Plaza.

Because of this phenomenon, the writer was interested in conducting a study on translation errors found in the inscription of historical monuments in Surabaya. The writer was intrigued to know types or category of errors. This research was important in order to give suggestions to the government for the proper translations.

According to Mossop (1989, p. 55), the ‘objective’ translational error can be defined as “error which is identified without any reference to the goals of the translator vis-à-vis the readers of the translation and without direct reference to

the translator's interpretation of the text message". Therefore, translation error can be examined from the product of translation, regardless of the translator or the readers.

Another theorist who defines translation error is Anthony Pym. According to Pym (1992, p. 282), translation error can also be defined as "incompetence in translating". In short, translator must possess a quality such as linguistic, world knowledge, and common sense (Pym, 1992). Error happens due to numerous causes from lack of knowledge, lack of time management, and inappropriateness.

Further, Nord (1997, p. 74) defines translation error as "anything that obstructs the achievement of a particular function for the target addressee". She classifies translation errors into pragmatic, cultural, linguistic, and text-specific translation errors (Nord, *Translating as a Purposeful Activity*: , 1997). Nevertheless, this study applies Kim's theory to analyze the translation errors on monument inscriptions in Surabaya. Kim (2009, p. 136) classifies errors into major and minor. While in major, there are experiential, logical, interpersonal, and textual errors. Minor error can be classified as graphological mistakes such as spelling and minor grammar mistakes that do not impact meaning..

In fact, research focusing on translation and translation studies are increasing. There are several studies which focused on translation studies, specifically translation errors, such as Sari (2006), Ko (2010), Olvera-Lobo and García-Santiago (2010), Ammaratu (2014), and Davier (2014). Most of them discussed books or brochures, but none of them discussed the translation errors on monument inscriptions.

Sari (2006) analyzed the translation errors of Ibis Accor Hotel brochures. She used the translation procedures theory by Vinay and Darbelnet. Then, Sari's objects were 8 brochures of Ibis Accor Hotels from different cities, such as Surabaya, Jakarta, and Yogyakarta. Moreover, she found that the errors were mostly on the choice of vocabulary. Next, Ko (2010) analyzed on Chinese-English translation of public signs for tourism. He took his objects at tourist attractions in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Furthermore, he also found that most of these public signs used literal translation.

Then, Olvera-Lobo and García-Santiago (2010) investigated translation errors on the automatic translation (in this case is QA systems). They used Google Translator, Promt Translator and Worldlingo as the subjects. Olvera-Lobo and García-Santiago found that the errors on the automatic translation were mostly on lexical nature. In addition, they also stated that "instead of searching for 'perfection', the functionality of the question and its capacity to lead one to an adequate response are appraised".

Ammaratu (2014) analyzed on student's translation tasks and only focused on verb translation errors. It turned out that she categorized the errors into 9 categories. In her research, Ammaratu found that most of the errors were on translating the verb, changing the verb of source language into different type in target language, changing the active verb into passive verb. Finally, Davier (2014) focused on multilingual translations used in two European-based news agencies: Agence France-Presse (AFP) and Agence Télégraphique Suisse (ATS). Her result was that using multilingual translations in a news agency may have a quite big

risk. In those two news agencies, biases in culture and language may also happen, though society does not realize it.

On the other hand, this study focused more on translation errors of monument inscriptions in Surabaya. In addition, the subjects of previous study were mostly taken from printed and electronic media, such as brochures, books, and online translations (e.g. Google Translate), while in this study the subjects were taken on the monument inscriptions which are also functioned as public signs. There are many researches about public sign in China; one of the researchers is Leong Ko. On his study, public signs are placed in public places and have a function to give certain information (Ko, 2010). Nevertheless, this study used Kim's theory on types of error according to meaning-assessment criteria since her theory supported the writer's study and topic. In addition, the writer's subject was different from the previous studies because the writer analyzed monument inscriptions in Surabaya as her subject, neither students' tasks nor machine translations. These monument inscriptions are open and easily accessed by the tourists. It is different from students' tasks or books since they have specific instead of general readers. The writer chose monument inscriptions since error in translating them could cause confusion among the readers and bring negative impact on tourism in Surabaya.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulated the research questions, as follows:

1. What types of errors are found on the English translation of monument

inscriptions in Surabaya?

2. Which type of error is mostly found on the English translation of monument inscriptions in Surabaya?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions, the writer converts the objectives of the study, as follows:

1. To find out the types of errors on the English translation of monument inscriptions in Surabaya.
2. To find out which error is mostly occurred on the English translation of monument inscriptions in Surabaya.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is expected to provide more knowledge about translation errors. Moreover, it may also give contribution as references for further study in translation as one of the applied linguistics.

Practically, this study can help the Department of Surabaya Culture and Tourism in providing proper translation of those monument inscriptions. By using the suggested corrections, the writer hopes that there will be no errors on all of public signs in Surabaya in the near future.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study concentrated on the translation errors of bilingual monument inscriptions in Surabaya. The writer only collected the monument inscriptions which are bilingual and placed near the historical buildings to give information about history in Surabaya.

There are 190 historical buildings in Surabaya, but only 50 of them have monument inscriptions and most of the monument inscriptions are in Indonesian language (Surabaya, 2010). The writer only collected 13 bilingual monument inscriptions as her sample. Thus, it does not represent translation errors on all monument inscriptions in Surabaya since most of the monument inscriptions are in Indonesian language.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- Translation : Rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text” (Newmark, 1988, p. 5)
- Error : Mistake (Oxford: Learner's Pocket Dictionary, 2011, p. 150)
- Monument Inscriptions : Words carved on a building or statue built to commemorate historical events happened in the past
- Translation Error : Identified without any reference to the goals of the translator vis-à-vis the readers of the translation and without direct reference to the translator's interpretation of the text message (Mossop, 1989, p. 55)
- Bilingual Monument Inscriptions : Two language words carved on a building or statue built to commemorate historical events happened in the past