

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Translation is an activity and product of changing (transferring) text from one language (SL) to another language (TL) while maintaining the meaning of the text. According to Hatim and Munday (2004), translation is the process of transferring a written text from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL) conducted by a translator, or translators, in a specific socio-cultural context. Translators themselves are humans whose job is to transfer written works from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL) (Pesurnay, 2016).

Invguy (2003) says that a professional translator is one who practices translation as a professional service. This means they are a person whose occupation is to translate words professionally for a living. Robinson (2012) states that translation is often considered a second-choice profession: most translators have their main profession in another field and only turn to translation when they lose or quit their job or move to a country if they are unable to work in their primary occupation; as translators, they often mediate between former colleagues in two or more different language communities.

In addition, another facts of translation also mentioned by Yanto (2016:23) that in fact, some translators have an educational background other than the language field. The fact that not all translators have an educational background in linguistics or translation can be seen in several professional translator's educational backgrounds, such as Dina Begum, an HPI (Indonesian Translators Association)-certified professional translator with an educational background

majoring in Library and Agricultural Informatics at IPB University (Begum, 2020). Then there is Femmy Syahrani, a translator from the HPI who has an educational background in chemical engineering from Bandung Institute of Technology (sihapei.hpi.or.id). There is also Yolanda Herman, a professional translator for HPI who is a Bachelor's Degree in International Business Management from Satya Wacana Christian University (sihapei.hpi.or.id). So this translation job is suitable for anyone who is interested and has a passion for it, even though they do not come from an educational background that supports their work as a translator; as stated by Asih Zunaidah (2020) that most of the time, translators are viewed as 'born' from a language education background and now, this presumption needs to stop as it can mislead those who want to pursue a career or business in translation.

Based on the explanation above, it can be said that the translation profession is very flexible and provides opportunities for anyone who has a passion in that field, especially those who have received an English education at university. The translation is a competency of English (education) students at various universities in Indonesia. Translation skills help students to be able to transfer messages from a foreign language (source language) to a local language (target language) or vice versa. Therefore, English education study programs at various universities in Indonesia provide Translation courses from English to Indonesian and vice versa (Siregar, 2018).

In Indonesia, many universities usually include translation courses in English education study programs. For example, there are translation courses 1: basic practice skills (2 credits in the 3rd semester) and Translation 2: contextual

translation (2 credits in the 4th semester) at Gadjah Mada University (dbsmb.sv.ugm.ac.id). Then there is a practical translation course with 3 credits in the 4th semester at the University of Indonesia (fib.ui.ac.id). Then at Airlangga University, there are 2 credits of Translation for General Text courses in the 5th Semester, Translation for Specific Purposes 2 credits in the 6th Semester, and Introduction to Translation Studies 2 credits in the 7th Semester (fib.unair.ac.id). Those are some examples of universities that have translation courses and there are many more universities in Indonesia that have translation courses in their English study programs. From the curriculum of some universities, we can see that these courses usually only have 2-4 credits. Of course, it is not enough to explore and master the translation, so it is deeply regretted because the translator is a very promising profession as mentioned by Yanto (2016:27), not a few translators can make a living from translating which means that this profession can be relied on if taken seriously. This could be an opportunity for English students who are not interested in becoming a teacher and can be chosen later if they have received a lot of knowledge and experience at the University.

Fortunately, the lack of credits in translation courses at various universities can be overcome with the Emancipated Campus (*Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka*) policy, where students of English education study programs who are interested are very likely to increase their competence in the field of translation through learning more than the credits taught in the study program. This is in accordance with the explanation of Aris Junaidi (2020) as director of Learning and Student Affairs Directorate General of Higher Education in the Emancipated Campus Guidebook (first edition) 2020, where the students have the

opportunity for 1 (one) semester or equivalent to 20 (twenty) credits of studying outside the study program at the same university; and a maximum of 2 (two) semesters or equal to 40 (forty) credits of studying in the same study program at different universities, learning in other study programs at different universities; and learning outside of Higher Education (dikti.kemdikbud.go.id, 2020).

Besides that, Robinson (2012) states that “no one can experience everything firsthand; no one can experience the thing even through books and courses and other firsthand descriptions. We must rely on the experiences of others to continue to expand our world”. Those who work as professional translators must have experienced many things in translation, and they know very well how the life of the translation world is. Of course, it will be very useful to know how the translator’s experience started from getting a professional degree (getting a professional translator certificate) and then knowing what are the competences needed and how they deal with their job. In Indonesia, the translator profession certainly requires certain competencies, so it will be very useful to do research on how professionals work for advancing translation training in universities. For this reason, the researchers conducted this research that will explore the experiences of professional translators in Jambi with the hope that the results of this study can be useful for universities to improve curriculum or as a reference to making syllabus/teaching materials for these translation subjects and are used as input for improving the quality of translation teaching for English students. Researchers also hope that the results of this research can be useful for the advancement of the world of translation, especially in Jambi province.

1.2 Research Questions

From the background of the research above, it can be drawn three questions that underlie this research, namely as follows:

1. How do professional translators describe their competence profile?
2. How do professional translators describe challenges and opportunities in their professional life?
3. What aspects of translation teaching can be improved from the professional translator's experiences?

1.3 Objectives of Research

From the research questions above, the objectives of this research can be formulated as follows:

1. To know how do professional translators describe their competence profile
2. To know how do professional translators describe challenges and opportunities in their professional life
3. To find out what aspects of translation teaching can be improved based on professional translators' experiences

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

This study aims to explore the experience of professional translators so that information is obtained about competencies, opportunities and challenges in their professional life, and reflections on these experiences for teaching translation at universities. Because there are many professional translators, the researchers limit it to only certified professional government translators at the Jambi

provincial language office. The translators who were participants in this study were only Indonesian-English translators or vice versa as many as 5 translators.

1.5 Significance of the Research

This research conducted is not only limited to answering the curiosity of researchers but also provides benefits to the surrounding environment. The following are the benefits of this research:

1. For Writer

For the writer, this research is useful for completing the final project of undergraduate study and obtaining a bachelor's degree. This research is also useful for writer in preparing to become a professional translator in the future.

2. For Universities

For universities, this research is useful as a reference in preparing syllabus/teaching materials for Translation and Interpreting courses in the English Language Department. The results of this study can also be used as reading material for both lecturers and students.

3. For Translators

For translators, this research can be a self-reflection and a medium for knowing the experiences of other translators. For translators who have not obtained a professional degree, this research will be useful for them as an information on how to becoming a certified professional translator. They can also learning from how professionals work as describe in this research proposal.

4. For General Public

This research can enrich insight and add reading material, especially in the

field of translation. This research proposal can also be used as a reference for researchers who will conduct similar research in the future.

1.6 Definition of Keyterms

Translation - Is the replacement of textual material in one language or source language where there is an equivalent of textual material in another language or target language.

Translator -is a person whose job is to transfer written works from the source language to the target language.

Competencies - Competency is an ability to do something well. Competencies are the abilities both soft and hard skills needed to be able to do something well or professionally.

Translation Teaching - Translation is an activity of transferring meaning from the source text to the target text. Teaching is an activity of transferring knowledge and skills from teachers/lecturers to students. So, teaching translation is the practice of imparting knowledge and skills from lecturers to students regarding translation theories.