

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Feminist literary translation is a translation that focuses on the field of literature that contains feminist or women's elements. Feminism, according to Chen & Chen (2017:178) is a social philosophy and political movement that was formed and launched to eradicate sexism, abuse of sexuality, gender prejudice, and sexual oppression, and encourage sexual equality. Feminism, in addition to criticizing, focuses on studying gender disparities and expanding female rights, interests, and issues that were in a position or received little attention at the time (Krismawati, 2021:1). Through this feminist movement, the term feminist translation was also coined because many women who work in the field of literature have thought of creating a work such as a novel that contains feminist elements and disseminating this work to several other countries through the method of translation (Castro & Ergun, 2018:15).

Many translators invest their translation skills in a variety of fields, one of which is literature such as novels. Novels are in great demand because of their superiority in being able to focus the attention of each reader. This happens because according to Amalia & Qomariyah (2020:104) the writer uses the novel as a medium to express his imaginative feelings related to people's life situations. So, with the link between culture and the target audience, it demands that every expert translator must have good skills in conveying the language used in

translating a novel (Latifah et al., 2022:12). Translators must be able to understand the cultural situation related to their target audience so that the translation of the novel they produce can be well understood and of high quality.

The translator must be able to produce translated sentences that allow the target reader to fully understand the message of the original novel with feminist elements, if the translator would like to translate a novel that contains feminist elements (Pujiati, 2016:961). As stated by Braçaj (2014:332) the existence of culture in the translation of feminist literature is an important part, because culture is closely related to the language involved in the translation process. So, cultural background is important in expressing the goals expressed in the literature.

Eka Kurniawan is an Indonesian writer who has shocked the international arena with the novels he has written (Azmi et al., 2023:261). According to Sahrasad & Ridwan (2019:19) in the process, Eka himself felt hesitant about publishing his work abroad, considering that the only Indonesian writer whose work was translated and published abroad was Pramoedya Ananta Toer, a writer who was also his inspiration in writing. His decision to publish one of his works, namely the novel *Cantik Itu Luka* in foreign markets, actually made his name skyrocket and brought him various awards. The novel *Cantik Itu Luka* has been translated into more than 25 languages, one of which is English (Salam, 2022:11). The novel *Cantik Itu Luka* is not the only book that has been translated and published abroad. Eka's work entitled 'Lelaki Harimau' was also published in foreign markets by Verso Book in the same year. 'Man Tiger' was even nominated for The Man Booker International Prize 2016 (Sahrasad & Ridwan, 2019:19).

Juniardi & Nafisah, (2021:2) said that the novel *Cantik Itu Luka* is a novel that contains elements of feminism, Eka Kurniawan also created a lot of novels that contain elements of gender such as masculinity, feminism, or differences in gender equality. This can be proven from the many studies that have been conducted on novels by Eka Kurniawan which contain elements of a gender perspective.

Concerning the explanation provided above, the researcher is also excited about researching one of the translations of a feminist novel by Eka Kurniawan, which contains feminist elements. This is due to the infrequent research conducted on Indonesian-English translations of novels in the field of feminist literature. Especially in analyzing the translation method used by novel translators in translating gender stereotyping elements as perspective feminist that contain different cultures between the source language and the target language.

The feminist novel that will be the object of this research is the Indonesian-English translation novel by Eka Kurniawan entitled *Cantik Itu Luka* translated by Annie Tucker as *Beauty is a Wound*. The reason why the researcher chose this novel is because the novel *Cantik Itu Luka* is a novel that contains many feminist elements and violence experienced by women since the colonial era. This novel is also one of the best sellers and has been translated into dozens of languages. It even won various awards, including World Readers in 2016. Not only that, what makes this novel the best work is because the author of this novel is a man but it is translated by a female translator.

It is a challenge for the researcher to be interested in analyzing what gender stereotypes from a feminist perspective are found in the original novel *Beauty is a Wound* and how those sentences containing gender stereotypes in the source text can be translated into English but still retain elements of feminism and also contains cultural terms that can be understood by target readers with the title: analysis of the English translation of Eka Kurniawan's novel, *Beauty is a Wound: A Feminist Perspective*.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on what has already been discussed, the questions that follow for research can be formulated:

1. What are feminine and masculine traits as gender stereotypes found in the novel *Cantik Itu Luka*?
2. How are sentences containing translation gender stereotypes in Indonesian novels *Cantik Itu Luka* translated into English?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

The following objectives are to come across based on the research questions mentioned above:

1. To find out the feminine and masculine traits as gender stereotypes found in the novel *Cantik Itu Luka*.
2. To analyze how sentences containing translation gender stereotypes in Indonesian novels *Cantik Itu Luka* translated into English.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Research

This research will only focus on the feminine and masculine traits as gender stereotypes found in the novel *Cantik Itu Luka* and how sentences containing translation gender stereotypes in Indonesian novels *Cantik Itu Luka* translated into English.

1.5 Significance of the Research

Theoretically, this research should add to the understanding of feminist literary translation. Furthermore, this research is expected to add to the treasury of research, particularly in the field of applied linguistics, specifically translation.

Practically, this research is expected to provide translators with measurements and suggestions. Translators of classic novels, in particular, must be able to use appropriate translation techniques to produce quality translations. This research will also hopefully serve as a foundation for future research in the field of feminist literary translation.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

The following definitions are provided in order to clarify the key terms utilized in this research:

Translation

Translation is the action of changing what is known as the source language into the language of the target of a text which includes messages.

Literary Translation

Literary translation is a translation method that is performed on a work of text in the form of fiction such as novels, poetry, and prose. Translators in literary translation do not only emphasize conveying information but also emphasize problems; impressions, emotions, and style of language by considering the beauty of the target language. In this translation method, different cultural terms from the language of the original text and target text's cultures are combined.

Feminist Translation

Feminist translation is a translation method related to feminist elements. In carrying out this translation method, a specific translation strategy is used which is slightly different from the general translation strategy because contain elements of a feminist perspective.

Gender Stereotypes

Gender stereotypes are the over-labeling of the characteristics, differences, and attributes of certain groups based on their gender. Gender stereotypes generally include the belief that women are weak and need the help of men to perform physical tasks and that men are inherently aggressive and strong to protect weak women.