
Poetry Translation Of “*Kamus Kecil*” By Joko Pinurbo From English-Indonesian: Semantic Analysis of Literary Works

Hermawan Petrus Nick Ghetta¹, Sri Handayani²

¹Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia| nick.gheta69@gmail.com

²Universitas Kebangsaan Republik Indonesia| handayani.ukri@gmail.com

Abstract

Poetry is a literary work that often invites readers to think deeply first to find the true meaning delivered. The meaning of poetry which was transferred through the translation process from Indonesian to English seen meaning in both source and target languages. The aim of this research was to analyze how the semantic meaning was maintained and adjusted in the translation process. Data were obtained from the poem "Little Dictionary" and its translation in English. Descriptive qualitative research was implemented with an emphasis on semantic analysis shifts in meaning, connotation and cultural nuances in both the source language and the target language. The result shows that translating poems in "Little Dictionary" required a balance between the accuracy of the meaning and the literary language. This research contributes to further understanding of the challenges and strategies in translating poetry, as well as their relevance in introducing Indonesian literary works to the international realm.

Keywords: *semantic analysis, translation, poetry*

1. Introduction

Nowadays, the translation of literary works is developing rapidly and can be enjoyed by the general public, even though it is said that translating literary works has different difficulties with texts other than literary works. For example, translating poetry requires a deep understanding of the author's native language and culture, the ability to retain the original meaning, style and nuances in the target language. Translating poetry is considered often challenging because poetry is composed of words and deep meaning and very distinctive aesthetic elements. Therefore, a translator must have the skills to understand both the source language (SL) and the target language (TL) to obtain the correct meaning and retain as much of the original nuance as possible.

Poetry is known as a literary work containing a poet's response or thoughts about something. Poetry is also considered as one of the literary works that is most in demand by various groups of people because it is a forum for a poet to express or convey his ideas or emotions through words. It contains deep ideas or thoughts from a poet, or other people's stories or the poet's personal experiences which are expressed into a work of poetry. The beauty of the words produced from poetry is a special attraction for lovers of literary works. However, the reader is often asked to think first before finding the true meaning in the poem when reading a poem because the message or meaning in poetry is not always conveyed in simple sentences or expressions.

Relating to the meaning in poetry, poetry is a literary work that is produced from the creative ideas of the author by paying attention to aesthetic or typographic forms in his/her writing with the aim of providing an impressive message for the writer and readers. According

to Pradopo (2010) at least there are three main elements to consider in writing a poetry such as ideas or emotions, poetic form, and the impression contained in the poem. As a result, poetry is usually written to convey a specific purpose that is delivered in an implied meaning. It is not a simple way to understand the implied meaning in a poem. A semantic study is one of meaning studies that can be implemented to explore the true meaning in a poem. As explained by Hutagalung (2022: 48), studying language through semantics means analyzing the meaning collected in a language as a whole so that with semantic studies, we can analyze the meaning contained in a language carefully.

In Addition, Amalia and Anggraeni (2017) in their book " *Semantik: Konsep dan Contoh Analisis* " emphasize the importance of understanding semantics in analyzing the meaning of words contained in literary texts. Meanwhile, Hariyanto (2019) in " *Penerjemahan Prosa Fiksi dan Puisi: Tantangan dan Penyelesaian* " reveals the big challenges that translators face in translating poetry, especially those that are involving word play and metaphor. Several previous studies also provide an overview of poetry translation involving semantic analysis. Hutagalung (2022) in " *Semantic Analysis of Chairil Anwar's Reception of Poetry* " analyzes the changes in meaning in Chairil Anwar's poetry when it is translated. Jannah and Firmansyah (2023) studied the semantic analysis of the poem " *We Will Reach the Sky* " by Wan Anwar, showing how the connotation and meaning in the poem can be maintained in translation. Putri Kasanah (2023) in her research on the poem " *Hujan Bulan Juni* " by Sapardi Djoko Damono also discusses how semantics plays a role in maintaining meaning in poetry when translated.

In relation to this study, the translation of the poems of " *Kamus Kecil* " from Indonesian to English were analyzed using a semantic approach to see how the meaning and connotation of the words in this poem could be maintained in the target language. The process of translating poetry required precision in choosing the right words so that the meaning was not only translated literally, but could also summarize the cultural essence and context in the poem. Therefore, this research aimed at analyzing how the translation process was carried out while maintaining the semantic meaning and beauty of the language in the poem.

2. Method

This research adopted a qualitative approach with descriptive semantic analysis to examine the translation from Indonesian into English of the *Kamus Kecil* poem written by Joko Pinurbo. The main aim of this research was to analyze how the semantic meaning of the original text in Indonesian could be maintained or adapted in the process of translation into English. The descriptive semantic approach was chosen because of its deep focus on the meaning of words, phrases, as well as linguistic and cultural elements contained in literary texts.

3. Results and Discussion

The analysis of translation the poem of " *Kamus Kecil* " written from Joko Pinurbo were analyses according to 3 categories such as identification of the words with the double meaning based on the lexical, contextual, and function, the aspect of translation, and the translation method used in translation process of the poem. The analysis results are identified in tables.

Words with the double meaning based on the lexical, contextual, and function

The following table presents the semantic identification of the words in the poem "Kamus Kecil." This table describes the lexical meaning, contextual meaning, and function of words in the poem.

Table 1 Words with the double meaning based on the lexical, contextual, and function

Indonesian Words	Lexical Meaning	Contextual Meaning	Function
<i>Bahwa</i>	Conjunction	Showing a relationship or affirmation between sentences	Connecting ideas in poetry to clarify the message conveyed
<i>Orang</i>	Individual or humans	General representation of humans as subjects experiencing feelings	Describing subjects that represent life experiences in poetry
<i>Putus</i>	Finished or separated	Separation or finish of a feeling relationship	Expressing feelings of loss or the end of a relationship in poetry
<i>Cinta</i>	Feeling of love	A deep sense of love related to interpersonal relationships	Describing emotion related to personal or romantic relationships
<i>Kecil</i>	Small	Something simple but full of meaning and significance emotional	Containing symbols of small things in life that actually have a deep value
<i>Kamus</i>	A book of word references	medium that provides understanding about meaning of words	A medium that provides understanding about meaning of words

Table 1 shows the words that indicate the double meaning found in the translation of "Kamus Kecil" seen from lexical and contextual meaning. The words are described in the following description.

1. Conjunction 'Bahwa' (that)

Lexically, Conjunction "bahwa (that)" in the context of translating "Kamus Kecil" had function as a conjunction that connects clauses. In this context, "that" is used to clarify the relationship between connected ideas. Thereby it was providing confirmation of the feelings described by the poet and showing how poetry builds relationships between various interrelated ideas.

2. The word 'orang' (person)

The word 'orang' (person) generally refers to individuals or humans. In the context of this poem, "person" represents a subject experiencing complex feelings or life experiences. The

use of this word emphasized how humans as subjects in the poem experience it as a deeper emotional entity than just a biological entity. Therefore, the function of these words was to describe universal life experiences, connecting readers with personal experiences.

3. The word 'putus' (separate/break)

Lexically, the word "break" has the meaning of stopping or separating. However, in the context of the poem, it created a more emotional connotation, expressing feelings of loss or separation in a relationship. The functions were as a symbol of separation that was not only physical, but also emotional and psychological and describing feelings of hopelessness or sadness.

4. The word 'cinta' (love)

The lexical meaning of the word 'cinta' (love) refers to feelings of deep affection. However, in the context of this poetry, "cinta (love)", it became a symbol of relationships between individuals which contained various kinds of feelings, happiness, sadness, or conflict. The function of the 'cinta' (love) in this poetry was to describe the depth of human emotions which were often full of contradictions and complexity.

5. The word 'kecil' (small)

Lexically, this word 'kecil (small) has the opposite meaning to the word "big." In poetry, "small" had functions as a symbol of things that might seem insignificant, but had a deep meaning in life. These little things might be an important part of a person's life experience, having great emotional or philosophical impact despite their seeming simplicity.

6. The word 'kamus' (dictionary)

Lexically, the word 'kamus' (dictionary) refers to a book containing definitions of words. In the context of "Kamus Kecil", this word became a symbol of the search for meaning in life. The use of this word illustrates meaning to understand life, a person needs to search for and explore the meaning of every experience or feeling that exists. Therefore, the function of this word could be interpreted to show the importance of understanding and interpretation in building self-awareness and relationships between individuals.

The Aspects of Translation

The poem 'Kamus Kecil' was translated from Indonesian into English. The lexical, contextual and style of translation were considered to gain the qualified translation result. Table 2 explains the aspects of translation appearing in the translation of 'Kamus Kecil'.

Tabel 2. The aspects of translation appearing in the translation of 'Kamus Kecil'

Words Translated	Aspect of Lexical Translation	Aspect of Contextual Translation	Style of translation
<i>Bahwa</i>	Faithful to the text	The meaning of the conjunction remains appropriate in the context of the poem	Maintaining the continuity of the ideas
<i>Orang</i>	'Human' as the exact equivalent	People as the emotional meaning	Use terms that are more personal and emotional
<i>Putus</i>	End and separate as	Maintaining the feeling of a deep	Strengthens emotional

	a lexical translation	farewell	connotations
<i>Cinta</i>	Affection or love related to human emotion	Affection or love in many contexts	Using "love" to evocate the human feeling
<i>Kecil</i>	Relate to miniature or little	Specific meaning for a little thing	Creating a touching atmosphere or feeling
<i>Kamus</i>	General equivalence	Maintain symbol of meaning in poetry	Creating an impression deeper in life

Table 2 provides an overview of how aspects of translation are applied to the poem "Kamus Kecil." The translation aspects analyzed include lexical translation, contextual translation, and translation style conveyed in the poetry. The discussion of Table 2 is indicated in the following discussions.

1. Conjunction 'Bahwa' (that)

Seen from both lexical and contextual translation, **Conjunction 'Bahwa' (that)** had not undergone significant changes. This conjunction was still used in the target language to connect ideas in poetry lexically and to connect clauses and clarify relationships between ideas for the function of contextual aspect.

2. The word 'orang' (person)

The word *orang* (person) was translated using a more personal and more emotionally evocative equivalent, such as "human." Meanwhile, contextual translation showed the importance of retaining the emotion contained in the word "person" which becomes a subject that describes deeper life experiences. In terms of style, this word is chosen to further arouse the reader's feelings towards the subject depicted in the poem.

3. The word 'putus' (separate/break)

The translation of the word '*putus*' (separate/break) lexically did not change the basic meaning of the word. The 'break' or 'separated' were still used to express separation in poetry. In addition, the translation of style was used to strengthen the emotional connotation of the farewell depicted in the poem and to provide a deeper impression for the reader.

4. The word 'cinta' (love)

The translation of the word '*cinta*' (love) is translated by maintaining its meaning and emotional intensity. The translation 'love' was used in translation to describe the depth of relationships between individuals. Meanwhile, the style and atmosphere were translated by paying attention to the emotional power that was conveyed through the word "love."

5. The word 'kecil' (small)

The word '*kecil*' (small) was translated with equivalences such as "miniature" or "little" to emphasize the simplicity of things that were actually full of meaning. The translation of style and atmosphere in thi translation aims to create a more touching atmosphere which inspired readers to see the small things in life with a deeper perspective.

6. The word 'kamus' (dictionary)

The word 'kamus' (dictionary) was translated directly because it was a symbol of unchanged meaning. Therefore, the stylistic translation created the impression that this poem was a deeper and more reflective search for meaning in life. In relating to the translation method, however, translation methods are regarded as one of important aspects of the translation. Table 3 indicates the method used in the translation process of 'Kamus Kecil'.

Tabel 3. Translation Methods used in 'Kamus Kecil' translation from Indonesian into English

Source Text	Target Text	Translation Method	Purpose
<i>Saya dibesarkan oleh bahasa Indonesia yang pintar dan lucu</i>	I was raised by a clever and funny Indonesian language	Communicative	Retaining the original meaning with an emphasis on the ' pintar dan lucu ' (nature of the Indonesian language)
<i>Walau kadang rumit dan membingungkan</i>	Even though sometimes it's complicated and confusing	Semantics	maintaining faithfulness to the meaning of words in context related
<i>Ia mengajari saya cara mengarang ilmu</i>	He taught me how to create knowledge	Literal	maintain fluency and suitability of meaning with source text
<i>Sehingga saya tahu</i>	So that I would know	Literal	maintain fluency and suitability of meaning with source text
<i>Bahwa sumber segala kisah adalah kasih</i>	That the source of every story is love	Semantic	maintaining faithfulness to the meaning of words in context related
<i>Bahwa ingin berawal dari angan</i>	That desire comes from thoughts	Communicative	The word ' angan ' in Indonesian contains a broader meaning related to thoughts and hopes.
<i>Bahwa ibu tak pernah kehilangan iba</i>	That a mother never loses sympathy	Semantic	maintaining faithfulness to the meaning of words in context related
<i>Bahwa segala yang baik akan berbiak</i>	That all good things will spread	Communicative	the figurative meaning of ' berbiak ' which in this context means to spread.
<i>Bahwa orang ramah tidak mudah marah</i>	That a friendly person is not easily angered	Literal	maintain fluency and suitability of meaning with source text

Table 3 shows that the translation of the '*Kamus Kecil*' poems uses several different approaches depending on the context and meaning to maintain. In general, literal translation is mostly used for phrases that have a fairly precise equivalent in the target language, such as the phrase '*Saya dibesarkan oleh bahasa Indonesia yang pintar dan lucu*' which was translated as "I was raised by a clever and funny Indonesian language." Semantic translation was mostly used in parts that contain deep or figurative meaning, such as in the sentence '*Bahwa ibu tak pernah kehilangan iba*' which was translated as 'That a mother never loses sympathy' This shows that the translator tried to maintain the authenticity of the message in the target text by considering the cultural values contained in the poetry. Meanwhile, the communicative translation method was also visible in several passages that contain idiomatic expressions such as '*Bahwa orang ramah tidak mudah marah*' which is translated as "That a friendly person is not easily Angered' This approach makes it possible translation to remain relevant to the target reader's context conveying the strong message of the original text. From the translation method used, the translation process that the translator tried to maintain the beautifulness and meaning of the original poetry, while ensuring that the message contained could be understood by readers in the target language without losing its essence.

4. Conclusion

According to the analysis of the translation of the poem *Kamus Kecil*' by Joko Pinurbo, it can be concluded that the translation of this poem used translation methods including communicative, semantic and literal translation methods. Communicative and semantic methods are used to maintain the deeper meaning, cultural values, and emotional nuances contained in the original text. On the other hand, literal translation was applied to parts that did not require structural changes or adjustments, thereby maintaining fidelity to the word-for-word meaning. Therefore, the translator attempted to not only maintain the meaning and essence of the poem, but also kept it relevant and well understood by readers in the target language. Using the right method according to the context of the words or phrases in the source text) was an important factor in achieving effective translation results; each translation method had a different role depending on the characteristics of the poem and the language elements that needed to be maintained.

Acknowledgment

We would like to express our special thanks to the student of Universitas Terbuka (UT) and the tutor for the process of the journal writing.

Reference

- Amalia, F., & Widayaruli Anggraeni, A. (2017). *Semantik: Konsep dan contoh analisis*. Madani.
- Hariyanto, S. (2019). Penerjemahan prosa fiksi dan puisi: Tantangan dan penyelesaian. *Jurnal Linguistik Terapan*, 9(1), 33-40.
- <https://jurnal.polinema.ac.id/index.php/jlt/article/download/166/58>
- Hutagalung, W. (2022). Analisis semantik puisi penerimaan karya chairil anwar. *Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Indonesia*, 2(1), 48-57.

<http://e-journal.elatics.ukri.ac.id>

<https://jurnaltarbiyah.uinsu.ac.id/index.php/eunoia/article/download/1322/858>

Jannah, R., & Firmansyah, R. (2023). Analisis semantik puisi kita akan sampai pada langit karya wan anwar. *Jurnal SasindoUnpam*, 11(2), 77-87.

<https://openjournal.unpam.ac.id/index.php/Sasindo/article/view/26425/17070>

Junining, E. (2018). *Strategi dan kiat praktis penerjemahan*. UB Press.

Kurnia, A. (2022). *Seni penerjemahan sastra: Panduan, gagasan, dan pengalaman*. DIVA Press.

Machali, R. (2009). *Penerjemahan: Pengantar teori dan praktek*. Penerbit Rineka Cipta.

Muam, A., & Dewantara Nugraha, C. (2021). *Pengantar penerjemahan*. Gajah Mada University Press.

Munday, J. (2016). *Introducing translation studies: Theories and applications* (4th ed.). Routledge.

Muldawati, Saputra, A., & Firmansyah, D. (2021). Analisis semantik pada puisi mata air karya herwan fr. *Basastra: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia*, 10(3), 279-290.

<https://jurnal.unimed.ac.id/2012/index.php/basastra/article/download/30155/17417>

Putri Kasanah, U. (2023). Analisis semantik dalam puisi hujan bulan juni karya sapardi djoko damono. *Lingua Franca: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pengajarannya*, 7(2), 220-228. <https://journal.um-surabaya.ac.id/lingua/article/view/7050/6869>

Ruhendi Saifullah, A. (2018). *Semantik dan dinamika pergulatan makna*. Bumi Aksara.