

## **An analysis of translation techniques for racist utterances in *Rush Hour 3***

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### **Abstract**

*This study aims to analyse the translation of racist content in the movie subtitles of "Rush Hour 3" by Dhespy fansub (Movieku) and Putra fansub (Lk21). The research uses a qualitative method and a case study design. Document analysis, including transcripts and subtitles, was employed in this research. The data were analysed by using the theory from Molina and Albir (2002). The result shows that 86 data were taken from the 2 fansub translators (43 data for each). Based on findings, there are 14 types of translation techniques are used, namely; Adaptation, Amplification, Borrowing, Calque, Compensation, Description, Establish Equivalent, Generalization, Linguistic Amplification, Linguistic Compression, Literal Translation, Modulation, Particularization, and Reduction. The researchers found that both fansubs used multiple translation techniques, with single (38%), duplet (40%), triplet (20%), and quartet groups (2%). In the Dhespy group, single grouping occurred 16 times (37%), duplet 15 times (35%), triplet 10 times (23%), and quartet 2 times (5%). In the fansub group, single grouping occurred 17 times (40%), duplet 19 times (44%), triplet 7 times (16%), and quartet none. The researchers hope this research can be helpful as a reference for readers who want to add knowledge about language features to their study.*

**Keywords:** *Movie; Racism; Translation Technique; Translator*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The process of conveying meaning from one language to another is called translation. The source language (SL) is the language that will be translated, and the target language (TL) is the language that has already been translated. According to Catford translation is the process of substituting text in one language (SL) with an equivalent text in a different language (TL) (1965). Translation approaches are "procedures to analyze and classify how translation equivalency works," according to Molina and Albir (2002: 509). One of the translations is Audio-visual.

Audio-visual translation is an activity to localization aurally and visually to a subsumed two main group named: revoicing and subtitling. Translators need to be known with the verbal and nonverbal sign to make the meaning of the utterance delivered well. According to Chaume (2018) subtitling operates by maintaining the original speech and

image which are accompanied by written stretches of text that correspond to synchronized transcription of the original dialogue.

Subtitling is a translation technique that involves displaying text on the screen at the bottom, discursive elements found in the image (such as letters, inserts, graffiti, inscriptions, placards, and the like), and information from the soundtrack (songs, voice off). Subtitles, according to Gerzymisch-Arbogast (2008), are the textual equivalent of the dialogue that appears on screen in movies. In the use of it, many people rely on subtitles to understand themes or topics being discussed in the movie. One of many topics or themes is racism.

Racism has been a long and very risky problem, fostering distrust and hatred of certain races. "Systemic racism is so embedded in systems that it often is assumed to reflect the natural, inevitable order of things" (Braveman, P. A., Arkin, E., Proctor, D., Kaun, T., & Holm, N., 2022). Racism is referring to any act, practice, or belief that humans are divided with respect to race. Some breeds are better than others, which causes them to be treated differently (Smedley, 2018). In fact, these phenomena of racism can be observed from real life or even movie scene.

The entertainment industry, which includes movies, is huge these days. A movie is a type of entertainment that uses picture, sound, and constant movement to visualize a story into a motion picture. It also includes audio to create a dramatic performance that is captured on camera, and special effects are added to create an eye-catching visual (Violeta, 2019). In addition, according to Hornby (2003), "film is a series of moving pictures that are recorded with sound to tell a story."

Rush Hour 3 Is an American best friend action-comedy film featuring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Max von Sydow, Hiroyuki Sanada, Noémie Lenoir, Yvan Attal, and Youki Kudoh, and directed by Brett Ratner and written by Jeff Mathison. In order to solve a mystery about the Chinese triads, Inspector Lee (Chan) and Officer Carter (Tucker) must trail an assassin to Paris in this third installment of the Rush Hour series. Filming on location in Paris and Los Angeles started on July 4, after the announcement on May 7, 2006. Publish date: August 10, 2007. In this movie, there are some cases where the character used racist utterances and it was difficult to understand these actions, which can have a negative impact on people of a different race. They can be found by employing theory of Molina and Albir (2002) through its translation process as done by the researchers.

## **METHOD**

This research employed a qualitative methodology. Creswell (2016) states that the goal of the qualitative analysis is to understand the phenomena of the research subject's feelings through actions, interpretation, inspiration, intervention, and ways of describing things through language and words in a natural setting and with the help of different

natural methods. In order to comprehend an individual's social reality, the qualitative method emphasizes how people interpret and create meaning of their experiences.

The researchers took the technique because the researchers intend to classify word translation and what technique used in this translation of racism utterance in *Rush Hour 3*. The aim of qualitative method is to obtain in-depth data and close reading of the text. When analyzing a physical document, whether it be a written or visual piece of content, document analysis design is employed to pinpoint specific data (Ary et al. 2010). The descriptive method used to describe the finding of the research, which is strategies used in translating racism utterance.

The researchers analyzed the movie entitled *Rush Hour 3* through the streaming website Moviekku and Lk21 which is unofficial. The researchers collected the data from the subtitles and transcript of *Rush Hour 3* Movie. The main sources of information that are used by the researchers are racism utterance of the subtitle and dialogue between the character are consider in the racism in English and Indonesian subtitle and transcription from the *Rush Hour 3* movie. The researchers used take notes as the instrument.

The researchers focused on collecting the racism utterance translation technique through English and Indonesian subtitles. These are the following steps after the researchers found the data and they were collected.

1. Collect the data by a document analysis of the racism utterance
2. Analysis and identify the translation technique used.
3. Examine the various kinds of translation methods that have been discovered.
4. Match the different kinds of translation methods with Molina and Albir's (2002) hypothesis.
5. Calculate the data that has been found
6. Write the conclusion based on the result

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The researchers analyzed and classified the results using the theories of three experts: Molina and Albir (2002) regarding 18 translation techniques, Herzog & Porfillio (2022) regarding racism, and Smedley (2018) regarding the theory of racism. The result shows that there are 86 racism data taken from fansub translators (43 data for each) including 17 words, 17 clauses, and 9 sentences. The example of the racism data is (1) Chinese, (2) the little Asian Policeman, (3) Lee, you can't be black. There's a height requirement.

Based on findings, there are 14 types of translation techniques used, namely; Adaptation, Amplification, Borrowing, Calque, Compensation, Description, Establish Equivalent, Generalization, Linguistic Amplification, Linguistic Compression, Literal Translation, Modulation, Particularization, Reduction. Those 4 types that are not used, namely; Discursive Creation, Substitution, Transpositions, Variation. In addition, the

researchers found that the translator used one or more than one translation technique translating the utterances. Therefore, the researchers grouped them into singlet (38%), duplet (40%), triplet (20%), and quartet group (2%). The table describing each translator's approach is provided below.

**Table 1 The Use of Single Translation Techniques**

No.	Translation Technique	Fansub (DH35PY28, Movieku)	Fansub (Putra, LK21)	Total
1	Established Equivalent	10 ( 30% )	4 ( 12% )	14 ( 42% )
2	Linguistic Compression	1 ( 3% )	3 ( 9% )	4 ( 12% )
3	Naturalization Borrowing	1 ( 3% )	0 ( 0% )	1 ( 3% )
4	Pure Borrowing	4 ( 12% )	10 ( 30% )	14 ( 42% )
<b>Total</b>		<b>16 ( 48% )</b>	<b>17 ( 52% )</b>	<b>33 ( 100% )</b>

The phrase "single translation technique" refers to an utterance that has only one translation method used. It is evident from the table above that 33 utterances were discovered to have only one translation mechanism utilized, from 86 data exist in the Rush Hour 3 movie with 4 categories including Establish Equivalent (42%), Linguistic Compression (12%), Naturalization Borrowing (3%), Pure Borrowing (42%).

Example:

SL: *Funny black man*

TL: *orang hitam lucu*

It means the translator translates terms or expressions that are commonly recognized by dictionary. "Funny black man" translated into "orang hitam lucu" which is recognized by dictionary.

**Table 2 The Use of Duplet Translation Techniques**

No.	Translation Technique	Fansub (DH35PY28, Movieku)	Fansub (Putra, LK21)	Total
1.	Adaptation, Naturalization Borrowing	0 ( 0% )	1 ( 3% )	1 ( 3% )
2	Compensation, Establish Equivalent	1 ( 3% )	1 ( 3% )	2 ( 6% )
3	Description, Establish Equivalent	0 ( 0% )	2 ( 6% )	2 ( 6% )
4	Description, Naturalization Borrowing	0 ( 0% )	3 ( 9% )	3 ( 9% )
5	Description, Reduction	0 ( 0% )	2 ( 6% )	2 ( 6% )
6	Establish Equivalent, Linguistic Compression	1 ( 3% )	1 ( 3% )	2 ( 6% )
7	Establish Equivalent, Naturalization Borrowing	3 ( 9% )	6 ( 18% )	9 ( 26% )
8	Establish Equivalent, Particularization	0 ( 0% )	1 ( 3% )	1 ( 3% )
9	Establish Equivalent, Pure Borrowing	9 ( 26% )	( 0% )	9 ( 26% )

10	Establish Equivalent, Reduction	0 ( 0% )	2 ( 6% )	2 ( 6% )
11	Naturalization Borrowing, Reduction	1 ( 3% )	0 ( 0% )	1 ( 3% )
<b>Total</b>		<b>15 ( 44% )</b>	<b>19 ( 56% )</b>	<b>34 ( 100% )</b>

The phrase "duplet translation technique" refers to a speech that employs two translation techniques. It is evident from the table above that 35 utterances were discovered to have employed duplet translation procedures, from 86 data exist in the Rush Hour 3 movie with 11 categories including Adaptation, Naturalization Borrowing (3%), Compensation, Establish Equivalent (6%), Description, Establish Equivalent (6%), Description, Naturalization Borrowing (9%), Description, Reduction (6%), Establish Equivalent, Linguistic Compression (6%), Establish Equivalent, Naturalization Borrowing (26%), Establish Equivalent, Particularization (3%), Establish Equivalent, Pure Borrowing (26%), Establish Equivalent, Reduction (6%), Naturalization Borrowing, Reduction (3%).

Example:

SL: *Lee, you can't be black. There's a height requirement.*

TL: *Lee, kau tak bisa jadi hitam. Ada batas tinggi.*

In this data, "you can't be black. There's a height requirement." translated into "kau tak bisa jadi kulit hitam. Ada persyaratan minimal tinggi badan." with Establish Equivalent translation technique which is recognized by dictionary, but "Lee" translated into "Lee" by using Pure Borrowing that borrow the word from SL to TL without an adjustment, and adding word "kulit, "minimal, and "badan" with Description to describe the meaning of the context

**Table 3 The Use of Triplet Translation Techniques**

No.	Translation Technique	Fansub (DH35PY28, Movieku)	Fansub (Putra, LK21)	Total
1	Amplification, Establish Equivalent, Naturalization Borrowing	1 ( 6% )	0 ( 0% )	1 ( 6% )
2	Calque, Naturalization Borrowing, Reduction	1 ( 6% )	0 ( 0% )	1 ( 6% )
3	Compensation, Establish Equivalent, Linguistic Translation	1 ( 6% )	1 ( 6% )	2 ( 12% )

4	Compensation, Establish Equivalent, Naturalization Borrowing	1 ( 6% )	0 ( 0% )	1 ( 6% )
5	Compensation, Naturalization Borrowing, Reduction	1 ( 6% )	1 ( 6% )	2 ( 12% )
6	Description, Establish Equivalent, Naturalization Borrowing	2 ( 12% )	1 ( 6% )	3 ( 18% )
7	Establish Equivalent, Generalization, Naturalization Borrowing.	1 ( 6% )	2 ( 12% )	3 ( 18% )
8	Establish Equivalent, Modulation, Reduction	0 ( 0% )	1 ( 6% )	1 ( 6% )
9	Establish Equivalent, Reduction, Pure Borrowing	1 ( 6% )	2 ( 12% )	3 ( 18% )
10	Establish Equivalent, Description, Linguistic Compression.	2 ( 12% )	0 ( 0% )	2 ( 12% )
<b>Total</b>		<b>10 ( 59% )</b>	<b>7 ( 41% )</b>	<b>17 ( 100% )</b>

The phrase "triplet translation technique" refers to a speech that employs three translation methods. It is evident from the table above that 16 utterances were identified to have employed triplet translation procedures, from 86 data exist in the Rush Hour 3 movie with 10 categories including Amplification, Establish Equivalent, Naturalization Borrowing (6%), Calque, Naturalization Borrowing, Reduction (6%), Compensation, Establish Equivalent, Linguistic Translation (12%), Compensation, Establish Equivalent, Naturalization Borrowing (6%), Compensation, Naturalization Borrowing, Reduction (12%), Description, Establish Equivalent, Naturalization Borrowing (18%), Establish Equivalent, Generalization, Naturalization Borrowing (18%), Establish Equivalent, Modulation, Reduction (6%), Establish Equivalent, Reduction, Pure Borrowing (18%), Establish Equivalent, Description, Linguistic Compression (12%).

Example:

SL: *Iranians was terrorists.*

TL: *orang Iran itu teroris*

In this utterance, the phrase "Iranians was" translated with Description to explain the information and Naturalization Borrowing to borrow the word with an adjustment into "orang iran itu", and "terrorists" translated with Establish Equivalent to "teroris".

**Table 4 The Use of Quartet Translation Techniques**

No.	Translation Technique	Fansub (DH35PY28, Movieku)	Fansub (Putra, LK21)	Total
1	Establish Equivalent, Linguistic Compression, Pure Borrowing, Reduction.	1 ( 50% )	( 0% )	1 ( 50% )
2	Establish Equivalent, Reduction, Pure Borrowing, Naturalization Borrowing.	1 ( 50% )	0 ( 0% )	1 ( 50% )
<b>Total</b>		<b>2 ( 100% )</b>	<b>( 0% )</b>	<b>2 ( 100% )</b>

The phrase "quartet translation technique" refers to a speech that employs four different translation techniques. It is evident from the table above that two utterances were identified to have employed quartet translation procedures, from 86 data exist in the Rush Hour 3 movie with 2 categories including Establish Equivalent, Linguistic Compression, Pure Borrowing, Reduction (50%), Establish Equivalent, Reduction, Pure Borrowing, Naturalization Borrowing (50%).

Example:

SL: *This is the business of China.*

TL: *ini bisnis China.*

In this utterance, the word "this" translated with Establish Equivalent to "ini", and phrase "the business" translated with Naturalization Borrowing to "bisnis", and word "China" using Pure Borrowing, and Reduction on words "is" and "of".

## CONCLUSION

Following the data analysis in the preceding chapter, the investigator discovered that there are 14 types of translation techniques used, namely; Adaptation, Amplification, Borrowing, Calque, Compensation, Description, Establish Equivalent, Generalization, Linguistic Amplification, Linguistic Compression, Literal Translation, Modulation, Particularization, Reduction. Those 4 types that are not used, namely; Discursive Creation, Substitution, Transpositions, Variation. In addition, the researchers found that the translator used one or more than one translation technique translating the utterances. Therefore, the researchers grouped them into singlet (38%), duplet (40%), triplet (20%), and quartet group (2%). The results revealed that in fansub 1 single grouping, the dominant



type of translation is Established Equivalent 10 types and fansub 2 is Pure Borrowing 10 types. In fansub 1 duplet the highest types of translation techniques are Established Equivalent & Pure Borrowing 9 and fansub 2 has 6 Established Equivalent & Naturalization Borrowing types. Meanwhile in fansub 1 translator triplet grouping the highest types of translation techniques are Description, Establish Equivalent, Naturalization Borrowing 1 and fansub 2 have 2 Establish Equivalent, Generalization, Naturalization Borrowing. The last quartet grouping has 2 types found in fansub 1 which is Establish Equivalent, Linguistic Compression, Pure Borrowing, Reduction, and Establish Equivalent, Reduction, Pure Borrowing, Naturalization Borrowing.

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