Appraisal in translational novel A Thousand Splendid Suns from English to Indonesian language

Mohammad Rizaqi Munir[1], Bernardinus Realino Suryo Baskoro[2]

[1,2] Master linguistics, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Gadjah Mada
Correpondence: rizaqimunir49@gmail.com

Abstract

This research aimed to analyze appraisal system in the translation novel entitled A Thousand Splendid Suns. The method is descriptive comparative using appraisal theory by Martin and White. The results show that the three appraisal systems, namely attitude, engagement, and graduation, were found with different numbers which indicated differences in assessment between writers and translators. The analysis concluded that the equivalence of the appraisal system needs to be carried out to keep the author's emotions, feelings, or attitudes in target text through evaluation language by the translator. It will also improve the quality of the translation.

Keywords*: Appraisal, Translation, Attitude, Graduation, Engagement*

Introduction

The appraisal system is a development theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), which is an extension of Interpersonal Meaning (Halliday, 2004; Martin & Rose, 2007). In a book entitled Language Evaluation, Martin and White (2005) explain that appraisal is an assessment of how the writers or speakers agree, disagree, enthusiasm, hate, praise, criticize through lexical choice used. The Appraisal system is also used to negotiate the relationship between the writer to the reader or the speaker to the listener (Martin & Rose, 2007). With the appraisal system, the reader or listener can understand or communicate well through the choice of words that are appropriate in the context to express the feelings, emotions, and attitudes of the writers or speakers. There are three categories in the appraisal, namely attitude, engagement, and graduation which operate in parallel (Martin & White, 2005). Attitude is related to our feelings, from emotional reactions (affection), behavioral assessment (judgment), and appreciating something (appreciation). Engagement relates to the source of the appraisal whether from one voice (monogloss) or more than one voice (heterogloss). Graduation relates to the intensity of the meaning of the source of the attitude that can be strengthened or obscured.

The sources of the appraisal can be found from speakers or writers. In written sources, a novel becomes one of the sources. A novel is the result of someone's thoughts that produce a work. In the novel, the author chooses words from the other words to represent his thoughts so that the emotions, feelings, or attitudes can be conveyed properly to the reader. As we know, many novels have been translated from one language to another. This becomes a concern about how translators can maintain the appraisal system from the source text into the target text. SFL in the field of translation has the belief that the choices made by the writers or speakers on the source text are very meaningful so that they can find out the reason for the words being chosen, the function of the choice of words, and what kind of communication generated by the choice of words (Munday, 2012). In other words, the translator needs to disclose the author's choice to the source text and re-encode the choice properly in the target text. Newmark (1998) also explains that in analyzing the source text, the translator also includes a statement about the author's purpose, namely the attitude of the writer.

From the explanation expert above, the equivalence of the appraisal system between the source text and target text is important. In case, the readers in the target text can feel the same effect as the readers in the source text. In translation, there are two equivalences, namely formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence (Nida et al., 1982). Nida and Taber (1982) also explain that translating consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and second in terms of style. In that case, to get as natural an equivalence as possible, Nida put more emphasis on dynamic equivalence, then followed by formal equivalence.

Several studies have been carried out on the translation of appraisal systems. The first research is Iswandi (2020) which discusses the degree of accuracy of the attitude translation in the main character of the Animal Farm novel. In that study, researchers and ratters assigned a value to each attitude based on the instrument or criteria proposed by Nababan and described the use of translation techniques that had an impact on the accuracy of attitude translation. Ireland (2016) also investigated the translation technique of appraisal tools and their impact on the quality of the translation of political texts. Lin & Dong Tian (2018) investigated the distribution of appraisal sources in the English version and Li Bai's poem, Changgan Xing (Chinese). Zhaoying (2017) examines the translation of explicit appraisal sources on the main character in the film The Monkey King to know the technique and quality of translation in terms of accuracy and acceptability. Furthermore, Nuraisiah (2018) also discusses attitudes towards sexism. From the several studies that have been carried out above, it can be seen that previous researchers tend to discuss the translation techniques used to translate the appraisal system.

However, there has been no further discussion regarding the equivalence of the appraisal system. This is a gap for researchers by focusing on the analysis of the equivalence of the appraisal system in the form of attitude, engagement, and graduation so that the inequivalence assessment from source text and target text can be found. The appraisal source data for this study also different from previous research where the tendency of the appraisal source used by previous researchers is an explicit appraisal source, while in this study the data are explicit and implicit.

One of the novels that accommodate appraisal sources is the novel A Thousand Splendid Suns by Haled Hosseini. A Thousand Splendid Suns became a bestseller novel published in 2007 with the theme of humanity as the background of the dark conditions of Afghanistan during the occupation of the Soviet Union and the involvement of the Taliban. This novel tells the twists and turns of life seeking freedom and love in very poor conditions in Afghanistan. The author of this novel, Khaled Hosseini, can tell the background of life that is described in a real way about how tension and emotions are mixed through a sad story. This is inseparable from the assessment made by Khaled Hosseini through the choice of words used. This novel also received the Indies Choice Book Award for Adult Fiction and received positive reactions of 4.39 out of 5 from readers on the *goodreads.com* site.

From the background described above, this research focuses on the appraisal sources, namely attitude, engagement, and graduation between the source text and target text in the novel A Thousand Splendid Suns. It is useful to know how Khaled Hosseini gives an assessment through the choice of words used to convey emotions, feelings, or attitudes and how these assessments can be represented to target text by the translator.

Methods

The method in this research is comparative descriptive. The comparative method is a way of comparing source text and target text so that the difference between the two can be seen (Williams & Chesterman, 2002). The descriptive method is concerned with describing the phenomenon from the existing findings. The source of data in this study is the subject from which the data was obtained (Arikunto, 2006). In this case, the data is the novel A Thousand Splendid Suns written by Khaled Hosseini in English language and translated by Berliani M. Nugrahani in Indonesian language. Both novels were obtained through the marketplace. Data were obtained through words, phrases, and clauses from appraisal sources, namely attitude, engagement, and graduation with their respective subsystems, both explicit and implicit. Also, the sample and population technique is used. The population is the entire existing data, namely the novel A Thousand Splendid Suns (Therdoost, 2016). Then, the

sampling method is a way to take part of the population that is representative of the population where in this study the sample was taken from 10 chapters of the 51 existing chapters. The data analysis used is a translational equivalent method where the determining tool is another language or langue (Zaim, 2014).

In data analysis, the first is labeling of the appraisal system in the novel. The next stage is to compare appraisal both the source text and target text. Then, it can be identified if there are differences in the appraisal sources. In addition, it will be described the use of appraisal according to the context of the story. In facilitating and assisting data analysis, the Cambridge Online Dictionary and the *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* KBBI online dictionary are also used as a basis for meaning.

Results and discussions

Three appraisal systems were found, namely attitude, engagement, and graduation, with 246 data on source text and 252 data on the target text. The data are in the form of words, phrases, or clauses that indicate the source of the appraisal either explicitly or implicitly. Explicit sources can be found clearly through words that indicate the source of the appraisal, while implicit sources can be found through narrated behavior or metaphorical expressions. It can be seen in the table below that the attitude in the source text has 33 positive affections and 88 negative affections, while the target text has 31 positive affections and 87 negative affections. Negative affection has a higher number than positive affection because the story in the novel depicts the misery of the character's life through the negative feelings that arise. In the judgment subsystem, there are also more negative judgments than positive ones. The judgment itself is related to a person's character which in the novel A Thousand Splendid Suns, many negative behaviors are often shown by the characters. The last part of the attitude subsystem is appreciation. The appreciation in the source text and target text are more negative appreciations than positive ones, although the differences are not too significant.

Sistem Appraisal		TSu	TSa
Attitude			
Afeksi	Positif	33	31
	Negatif	88	87
Judgement	Positif	17	17
	Negatif	47	48
Apresiasi	Positif	10	17
	Negatif	19	16
Engagement			
	Entertain	3	3
	Acknowledge	-	-
	Distance	-	-

Sistem Appraisal		TSu	TSa
	Deny	-	-
	Counter	-	-
	Concur	-	-
	Pronounce	-	-
	Endorse	-	-
Graduation			
Intensifikasi	Tinggi	18	15
	Sedang	4	7
	Rendah	-	5
Kuantifikasi	Tinggi	4	-
	Sedang	-	-
	Rendah	1	2
Sharpening	Tinggi	1	1
	Sedang	-	-
	Rendah	-	-
Softening	Tinggi	-	-
	Sedang	-	-
	Rendah	2	3

The second subsystem of the appraisal system is engagement. The results of the data analysis show that only a few appraisal sources are found in this category. In the table, the engagement types of entertainment found were only 3 in the source text and target text. The last subsystem of appraisal is graduation, which is related to the intensity of the meaning of a word whether it is high, medium, or low scale. Graduation is divided into two, namely, focus and force. Force is related to intensification and quantification, while the focus is related to sharpening and softening. In this novel, graduation categories are found 30 data in the source text and 33 data in the target text.

If the appraisal source is equivalence, the assessment in the form of feelings, emotions, and attitudes of the author in the novel A Thousand Splendid Suns can be conveyed properly to the target text by the translator. However, the problem is when there are inequivalence appraisal sources, giving a different assessment of the appraisal system. From the results of the data analysis above, there are differences in the number of appraisal sources between the source text and target text. Those indicate the different assessments between the writer Khaled Hosseini and the translator Berliani M. Nugrahani. The following is an analysis of different assessments of the attitude, engagement, and graduation category appraisal system:

Subsystem Attitude

As a writer, Khaled Hosseini understands what he wrote in the novel and how he builds emotions and feelings through the characters. What is more, he is an Afghan. He knows the true picture of feelings expressed through his choice of words. On the other hand, the translator is only observed of the culture of the novel they are translating. The following is an analysis of the different attitude subsystems between the source text and target text.

> (1) ST: *It must have because Mariam remembered that she had been* **restless and preoccupied** *(attitude: -affect: unhappy) that day, the way she was only on Thursdays, the day when Jalil visited her at the kolba.*

> TT: *Tentunya begitu, karena Mariam ingat bahwa dia sibuk bekerja pada hari itu, seperti yang ia lakukan di hari Kamis, hari kunjungan Jalil ke kolba*

In data (1), there is a difference between the source text and target text of appraisal system wherein source text there is an appraisal system of a negative affection "restless and preoccupied", namely the feeling of being unhappy felt by Mariam, meanwhile in target text there is no negative affect. According to the context of the story, Khaled Hosseini gives an assessment through Mariam that she waited for Jalil's arrival every Thursday which makes it a special day for her. Yet, in the target text, the appraisal system is not transferred but replaced with the lexical verbs "*sibuk bekerja*". in this case, the translator removes the negative feelings that Mariam felt while waiting for Jalil. This makes the assessment made by the author different from the assessment made by the translator.

> (2) ST: *The wedding dress was* **stashed away** *(attitude: -appreciation: valuation)*

> TT: *Gaun pernikahan pun* **disimpan kembali** *(attitude: +appreciation: valuation)*

Data (2) is the attitude analysis of the appreciation category. Appreciation is an assessment of an object. Both source appraisal in the source text and target text above have an appreciation of the object's value. Even though they both appreciate the object "the wedding dress", there is a difference of appreciation. The phrase "stashed away" in source text has the meaning of "hidden" which has a negative appreciation. On the other hand, the phrase in the target text *'disimpan kembali'* has a positive appreciation. According to the context story above, the author gives negative appreciation because Nana, the character in the story, was entered by Jin and immediately faint. Therefore, the marriage was failed and the wedding dress was stashed away. Meanwhile, the assessment made by the translator is different by giving positive appreciation "*disimpan kembali*". That phrase means "restored" with the assumption that

later the wedding dress can be used again for marriage. By seeing these conditions, Nana's marriage failure is very strange and other people who hear about it did not want to marry her.

(3) ST: It had two sleeping cots

TT: Di dalam pondok itu terdapat dua buah ranjang **kecil** (attitude:-appreciation: valuation)

From the source text and target text data above, there is a difference in the sources of appraisal. In the source text, the writer does not give appreciation to the phrase "two sleeping cots", while in the target text the translator gives an appreciation. The translator gave a negative appreciation by adding the word "*kecil*" to the phrase "*dua buah ranjang*". The translator tries to explain in detail in the target text to be more communicative. Looking at the context of the story, Nana and Mariam live in a small *kolba*-house. It means that the bed where they sleep is small too.

*(4) ST: Nana **yelled** at the boys as she carried bags of rice inside, and **called** them names Mariam didn't understand*

TT: Nana **menyumpahi** (attitude: -judgment: propriety) kedua anak laki-laki itu sembari menggotong karung beras ke dalam, dan **mengejek** (attitude:-judgment: propriety) mereka dengan nama-nama yang tidak dimengerti Mariam

The writer in the source text does not give the assessment, meanwhile, in the target text, the translator gives the assessment attitude of the character. The word "yelled" in source text has the meaning of "screaming", on the other hand, it is translated to target text as "*menyumpahi*" means swearing. The word in the target text in the KBBI has the meaning of *"spit out dirty words"* which has a negative judgment in the form of a bad assessment of a character who has no morals. This also happens to the word in source text "called" which is translated into *"menyumpahi"* in the target text. In the context of the story, the writer did not use words that show immoral characters even though it is known that Nana doesn't like Jalil's two sons. On the other hand, the translator translates the word more communicatively and expressively by giving a negative judgment to Nana so that Nana's feelings are conveyed more by the reader in the target text. This makes a difference in judgment between the author and the translator.

*(5) ST: Then the Mullah asked Rasheed if he indeed wished to enter into **a marriage contract** (attitude: -appreciation: valuation) with Mariam*

TT: Lalu, Mullah menanyakan kepada Rasheed apakah dia memang berniat **mempersunting** (attitude: +appreciation: valuation) Mariam

Data (5) shows the appreciation of the object. The phrase "marriage contract" has a negative appreciation of the value object. On the other hand, "*mempersunting*" in the KBBI has the meaning of "proposing with the aim of marrying" which has a positive appreciation. The two things are certainly

different where source text has a negative appreciation, while target text has a positive appreciation. Seeing the context in the story, the author used "marriage contract" because Mariam was forced to marry Rasheed. Moreover, Jalil is urged to immediately marry Mariam so that the disgrace in his family disappears. Therefore the author gives a negative appreciation. This makes the assessments made by writers and translators different.

Subsystem Engagement

The engagement subsystem is related to voice whether the source of attitude comes from the author (monogloss) or the source of attitude comes from other than the author (heterogloss). In the novel A Thousand Splendid Suns, the focus of the analysis is the heterogloss category because it relates to words, phrases, and clauses that have contrastive or expansive elements. From the various types of heterogloss that exist, only entertain types were found with a small amount, namely 3 data in the source text and 3 in the target text. Entertain itself is related to presenting the internal voice of the speaker or writer, for example, *I believe, in my view, perhaps, maybe,* etc. Based on the results of the data analysis, there were no differences in the engagement system in the novel A Thousand Splendid Suns and its translation. Therefore, it can also be concluded that the engagement system in the translated novel does not contribute much because it prioritizes the attitude system over other systems. This is because there are no other parties (different voices) who approve, refute, or quote statements in the novel.

Subsystem Graduation

The appraisal graduation system relates to the intensification of a word whether the word has a high, medium, or low scale. It has an effect if source text and target text do not have the same graduation. Based on the analysis data above, it is found that there are differences in the number of graduation in the novel A Thousand Splendid Suns and the translation. This shows that there is a difference in the intensity of meaning between the source text and target text so the assessments carried out are also different. The following is an analysis of the different graduation systems between the source text and target text:

(6)   ST: *She never dared say to Nana how much she **disliked** (graduation: force: medium scale) her talking this way about Jalil.*

TT: *Dia tidak pernah berani mengatakan kepada ibunya betapa dia **membenci** (graduation: force: high scale) cara Nana membicarakan Jalil*

According to data (6) both the source and target text shows negative affection. Yet, both of the words show a different intensity of meaning. The word "dislike" has a medium scale of graduation. Meanwhile, the word "*benci*" has a high scale of graduation. In the context of the story, Mariam "dislikes" her

mother's words to Jalil, while the translator translates with the high-intensity word *"membenci"*. This makes different assessment between writer and translator

*(7) ST: Nana looked **so mad** (graduation: force: high scale) that Mariam feared the jinn would enter her mother's body again*

*TT: Nana tampak **sangat marah** (graduation: force: medium scale) sehingga Mariam takut jin akan merasuki tubuh ibunya lagi*

The phrase "so mad" has a high-intensity scale, while the phrase "*sangat marah*" has a medium intensity scale. According to the context of the story, the phrase "so mad" appears when Mariam drops the only inheritance left by her mother. As a child, Mariam was so frightened by her actions. However, in the target text, the phrase translated into "*sangat marah*". The phrase turns out to have a different intensity of meaning from the source text. The phrase "*sangat marah*" has a medium intensity, while the phrase "*sangat murka*" is more suitable to describe Nana's feelings.

*(8) ST: She cursed their mothers, made **hateful** (graduation: intensification: high scale) faces at them*

*TT: Nana mengutuk Ibu-ibu mereka, memasang wajah **galak** (graduation: intensificaion: medium scale) di depan mereka*

Referring to the context of the story in the source text, the word "hateful" has a high-intensity scale where Nana, Mariam's mother, curses their mothers who are legal wives for Jalil. This feeling was certainly natural because Mariam was pregnant without marrying and left by Jalil. Therefore, the writer used the word "hateful" which reflects Nana's feelings. However, in the target text, the intensity of the high scale expressed by the author is not carried out by the translator. The word is translated into "*galak*" which has a medium intensity. The phrase "*penuh kebencian*" is suitable in the target text which describes her appropriate feeling. It also has a high-intensity scale on the target text.

*(9) ST: Mariam **loved** (graduation: force: high scale) having visitors at the kolba*

*TT: Mariam **senang** (graduation: force: medium scale) jika ada tamu mengunjungi kolba*

The appraisal sources above show feelings of happiness with different intensities of words. The word "loved" in source text has a high-intensity scale, while the word "*senang*" in target text has a medium intensity. Referring to the context of the story, Mariam has a boring life in Kolba because the house she lives in is far from other people. If there are people who visit her house, she has a great feeling that is expressed by the author with the word "loved". Moreover, the one who visited him was her biological father, Jalil. In contrast, the translator used the word "*senang*" which has the intensity scale under "loved". The word certainly does not describe the assessment made by the author of the

novel. The word "*bahagia*" is more suitable to replace the word "*senang*" in target text so that the intensity of the words possessed is the same as in source text.

> *(10) ST: If Jalil was running late, **a terrible dread** (graduation: force: high scale) filled her bit by bit.*

> *TT: Jika Jalil terlambat, **kecemasan** (graduation: medium scale) akan menggerogoti-nya.*

The phrase "a terrible dread" in the source text seems redundant because Jalil was only late to visit Mariam. Yet, referring to the context, it becomes normal because the happiness that Mariam desires is to have a father who is always with her. Moreover, Mariam's condition with her mother was not good. The author describes Mariam's feelings with the phrase "a terrible dread", while the translator only uses the word "*kecemasan*". The appraisal sources between the source text and target text have different word intensities. In the source text, it has a high-scale word intensity, while in the target text it has a medium-scale word intensity.

> *(11) ST: These thoughts are **no good** (graduation: force: medium scale), Mariam jo. You hear me*

> *TT: Pikiran seperti itu **buruk** (graduation: force: high scale) bagimu, Mariam jo Kau dengarkan kau*

The difference in the intensity of meaning also happens in the source of the appraisal in data 11. The phrase "no good" has a medium intensity, while in target text "*buruk*" has a high-intensity scale. According to the context of the story, the writer gives the medium intensity so Mariam did not burden what Mullah said to advise her. On the other hand, the translator makes it more communicative on target text by providing high scale intensity. However, this makes the assessment made by the writer and translator different.

Conclusions

In translating, it is very necessary to give attention to the appraisal system between the source text and target text. The appraisal system itself is related to how the assessment of the source text, in here novel writer, through the choice of words that have the function and form of communication can be represented to the target text by the translator. The result of the appraisal system, especially in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, found the differences in the source text and target text, which indicated differences in the assessment between writer and translator. The difference in assessment results in different attitudes between the source text and target text, such as (1) the feelings experienced by the characters in the novel are not conveyed properly, (2) appreciation is different from the source text, and (3) the intensity of meaning is not conveyed

properly in the target text. Therefore, the translator should give more attention to the appraisal system. So, it will improve the quality of the translation in terms of the appraisal system. However, it is undeniable that translators carry out various considerations in translating to target text by taking all existing aspects and conditions. There are some limitations and suggestions for further research. First, this study only analyzes one novel and uses only sample and population methods. Further studies could consider more data. Then, due to the limitations of the theory used, namely appraisal theory, it can be combined with existing translation theories.

References

Arikunto, S. (2006). *Metode Penelitian: Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktik*. Rineka Cipta.

Halliday, M. A. K. (2004). *An introduction to Functional Grammar* (3rd ed). Oxford University Press.

Irlinda, A. H., Santosa, R., & Kristina, D. (2016). Analisis Terjemahan Ekspresi Solidaritas dan Keberpihakan dalam Teks Konferensi Pers dan Siaran Media tentang Eksekusi Narapidana (Pendekatan Teori Appraisal). *PRASASTI: Journal of Linguistics*, *1*(2). https://doi.org/10.20961/prasasti.v1i2.958

Iswandi, F., Nababan, M. R., & Djatmika, N. (2020). The Accuracy Translation of Attitude in Main Character at Animal Farm Novel. *Widyaparwa*, *48*(2), 243–256. https://doi.org/10.26499/wdprw.v48i2.534

Lin, X., & Dong Tian. (2018). Attitude in Appraisal Theory: A Comparative Analysis of English Versions of Changgan Xing. *Australian International Academic Centre PTY.LTD.*, *6 (1)*, 42–49. http://dx.doi.org/10.7575/aiac.ijclts.v.6n.1p.42

Martin, J. R., & Rose, D. (2007). *Working with Discourse: Meaning Beyond the Clause*. Continuum.

Martin, J. R., & White, P. R. R. (2005). *The language of Evaluation: Appraisal in English*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Munday, J. (2012). *Evaluation in Translation*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203117743

Newmark, P. (1998). *A Textbook of Translation*. Prentice Hall Inc.

Nida, E. A., Taber, C. R., & E. J. Brill (Lejda). (1982). *The theory and practice of translation*. Brill.

Nuraisiah, S., Nababan, M. R., & Santosa, R. (2018). Translating Attitudes toward Sexism in Gone Girl Novel (An Appraisal Theory Approach). *Lingua Cultura*, *12*(3), 259. https://doi.org/10.21512/lc.v12i3.4633

Therdoost, t, Hamed. (2016). *"Sampling Method in Research Methodology: How to Choose a Sampling Technique for Research. 5*(2), 18–27.

Williams, J., & Chesterman, A. (2002). *The Map: A Beginner`s Guide to Doing Research in Translation Studies*. St. Jerome Publishing.

Zaim, M. (2014). *Metode Penelitian Bahasa: Pendekatan Struktural*. Sukabina Press.

Zhaoying, H. (2017). *Analisis Terjemahan Subtitle Bahasa Indonesia Mengenai Tokoh Utama dalam Film The Monkey King (2014) dari Perspektif Teori Appraisal* [Tesis]. UNS.