

# An Analysis of Simile Translation Using Pierini Translation Strategy in *Critical Eleven* Indonesian Novel into English

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# Abstract This study was

This study was conducted to investigate what translation strategies are used in translating figurative language which is a simile in Indonesian into English in the novel *Critical Eleven* by Ika Natassa. The theory of simile translation strategies proposed by Pierini is used as the theoretical framework of this research. Moreover, this research uses qualitative research and the method used is descriptive research. The data were classified by identifying and analyzing the strategies used to translate the similes in the source text based on Pierini's theory. The result of this study shows that all of the strategies that have been used to translate the simile identified in the novel and the dominant strategy used is literal translation or retention of the same vehicle (70,0%) by the translator to translate the simile.

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#### Abstrak

Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menyelidiki strategi penerjemahan apa yang digunakan dalam menerjemahkan bahasa kiasan yang merupakan simile dalam bahasa Indonesia ke dalam bahasa Inggris dalam novel Critical Eleven karya Ika Natassa. Teori strategi penerjemahan simile yang diusulkan oleh Pierini digunakan sebagai kerangka teoritis penelitian ini. Selain itu, penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian kualitatif dan metode yang digunakan adalah penelitian deskriptif. Data diklasifikasikan dengan mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis strategi yang digunakan untuk menerjemahkan simile dalam teks sumber berdasarkan teori Pierini. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa semua strategi yang telah digunakan untuk menerjemahkan simile diidentifikasi dalam novel dan strategi dominan yang digunakan adalah penerjemahan harfiah atau retensi kendaraan yang sama (70,0%) oleh penerjemah untuk menerjemahkan simile.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Language is crucial for social beings as it means daily communication to convey the thought, idea, feeling and emotions to other people. According to Rabiah (10), language plays understanding crucial role in relationships and integrating with a culture when used in communication contexts. In other words, Mahfudi (1) defines that the language is a distinctive characteristic of humans, used for exchanging ideas, interacting with communities, and communicating messages during conversations, highlighting its importance in human life. The definitions above explain that language is an essential component of human life, functioning as a critical instrument for communication, social engagement, and cultural integration. It not only promotes the transmission of ideas and communications, but it also reflects and preserves social interactions, separating humans from other living things by playing a unique role formation the and maintenance communities.

Literary works are the part of literature as reference for many written works from various fields that deliver the author's mind, feeling, or idea. According to Khairunnisa and Iskandar (50) state that literary works consist of novels, prose, drama, and poems. For the statement above that literary works is that one significant element of a novel is its use of Figurative language, which involves words or phrases that are not literal, but contain figurative or comparative meanings. There is the statement supported by Kennedy's statement that figurative language is a figurative language which means another way of saying something non-literally (1979).

Each language requires translation in order to convey information between languages. Translation can serve as a bridge between people who speak different languages and enable them to understand literary works. According to Munday and Basil (3), the first sense is concerned with the translator's involvement in converting the original or source text (ST) into a text in another language, the target text (TT). According to Newmark (5), "The rendering of the meaning

of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text". The definitions above are for text replacement from source to target language, which involves transferring meaning between languages.

There are definitely some difficulties in translating literary works that are faced by translators, especially in figurative language from original text to target text to reach the target audience. The process requires finding equivalent expressions in the target language that effectively convey the meaning of the original text. This complexity is why translation is considered a demanding task. The previous statement supported Ginting's statement that translation is a complex task in which the meaning of the source-language material must be transferred to target-language readers (77). Put another way, Hartono (50) states that the translator must be able to transfer the message or information from the source literary text to the target literary work as effectively as possible. Means that translation is a difficult procedure that requires the translator to accurately convey the original meaning and message.

Therefore, a translator must determine the suitable translation. However, statement supported Muchtar & Kembaren's statement that the translators must select the most relevant words, phrases, sentences, or grammatical structures and strategies translation ensure target audiences to understand (15). This means, there are so many requirements to be a good qualified translator by increasing and understanding vocabularies, understanding text phrases, metaphors, similes, idioms, and slang. To fulfill various requirements to make the translation interesting and understandable for the target culture's reader, making it a valuable tool in the translation process.

Previous studies have highlighted the use of Pierini's strategies in translating similes. First, Samsuar (2023) emphasizes their regular use, which is consistent with the method Newmark's translation strategy that found the strategy of four out of six strategies and the most widely used translator to translate the simile in the result of this study is literal translation. While Susanti (2022) aims to focus similes that determine simile obvious using Pierini's strategy, components of simile, and also typology simile which are closed simile (the simile which has explicit shared property) and open simile (the simile which has no explicit shared property). Most of the open similes in this novel can be

translated literally by retaining the same vehicle. Meanwhile, Sigit and Sembiring (2023) aims to focus with two figurative language which are metaphor and simile to know what the strategies are suitable that are used by translator, in their research found that the most dominant metaphor, namely reproducing the metaphorical image in the target language and simile found is literal translation (retention of the same vehicle/image with combined two of theories Spradley and Newmark. Moreover, W. Ramli (2014) focuses to identify and analyze the simile translation using the method materials of the study & procedure of the study that was used by the translator translating this element from the original text of that novel.

The previous studies above have examined the translation of similes, focusing on strategies proposed by Pierini (2007) that incorporate various methodologies, frameworks, and also combined theories. Their research highlights the significance of literal translation in preserving the image and meaning of the simile. The difference of this research with other previous studies is that the researcher suggests a different object which there is no research in this study program that examines simile in the novel Critical Eleven. Pierini's (2007) theory is applied because it provides a comprehensive framework for simile translation, balancing meaning and style while addressing cultural nuances. Its flexibility suits various text types, aligns with figurative language goals, and is validated by its successful application in previous studies.

The subject of this research is Critical Eleven by Ika Natassa. This novel is her sixth novel that has two versions which are source text (Indonesian) was published in 2015 and target text (English) that was translated by Rain Chudori in 2021. The story Critical Eleven tells the story of the relationship between Anya and Ale. Anya, an ambitious and independent woman, and Ale, a successful oil company worker, meet on a flight and they quickly fall in love. After a whirlwind romance, they get married. The story explores their relationship as they face the challenges of married life, especially dealing with a devastating miscarriage that makes their bond cold and seemingly indifferent to each other. Their relationship becomes strained as they become selfish and blame each other for the death of their child.

The analysis employs Pierini's theory and strategies translation. The existence of the simile adds color to the sentence and storyline of this novel that has the effect on the reader to create a

more descriptive image of the thing that is being described which is making a more vivid, relatable, while building the emotions of the reader that found some similes. Additionally, the researcher chose this novel Critical Eleven by Ika Natassa due to the fact that it contains values of life that are often experienced by people and also saw the similes in the novel makes the storyline more engaging that can be seen characterization often used to describe characters or offer judgment about them.

In this paper, the researcher will analyze one type of figurative language, which is the simile that deals with the translation strategies proposed by Pierini (2007) and also to see what strategies when translating simile in the target language by the translator of that novel that is translated into English.

Based on the background above, this study aims to: (1) Identify the types of similes found in the novel Critical Eleven. (2) Analyze the strategies used in translating similes from the novel Critical Eleven into the target text (English).

#### II. METHOD

This research uses qualitative research. According to Bryman in Hammersley's book that qualitative research is a research strategy that usually emphasizes words rather quantification in the collection and analysis of data (2013: 1). The method used in this research is a descriptive method. Bogdan and Biklen (in Creswell, 1994, p.171) defines that, "descriptive method is collecting the qualitative data, analyzing them, and writing the result". The researcher chose this method because it is related to this research that found the data of the text as the sentences in the novel. The data source is the novel entitled Critical Eleven written by Ika Natassa. The data collection analyzes the novel's content which is both in Indonesian (SL) and English (TL), to define the use of similes in the novel and its translation into the target language. Procedure of collecting data is that the researcher will use close-reading where the writer with herself will collect the data that were classified by identifying the simile. Furthermore, data analysis of this research using content analysis that focuses on identifying from reading through the novel and highlighting all instances of similes, Extract the sentences or passages containing similes for further analysis and analyze the data one by one of similes that are found and also will determine the strategies

translator used translate simile in the source text and target text in the novel based on Pierini.

The steps for data analysis are as follows:

- 1. The first step is the researcher reading the Indonesian and the English version of the novel repeatedly and doing close reading.
- 2. The second step is the researcher found the data and identified them based on the theme of study which is simile.
- 3. The third step is after the data were collected, the researcher makes a list of the similes that are found in both versions of the novel, which are the text of the Indonesian and the English version by taking a note.
- 4. The fourth step is the researcher identified and classified the parts of each simile, what is the object, the image, and the point of similarity between the object and the image of the simile.
- 5. The fifth step is to determine what is the type of simile that best suitable for the similes found
- 6. The sixth step is the researcher will analyze and determine each simile in ST and how they are translated into the TT based on Perini's strategies
- 7. In the final step is to calculate the total of translation strategies used for each strategy

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### A. Result

The strategies by Pierini (2007) presented six strategies. The result of this research shows that all types of translation strategies found are used while translating the similes in the novel *Critical Eleven*. The results are shown as percentages in the table below.

| No | Translation<br>Strategies  | Amount<br>Data | Percentage |
|----|--|----------------|------------|
| 1. | Literal Translation<br>(retention of the<br>simile)                              | 28             | 70.0%      |
| 2. | Replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle                              | 4              | 10.0%      |
| 3. | Reduction of the simile, if idiomatic, to its sense                              | 2              | 5.0%       |
| 4. | Retention of the same<br>vehicle plus<br>explication of<br>similarity feature(s) | 1              | 2.5%       |
| 5. | Replacement of the vehicle with a gloss  | 3              | 7.5%       |
| 6. | Omission of the simile.  | 2              | 5.0%       |
|    | Total  | 40             | 100.00%    |
|    |  | -              | •          |

Based on the table above, it is clear that few similes in Critical Eleven retain the same vehicle added by the explanation or similarity feature. In addition, a few similes are idiomatic and there are also a few omissions of similes that are only used by the translator. The translator may consider that similes are familiar and understandable to the target language, so there is no need for many similes that have to be replaced by vehicles to other vehicles, reduce similes, retain vehicles by adding by explanations, replace vehicles such metaphors. idioms. with explanations (gloss) and omission similes. Therefore, the translator mostly uses the type of translation strategy of literal translation or retention of the simile in *Critical Eleven*.

#### **B.** Discussion

Based on the findings in the previous section, this section discusses the translation strategies utilized in translating the similes in *Critical Eleven*.

1. Literal Translation (retention of the simile)

| Source Text          | Target Text               | Type    |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Yang penting         | The important thing       |         |
| kita tekun,          | is that we're             | Obvious |
| sabar, penuh         | diligent, patient,        | Simile  |
| kesungguhan,         | sincere, <u>just like</u> |         |
| <u>seperti waktu</u> | when we brew a            |         |
| kita membuat         | cup of coffee. (P.53)     |         |
| kopi, Le. (P.56)     |                           |         |

Object of the simile in ST & TT: tekun, sabar, penuh kesungguhan & diligent, patient, sincere. Image of the simile in ST & TT: Seperti waktu kita membuat kopi & just like when we brew a cup of coffee. Point of similarity between object and image: Process of coffee-making that is the same with process of life to achieve something or kesungguhan dalam process.

The above between source text and target text indicates that there are similarities between the two things, both describe a persistence in the process to achieve something that can be compared by the process of coffee-making. In the simile in source text and target text, the vehicle is 'brew a cup of coffee" that is the image or concept used to illustrate diligence, patience and sincerity in the process of making coffee is used as a vehicle to convey the approach one should take in life. In addition, it can be shown that the type of simile suits is obvious because straightforward comparisons that directly

illustrate the similarities concepts and also the comparisons are clearly between two versions.

The uses translator the Literal translation strategy to translate the simile from source text (Indonesian) into target language (English). It can be seen that the simile in the ST and TT which are still the same have no addition of words. Even though the translator did not directly translate the word 'membuat' in TT and replaced it with the word 'brew' it means in Indonesian 'menyeduh' is slightly different. Yet, it does not affect the meaning of the simile in ST and TT that can be accepted and effective in both languages. So, in the target language (English) making the simile clear and understandable.

# 2. Replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle

| Source Text          | Target Text          | Type         |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Buat Ayah,           | From the             |              |
| semua langkah        | beginning            |              |
| mulai dari           | when you             | Metaphorical |
| memilih beans,       | select the           | Simile       |
| grinding,            | beans, you grid      |              |
| sampai kopinya       | them, until the      |              |
| siap diseduh,        | coffee is ready      |              |
| prosesnya            | to brew, <u>it's</u> |              |
| <u>seperti hidup</u> | <u>like our</u>      |              |
| seorang laki-        | journey in life.     |              |
| <u>laki.</u> (P. 30) | (P. 28)              |              |

Object of the simile in ST & TT: Semua langkah mulai dari memilih beans, grinding, sampai kopinya siap diseduh & From the beginning when you select the beans, you grid them, until the coffee is ready to brew. Image of the simile in ST & TT: Prosesnya seperti hidup seorang lakilaki & it's like our journey in life. Point of similarity between object and image: Stepby-step nature of both processes making coffee and living life. Both require attention, effort, and patience to achieve a fulfilling result. The journey in both cases involves stages that reflect growth, effort, and outcome.

In the above between source text and target text that can be seen there is a change of the image to make the translation become more inclusive and universal while maintaining the core point of similarity between the stages of coffeemaking and the process of life to the target language. The vehicle that showed in both texts refers to the 'coffee-making process',

which is compared to 'man's life' and 'life's journey' (tenor), the translator shifts the text in the target text. In addition, the type of simile suitable in this simile is classified as a metaphorical simile because it explicitly compares two distinct concepts using linking words such as "like" or "as" to signal the comparison.

The translator uses Replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle to translate the simile from source text (Indonesia) into target language (English). It can be seen that the simile in ST and TT which adapts the simile to fit the target culture and language to change enhances universality of the simile that can make the text accessible and relevant to a broader audience in the new image in TT and also avoiding potential cultural or gender biases in translation. However, replacing the vehicle is the most appropriate and effective strategy for this simile.

3. Reduction of the simile, if idiomatic, to its sense

| Source Text              | Target Text       | Type       |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| aku dan Ale              | Ale and I were    |            |
| sama-sama                | crazy about       |            |
| tergila-gila             | their Toasted     | Hyperbolic |
| Toasted                  | Coconut and       | simile     |
| Coconut dan              | Lemon Poppy       |            |
| Lemon Poppy-             | doughnuts.        |            |
| nya yang                 | <u>Heavenly</u> . |            |
| rasanya <u>seperti</u>   | (P.119)           |            |
| <u>jatuh dari surga.</u> |                   |            |
| (P. 128)                 |                   |            |

Object of the simile in ST & TT: The taste of the Toasted Coconut and Lemon Poppy doughnuts & The taste of the doughnuts.

Image of the simile in ST & TT: Jatuh dari surga & Heavenly

Point of similarity between object and subject: Surga & Doughnuts, both versions compare the taste of the doughnuts to something divine, associated with heaven the core idea remains the same, the doughnuts are exceptionally good, like something from heaven.

In the above between source text and target text that the translator eliminates the simile in the target text and using an expression which is it can convey the same meaning that applied the original simile "seperti jatuh dari surga" was reduced to a single word "heavenly" which still portray the essence of something wonderful and perfect, hence without the structure of

simile. The vehicles shown in ST and TT, "Seperti jatuh dari surga" and "heavenly", in both versions of the vehicle have the same goal to highlight the extraordinary and almost extraordinary taste qualities. In addition, the type of simile that is suitable for simile is hyperbolic because it can be seen that the sentence there is comparing the flavor to something that emphasizes the exceptional taste.

The translator uses Reduction of the simile, if idiomatic, to its sense strategy to translate the simile from source text (Indonesian) into target language (English). Because, in the source text the sentence is more descriptive and elaborate. However, translating it literally might sound overly formal or poetic in casual English dialogue. By reducing it to "heavenly," the translator maintains the meaning while making the sentence more concise and easier to read. The adjective "heavenly" is commonly used in English to describe something extremely good or delightful, especially in relation to taste whereas using "heavenly" ensures the text flows naturally for English readers.

4. Retention of the same vehicle plus explication of similarity feature(s)

| explication of similarity reactive(s) |                          |          |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--|
| Source Text                           | Target Text              | Type     |  |
| Sementara buat                        | Meanwhile, for Tanya     |          |  |
| Tanya Risjad,                         | Risjad it's quite the    |          |  |
| kebaikan                              | opposite. Her            |          |  |
| suaminya begitu                       | husband's strengths      |          |  |
| banyak <u>seperti</u>                 | are like the stars,      | Creative |  |
| bintang di langit,                    | millions of them         | simile   |  |
| dan kesalahannya                      | shining brightly in the  |          |  |
| hanya satu, namun                     | sky. And his flaws?      |          |  |
| <u>sedemikian</u>                     | Only one. And just like  |          |  |
| besarnya seperti                      | the sun, his flaw rises  |          |  |
| <u>matahari yang</u>                  | and sets everyday, and   |          |  |
| menutupi jutaan                       | just like the stars, his |          |  |
| bintang tadi. P.225                   | strengths disappear      |          |  |
|                                       | everyday. p. 207-208     |          |  |

Object of the simile in ST & TT: The husband's strengths and flaws.

Image of the simile in ST & TT: Stars and Sun.

Point of similarity between object and subject: Strengths are numerous and bright like stars; the flaw is significant and overshadowing like the sun.

The above between the source text and target text reveals that in the sentence of the source text and target text that it is keeping the same vehicle and there is additional more information to explain similarity being drawn. The vehicle that is suitable in the both versions revolves around celestial imagery between stars and sun that portrayed her husband's strengths and flaws. Additionally, the type of simile suits is creative because it uses divine imagery such as stars and sun to describe abstract human traits and also the text imaginative comparison to create a vivid picture of husband's qualities.

The translator uses Retention of the same vehicle plus explication of similarity feature(s) strategy used for this simile in ST and TT. Because, is a fitting choice here because it preserves the original poetic imagery while adding necessary context for the target audience. The simile is intended to convey a strong emotional contrast between the husband's numerous positive traits and his one significant flaw. By retaining the stars and the sun as the metaphorical vehicles, the TT stays faithful to the ST. The added explanation of how the husband's flaw rises and sets like the sun and makes the stars (strengths) disappear strengthens the metaphor, making it more accessible and impactful for English-speaking readers. Furthermore, it is effective because it retains the vivid imagery and emotional depth of the original simile while ensuring clarity and understanding.

# 5. Replacement of the vehicle (image) with a gloss

| Source Text        | Target Text              | Type     |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Wajahnya sudah     | You know how some        |          |
| dipoles make up    | women are <u>just so</u> |          |
| tipis, enak banget | naturally beautiful      | Cultural |
| lihatnya, nggak    | with barely any make-    | simile   |
| seperti lenong mau | up on? Anya is one of    |          |
| pergi pawai ulang  | them. (P.38)             |          |
| tahun Jakarta. (P. |                          |          |
| 41)                |                          |          |

Object of the simile in ST & TT: Anya's face/make-up. Image of the simile in ST & TT: nggak seperti lenong mau pergi pawai ulang tahun Jakarta & so naturally beautiful with barely any makeup on

Point of similarity between object and image: In both cases, the point of similarity is the positive appreciation of subtle, tasteful makeup, which contrasts with an exaggerated, overly made-up appearance.

In the above simile between source text and target text shows that the original vehicle is being replaced with a gloss with natural beauty without losing intended meaning in target text. There are different vehicle that shown in the source text is based on a cultural image of theatrical performance which is "seperti lenong mau pergi pawai ulang tahun Jakarta", while in target text, the vehicle is a universal and familiar that can describe of natural beauty which is "naturally beautiful, barely any make-up on. Additionally, the type of simile that fits is cultural because it relies on a culturally specific to create its effect in original text and adapts in the target text by generalizing ideas for a broader audience with the way of removing the simile but retaining the contrast between natural and excessive beauty.

The translator uses Replacement of the vehicle (image) with a gloss strategy to translate the simile from source text and target text. Because in the source text "Lenong" refers to traditional Betawi street theater, and "Jakarta birthday parade" refers to a parade to celebrate Jakarta's birthday, which is often associated with colorful and exaggerated costumes and imagery in the target text, the translator replaced it with a general comparison which is "naturally beautiful with barely any makeup". The image is broader and universally understood in the target culture, thus eliminating the need for cultural references that may confuse the audience. By choosing a more general and widely recognizable image of natural with minimal makeup, beauty translator effectively communicates the intended contrast in a way that suits the target audience. Nevertheless, the target audience can easily understand the comparison and grasp the meaning of the simile. The sparkle of "naturally beautiful" is a concise and effective way to convey the idea of unpretentious and effortless beauty, which is the point of similarity between the two images.

#### 6. Omission of the simile

| omission of the simile |                        |           |  |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|--|
| Source Text            | Target Text            | Type      |  |
| Aku keluar dari        | I stepped out of the   |           |  |
| kamar mandi            | bathroom, wrapped      |           |  |
| hanya berbalut         | only with a towel, and | Hyperbol  |  |
| handuk masih           | still trembling P.208  | ic simile |  |
| dalam kedinginan,      |                        |           |  |
| dan sialan kamar       |                        |           |  |
| ini juga dinginnya     |                        |           |  |
| sudah seperti cold     |                        |           |  |
| storage. P.225         |                        |           |  |
| btorage, 1 .EEO        |                        |           |  |

Object of the simile in ST & TT: The coldness of the room

Image of the simile in ST & TT: Seperti cold storage & still trembling

Point of similarity between object and subject: Extreme coldness

In the above between source text and target text suggests that there is omitting of the simile in the target text because of a cultural or figurative comparison that might not resonate as effectively with the target audience. The vehicle in the original text is "cold storage" and in the target text, the simile is omitted and the sentence describes the character as "still trembling" that without a comparative vehicle. Additionally, the type of simile that suits the simile is hyperbolic because it exaggerates the coldness of the room by comparing it to a cold storage, which is an extreme example of cold temperatures that conveys effectively the speaker's discomfort and emphasizes the intense coldness of the room.

The translator uses <u>Omission of the simile</u> strategy to translate the simile from the source text into target text because the concept of "cold storage" might not be universally familiar to all readers, especially those who are not familiar with specific storage environments. This strategy simplifies the translation by removing the comparative imagery and directly describing the coldness. However, this approach makes the translation more straightforward and avoids potential cultural or contextual confusion.

# IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### A. Conclusion

This study reveals 40 similes that were found in the novel Critical Eleven with comparison markers seperti, kayak, dan seolah in Indonesian while in English "like" and "as". Based on findings and analysis, the results of this research can be concluded as the following: All of the six strategies according to Pierini (2007) used to translate similes by translator. Literal translation (retention of the same vehicle) strategy is dominated by 70.0% with a data total of 28 similes. The second strategy is replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle that has a percentage 10.0% of a data total is 4 similes. The third and sixth are reduction of the simile,

if idiomatic, to its sense and omission of the simile with percentage 5.0% of data 2 similes each. The fifth strategy is replacement of the vehicle with a gloss with percentage 7.5% of data 3 similes. Then followed by the strategy with a low percentage is retention of the same vehicle plus explication of similarity feature (s) is 2.5% of data 1 simile. The researcher discovered the data that is dominant of the strategy translation simile is literal translation (retention of the same vehicle) indicating that the translator may consider the similes were familiar, appropriate, suitable and also equivalent to in the target language and not further changes were needed.

# **B.** Suggestion

Based on the findings, it is recommended that translators prioritize the literal translation strategy, as it is the most effective in maintaining the original meaning and familiarity of similes in the target language. However, attention should also be given to using alternative strategies, such as replacing the vehicle or glossing, when literal translation is not suitable for maintaining naturalness or clarity in the target text.

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