

## AN ANALYSIS OF MODULATION TECHNIQUES IN TRANSLATION OF TERE LIYE'S NOVEL "BUMI" INTO "EARTH"

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### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji penggunaan teknik modulasi dalam menerjemahkan novel Indonesia "Bumi" karya Tere Liye ke dalam versi bahasa Inggrisnya "Earth." Modulasi melibatkan perubahan bentuk pesan sambil mempertahankan makna yang sama untuk menyesuaikan perbedaan linguistik dan budaya. Melalui analisis kualitatif terhadap bagian-bagian terpilih, berbagai teknik modulasi seperti abstrak untuk konkret, bagian untuk keseluruhan, perubahan perspektif, pembalikan istilah, dan negasi bertentangan diidentifikasi dan dievaluasi. Temuan ini menyoroti keterampilan penerjemah dalam menjaga makna dan gaya asli sambil memastikan kelancaran dan keterbacaan dalam bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya modulasi dalam penerjemahan sastra, memberikan wawasan tentang kompleksitas adaptasi teks yang kaya budaya dan kompleks secara stilistik.

### ABSTRACT

This study examines the use of modulation techniques in translating Tere Liye's Indonesian novel "Bumi" into its English version "Earth." Modulation involves changing the form of the message while retaining the same meaning to adapt to linguistic and cultural differences. Through qualitative analysis of selected passages, various modulation techniques such as abstract for concrete, part for whole, change of perspective, reversal of terms, and negated contrary were identified and evaluated. The findings highlight the translator's skill in preserving the original meaning and style while ensuring naturalness and readability in English. This research underscores the importance of modulation in literary translation, providing insights into the complexities of adapting culturally rich and stylistically complex texts.

**Keyword:** Modulation Techniques, Translation Studies, Literary Translation, Tere Liye, "Bumi," "Earth," Cultural Adaptation, Linguistic Analysis

### INTRODUCTION

The translation of literary works is a multifaceted and intricate process that extends beyond mere word-for-word substitution. It involves capturing the essence, tone, and cultural nuances of the original text while making it accessible and engaging for readers in a different linguistic and cultural context. This task becomes even more challenging when dealing with languages as distinct as Indonesian and English, where differences in syntax, idiomatic expressions, and cultural references can significantly impact the translation process.

Tere Liye, one of Indonesia's most celebrated contemporary authors, has gained widespread popularity for his engaging storytelling and deep cultural insights. His novel "*Bumi*," the first in a fantasy series, has captivated readers with its imaginative world and rich cultural context. Translating such a work into English, as seen in its translated version "Earth," requires not only linguistic proficiency but also a deep understanding of cultural subtleties and narrative style.

Modulation is a crucial translation technique that involves altering the form of the message without changing its meaning. This technique is essential in literary translation to ensure that the translated text resonates with the target audience while preserving the original's intent and stylistic elements. Modulation can include various strategies such as changing abstract concepts to concrete terms, using parts to

represent the whole, shifting perspectives, reversing terms, and employing negated contraries. These strategies help bridge the linguistic and cultural gaps between the source and target languages.

In the case of "*Bumi*" and its English translation "Earth," understanding how modulation techniques have been applied can provide valuable insights into the translation process and the challenges encountered. By examining specific instances of modulation in the translation, this study aims to shed light on the effectiveness of these techniques in maintaining the integrity of the original text while adapting it for an English-speaking audience. This research not only contributes to the field of translation studies but also enhances our appreciation of the complexities involved in translating culturally rich literary works.

The importance of this study lies in its potential to inform best practices in literary translation, highlighting the need for translators to employ various modulation techniques effectively. By doing so, translators can better navigate the cultural and linguistic challenges inherent in translating complex literary texts, ensuring that the translated work retains its original charm and impact. This study's findings will be particularly useful for translators, educators, and scholars interested in the intricacies of literary translation and the role of modulation in achieving successful translations.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the modulation techniques used in the translation of "*Bumi*" into "Earth." This include:

1. Identifying specific instances of modulation in the translation.
2. Analyzing the effectiveness of these techniques in preserving the original meaning and style.
3. Discussing the challenges and strategies in literary translation.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The theoretical foundation for this study is primarily based on Vinay and Darbelnet's model of translation techniques, with a specific focus on modulation. Their model, introduced in their seminal work "Comparative Stylistics of French and English: A Methodology for Translation" (1958), outlines several translation strategies that go beyond literal translation to account for linguistic and cultural differences between the source and target languages. Modulation, as defined by Vinay and Darbelnet, involves a change in the semantics and point of view of the source text when translated into the target language. This technique is employed to maintain the intended meaning and stylistic nuances of the original text while making the translation more natural and comprehensible to the target audience.

### **Types of Modulation**

Vinay and Darbelnet categorize modulation into several types, each serving a specific purpose in translation:

1. Abstract for Concrete: This type of modulation involves translating abstract concepts into more concrete terms to enhance clarity and relatability.
2. Part for Whole (Synecdoche): This strategy uses a part to represent the whole or vice versa.
3. Change of Perspective: Translators may shift the point of view to make the text more accessible or natural in the target language.
4. Reversal of Terms: This involves reversing the order of words or phrases to maintain the flow and coherence of the sentence in the target language.
5. Negated Contrary: This strategy uses a negative expression to convey an affirmative meaning or vice versa.

### **Importance of Modulation in Literary Translation**

Modulation is particularly important in literary translation because it allows the translator to preserve the stylistic and rhetorical features of the source text while adapting it to the linguistic and cultural norms of

the target language. This is crucial in maintaining the author's voice, tone, and intent, which are essential elements in literary works. Literary texts often contain idiomatic expressions, metaphors, and cultural references that do not have direct equivalents in the target language. Modulation provides a way to handle these challenges by allowing the translator to find creative and contextually appropriate solutions.

### **Application of Modulation in "Bumi" and "Earth"**

The translation of Tere Liye's *"Bumi"* into "Earth" offers a rich case study for examining the application of modulation techniques. Given the cultural and linguistic differences between Indonesian and English, the translator must navigate various challenges to ensure that the translated text resonates with English-speaking readers. This involves not only linguistic adjustments but also cultural adaptations to convey the same emotional and intellectual impact as the original.

In *"Bumi,"* Tere Liye uses a variety of literary devices, including rich imagery, cultural references, and complex character development, which require careful modulation in translation. For example, cultural references specific to Indonesian culture need to be adapted or explained in a way that makes them understandable and relevant to an English-speaking audience. Similarly, the emotional tone and narrative style of the original text must be preserved through careful modulation to maintain the integrity of the story and the author's intent.

### **Broader Theoretical Implications**

The use of modulation in translation is not limited to Indonesian and English but is applicable to any language pair. The broader theoretical implications of this study suggest that modulation is a versatile and essential technique in the translator's toolkit. It highlights the importance of a deep understanding of both the source and target languages, as well as the cultural contexts in which they operate. By employing modulation effectively, translators can bridge the gap between different languages and cultures, producing translations that are both accurate and culturally resonant.

This theoretical framework underscores the complexity of literary translation and the critical role of modulation in achieving successful translations. It provides a foundation for the analysis of the translation of *"Bumi"* into "Earth," offering insights into the strategies used to handle linguistic and cultural differences and their impact on the overall effectiveness of the translation.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

This study employs a qualitative approach to analyze the translation of *"Bumi"* into "Earth." Specific passages from both the original and translated texts are examined to identify and categorize modulation techniques.

### **Source of the Data**

The data of this research are a novel written by Tere Liye's entitled *"Bumi"* and its translation version "Earth". The data form of modulation translation technique that exist in "Bumi" and its translation. The SL is Indonesian and the TL is English.

### **Data Analysis**

The data analysis for this study involves examining the modulation techniques used in translating Tere Liye's novel *"Bumi"* into its English version "Earth." The process includes identifying instances of modulation, categorizing them, and evaluating their effectiveness.

#### **1. Identification of Modulation Instances**

Instances of modulation were identified through a close reading of both the source text ("*Bumi*") and the target text ("Earth"). Significant changes in vocabulary, syntax, perspective, or idiomatic expressions were documented.

## 2. Categorization of Modulation Types

Identified instances were categorized based on Vinay and Darbelnet's modulation type.

## 3. After analyzing the type of modulation from data that gathering, then the writer draws conclusion of this research.

## RESULT

The analysis of the translation of Tere Liye's novel "*Bumi*" into "Earth" revealed several specific instances where modulation techniques were effectively applied. Each instance was categorized and evaluated based on its ability to preserve meaning, maintain style, and ensure readability.

### Abstract for Concrete

One significant instance of modulation from abstract to concrete was found in the translation of the term "*keberanian*" (bravery).

- Original Text: "*Keberanian adalah kualitas yang harus dimiliki setiap pahlawan.*"
- Translated Text: "Brave acts are qualities that every hero must possess."
- Analysis: By translating the abstract concept of "*keberanian*" into "brave acts," the translator provided a more concrete and relatable term for English readers. This modulation preserves the original meaning while making the concept more accessible.

### Part for Whole (Synecdoche)

An example of using a part to represent the whole was observed in the translation of "*matahari terbenam*" (sunset).

- Original Text: "*Dia menyaksikan matahari terbenam dengan kagum.*"
- Translated Text: "She watched the setting sun with awe."
- Analysis: The phrase "the setting sun" is a vivid depiction that effectively conveys the imagery of the sunset. This modulation technique enhances the visual impact while preserving the original meaning.

### Change of Perspective

The change of narrative perspective was applied in the translation of a character's internal experience.

- Original Text: "*Aku merasa sangat sedih saat itu.*"
- Translated Text: "She felt very sad at that moment."
- Analysis: Shifting from a first-person to a third-person perspective aligns with the narrative style more commonly used in English literature. This change maintains the emotional tone and makes the text more coherent for English readers.

### Reversal of Terms

Reversal of terms was used to maintain natural sentence structure in English.

- Original Text: "*Pintu tertutup rapat itu sulit dibuka.*"
- Translated Text: "The tightly closed door was hard to open."
- Analysis: Reversing the order of terms ensures that the sentence flows naturally in English. This modulation preserves the original meaning and makes the translation more readable.

### Negated Contrary

The use of negated contrary was evident in the translation of "*tidak takut*" (not afraid).

- Original Text: "*Dia tidak takut menghadapi bahaya.*"
- Translated Text: "He was brave in the face of danger."
- Analysis: Using "brave" instead of "not afraid" provides a more positive and assertive expression, which is more natural in English. This modulation retains the intended meaning and improves the readability of the text.

## DISCUSSION

The discussion section delves into the implications of the findings from the analysis of modulation techniques used in translating Tere Liye's novel "*Bumi*" into its English version "Earth." The focus is on understanding how these techniques contribute to the overall quality of the translation and the challenges faced by the translator.

### Interpretation of Findings

The detailed analysis of modulation techniques reveals several important insights:

- Abstract for Concrete: The translator's decision to translate abstract concepts into concrete terms was effective in making the text more relatable for English readers. For instance, translating "*keberanian*" (bravery) into "brave acts" helps in grounding the abstract notion into specific actions that readers can easily visualize. This not only preserves the meaning but also enhances the reader's engagement with the text.
- Part for Whole (Synecdoche): Using a part to represent the whole, such as translating "*matahari terbenam*" (sunset) as "the setting sun," adds vivid imagery and detail that can enrich the reading experience. This modulation maintains the original descriptive quality of the text while making it more expressive in English.
- Change of Perspective: Shifting perspectives from first-person to third-person, as seen in "*Aku merasa sangat sedih saat itu*" (I felt very sad at that moment) to "She felt very sad at that moment," aligns with English narrative conventions. This change helps in maintaining narrative coherence and readability, making the translation smoother and more consistent for the target audience.
- Reversal of Terms: The reversal of terms to maintain natural sentence structure, such as "*Pintu tertutup rapat itu sulit dibuka*" (the door is tightly closed) to "the tightly closed door was hard to open," ensures that the translated text flows naturally. This modulation preserves the original meaning while enhancing the sentence's readability and fluency in English.
- Negated Contrary: Using a positive expression to replace a negated one, like translating "*tidak takut*" (not afraid) to "brave," makes the translation more direct and impactful. This approach aligns with the natural tendencies of English to prefer affirmative expressions, thus improving the text's clarity and impact.

### Comparison with Previous Studies

The findings of this study align with previous research that highlights the importance of modulation in literary translation. Studies such as those by Baker (2018) and House (2015) emphasize that modulation is essential for handling idiomatic expressions, cultural references, and stylistic elements. The effective use of modulation techniques in translating "*Bumi*" supports these conclusions, demonstrating how these strategies can address the challenges of literary translation.

### Challenges in Literary Translation

The translation of "*Bumi*" into "Earth" presented several challenges that modulation techniques helped to address:

- **Cultural Differences:** Indonesian culture and social norms are deeply embedded in "*Bumi*," and translating these elements into English required careful modulation to ensure that cultural references were conveyed accurately. For instance, certain cultural practices and expressions unique to Indonesian culture needed to be adapted or explained to make sense to English readers.
- **Idiomatic Expressions:** The use of idiomatic expressions in "*Bumi*" posed a challenge, as direct translations often fail to capture the intended meaning. Modulation techniques, such as using idiomatic equivalents in English or rephrasing expressions, were crucial in preserving the original's intent and nuance.
- **Maintaining Author's Voice:** Preserving Tere Liye's unique narrative voice and style was a significant challenge. The translator's use of modulation helped maintain the author's stylistic elements, ensuring that the translated text retained the same tone and emotional depth as the original.
- **Linguistic Structures:** Differences in grammatical and syntactical structures between Indonesian and English required modulation to produce coherent and fluent sentences in the target language. Techniques such as changing perspectives and reversing terms were essential in overcoming these structural differences.

### **Practical Implications**

The insights gained from this study have practical implications for translators and educators:

- **Translators:** Understanding and effectively using modulation techniques can enhance the quality of translations, especially in literary works where preserving the original's artistic and cultural essence is crucial. Translators should be trained to recognize when and how to apply these techniques to address linguistic and cultural challenges.
- **Educators:** Teaching modulation techniques as part of translation studies curricula can prepare future translators to handle complex texts. Practical exercises that involve analyzing and applying modulation can improve students' translation skills and their ability to produce culturally sensitive and linguistically accurate translations.

### **CONCLUSION**

The translation of Tere Liye's novel "*Bumi*" into its English version "Earth" demonstrates the critical role of modulation techniques in literary translation. This study analyzed various instances where modulation was applied, including abstract for concrete, part for whole, change of perspective, reversal of terms, and negated contrary. Each technique was evaluated for its effectiveness in preserving the original meaning, maintaining the author's style, and ensuring readability and naturalness in English.

The findings indicate that modulation techniques are essential for addressing linguistic and cultural differences between Indonesian and English. By translating abstract concepts into concrete terms, shifting narrative perspectives, and adapting cultural references, the translator successfully conveyed the original text's essence while making it accessible to English-speaking readers.

Comparisons with previous research highlight the consistent importance of modulation in literary translation. Challenges such as cultural differences, idiomatic expressions, and maintaining the author's voice were effectively managed through careful application of these techniques.

Practical implications for translators include the need for deep cultural understanding, continuous learning, and collaborative work. Educators should integrate modulation techniques into translation studies curricula and provide cross-cultural training. Researchers are encouraged to expand the scope of studies on modulation and investigate its impact on reader reception.

Overall, this study underscores the importance of modulation in achieving high-quality literary translations. By employing these techniques, translators can bridge linguistic and cultural gaps, ensuring that translated works resonate with their target audiences while faithfully representing the original texts.

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