

**AN ANALYSIS OF READABILITY OF EXPANDING WORDS
IN SUBTITLING OF *THE LAST SAMURAI* MOVIE**



Research Paper

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department**

by

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2008

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Movie or film is likely entertaining all people around the world. As people watching movies in cinemas, they get hold of their understanding, generally, based on the spoken language uttered by the artists and the conversation context. There will be no matter when people are watching movies of their mother tongue, but it may be quiet hard when they watch movies on foreign language. People will not catch what the movies are about; they just preserve to gaze at the motion of the pictures. At this point, translators, or to be exact subtitlers, are the people in charge that have a duty to make available the interpretations of the language spoken in movies.

The results of the subtitlers' work are so called as subtitle. Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary affirms that subtitle is words printed on a film, translating dialogue. Subtitles are textual versions of the dialog in films and television programs, usually displayed at the bottom of the screen ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/subtitle\(captioning\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/subtitle(captioning))).

Subtitling is an important practice for academia and industry in the global world in relation with passing information. It is a language transfer which is recently generated by film and advance developed by television. It is in the outward appearance of the target language transliterations. The translated texts

usually come out in one or two lines at the foot of the screen simultaneously with the spoken dialogue or narration in the source language.

Subtitling plays an important role as the medium used by viewers to understand the road story of the movie. Karamitroglou in his translation journal (<http://accurapid.com/journal/04stndrd.htm>) says, “In unified framework of European communication, subtitling as the means of overcoming linguistics barriers between the nations will come to play a critical role.”

However, subtitlers, of course, have barriers when doing and finishing their work. It is related to the different background between the script-writers and the subtitlers. Therefore, it may result to the way the subtitlers comprehend the movies scripts. They need to make their subtitling readable because film subtitle should be enjoyed by the viewers of different kinds of nation and culture. In fact, subtitling is essentially aimed to reach film’s viewers globally.

Still, subtitlers should realize that there are different socio-cultural backgrounds between them and the script-writers. So, it is necessary for them to understand enough the movies, the meaning and the uses of languages, source language and target language. It is so because there are many idioms, technical terms, expression, and so forth in the movies, considering the elements of the country where the movies are made. It may also mean that they should concern with the situation or the context of the message conveyed.

In relation to the movie-screen, viewers should have to divide the out-looking moment between two different activities, reading the subtitles and watching the moving picture, and continuously connecting them all together.

Thus, to make the subtitling readable and comprehensible, the subtitlers should use good strategies in subtitling the dialogue. Hariyanto (2005: 103) states eleven strategies: expansion, deletion, paraphrase, transfer, imitation, transcription, dislocation, condensation, decimation, taming and resignation. The strategies are used all together precisely to compose subtitling.

The Last Samurai movie provides the subtitling that is good enough to be understood. Here, the writer notifies that the source language (SL) will be English and the target language (TL) is Bahasa Indonesia. Here they are the samples of expanding words occur on the subtitle.

- (1) SL: “*Bodies stripped bare, mutilated and left to rot in the sun*”
TL: “***Tubuh mereka ditelanjangi dan dipotong-potong dan dibiarkan membusuk di terik matahari***”

The sample (1) demonstrates additional words to make the meaning clear without altering the significance; this is so called as an expansion strategy. The word *mereka* is added to point whose bodies that are stripped, *dipotong-potong* as a reduplication word of Indonesian refers to ***mutilated***, and *terik matahari* is to clarify the hotness of the sun where the bodies left to rot in. It was done in order to get a better and exact perceptive dealing with what actually say in the scene. Therefore, the TL is in an accurate sense in such a way.

- (2) SL: “*Been while*”
TL: “***Sudah lama kita tak bertemu***”

The sample (2) shows clearly that there is expanding words to perform the precise meaning. There are even three words added, the words are *kita tak bertemu*. Further, the sentence can be perceived that the SL is in a simplified

sentence, part of it has been omitted in the conversation, and it is commonly occurred in daily interaction. The TL needs additional words to clarify the speaker's intention, because if the SL is subtitled per word it will be, *beberapa lama* or *sebentar* only, it will not draw a parallel intention. The words are needed in relation to the context of the speakers.

Based on the display above, surely, expanding the words in subtitling can bring people to the right understanding both of the contents and messages of the movie. If the subtitling is accepted by the viewers, it will both make them engage and enjoy to the movie attached. The qualified subtitling may also give contribution to the booming of the movie. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing the expansion strategy entitled: **An Analysis of Readability of Expanding Words in Subtitling of *The Last Samurai* Movie.**

B. Previous Study

The writer finds two previous studies which are related to this research. The first research was done by Windarta (2008), a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (UMS), entitled "*An Analysis of Condensation Strategy in Subtitling of Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl Film.*" The researcher investigates the condensation strategy in the film's subtitling. The study has three findings. First, the types of condensation are declarative sentence, imperative sentence, interrogative sentence and exclamatory sentence. Second, the subtitler's reasons of using condensation strategy concern with the temporal parameter/ duration, providing maximum appreciation and comprehension, and

readability. The last finding shows there are some condensation sentences which are non-equivalence, that readable sentences do not promise equivalence.

The second research was conducted by Zakiah (2006) from UMS entitling “*Analysis of Taming Sarcasm Words in Subtitling Bad Boys Film.*” She analyzed the taming strategy of subtitling. There are some sarcasm words that were changed by the subtitler from the source language into the target language, and she analyzed those changes. The findings show that the subtitler used taming strategy in making subtitling, the writer knew the audience’s acceptability, and the writer knew the reasons of the subtitler in using taming strategy.

On the other hand, the writer’s research is not merely the same with the researches above. Although, the kind of data is similar, movie manuscript and its subtitle, it is in different category of movie. Besides, the writer takes another strategy, distinctively for the SL utterances that are expanded in the TL done by the subtitlers, and it concerns tightly with the subtitling’s readability.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background, the problems of the study can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of expanding words in the subtitling of *The Last Samurai*?
2. How is the readability of expanding words in the subtitling of *The Last Samurai*?
3. How is the subtitling equivalence after expanding the words in *The Last Samurai*?

D. Objective of the Study

In relation to the problem statements, the writer determines the objectives of the research as follows:

1. To classify the types of expanding words in *The Last Samurai* subtitling.
2. To describe the readability of expanding words in *The Last Samurai* subtitling.
3. To describe the equivalent disrelation after expanding the words of *The Last Samurai* subtitling.

E. Limitation of the Study

There are many strategies in making such subtitling products that can be employed by subtitlers. The writer chooses to analyze the expanding words in *The Last Samurai* movie because some expanding words can illuminate the intention of SL message to TL, but it is longer so sometimes hard to follow. The script and the subtitle in the movie will be the data that should be examined.

F. Benefit of the Study

In analyzing the expansion of words, the writer may have expectations that the research will give some benefits. They are along these lines:

1. Theoretically
 - a. This research can give contribution in subtitling circumstances.
 - b. The research findings are expected to enrich the theories of film/ movie subtitling theories, which are subtitled from English to Indonesian words.

2. Practically

- a. The result of the research may give some reference to the subtitlers as well as the other researchers to improve their subtitle and research quality.
- b. The viewer or the reader can recognize the expansion strategy of subtitling appeared in the moving pictures.
- c. The viewer or the reader will know the meaning, reason and the intention of expanding words in the movie's subtitling.

G. Research Paper Organization

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of background of the study, previous study, problem statements, objective of the study, limitation of the study, the benefit of the study, and research paper organization

Chapter II is underlying theory. It elaborates the theories of translation, subtitling, expansion strategy, readability, equivalence and non-equivalence, linguistics units, and *The Last Samurai* movie.

Chapter III is research method. It displays type of research, the object of the study, data and data source, method of collecting data, and the techniques of data analysis

Chapter IV is data analysis and discussion. It presents the data analysis of expanding words, and discussion of the research findings

Chapter V draws conclusion and suggestion.