**A SUBTITLING ANALYSIS OF TAG QUESTIONS
USED IN COMEDY FILM AND ITS SUBTITLING**

RESEARCH PAPER

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

by:
SITI NUR KHASANAH
A 320 040 084

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2009**

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

At present, interpreting has a great role as the media of communication. Many sectors used interpreting as the media of communication. For example: entertainment, economy, politics, etc. Interpreting is transferring the oral message in crossing cultural and communication (language). Interpreting is also a process of transferring the message. The interpreting is also relevant with transferring meaning.

As everybody knows, people like entertainment and it cannot be separated from interpreting. Such as the English films in the television program, the viewers can see the Indonesian language besides the English language. Usually the viewers know about the translation text in the screen which obtains the actors or actresses conveying their conversation.

Subtitling in a film can not exist without a conversation because it can not happen without a combination of sentences. The types of sentences there are interrogative sentence, namely: yes-no question, and attached or tag question. In this research the researcher will conduct the tag question.

Communication is an important need for human being in their daily life. People use language to express their feelings of something, to show their appreciation to something, to provide information, to ask questions and so on.

There are many ways to express feelings of something and one of them is by using question tag.

A tag question is a constituent that is added after a statement in order to request confirmation or disinformation of the statement from addressee.

A tag question is a device used to turn a statement into a question. It nearly always consists of a pronoun, auxiliary, and sometimes the word *not.* Although it begins as a statement, the tag question prevails when it comes to the end-mark. Notice that when the statement is positive, the tag question is an expressed in the negative, and vice versa. The following are examples of tag questions taken from a comedy film:

In "My Best Friend's Wedding" film:

SL: Michael: "We didn't use the word 'love' a lot, *will I?*"
            ("*Kita tidak menggunakan kata 'cinta' terlalu banyak, kan?*")

From the datum above, Michael said, "We didn't use the word 'love' a lot, *will I?*" the writer founds that "*…, will I?*" here is positive tag question, because the statement is negative. Based on the sentence context, the source language is correctly translated into target language. The subtitling is considered to be appropriate because it does not loose information and is suitable with the sentence context. It is due to the fact that there is no decrease and being translated word-by-word.

In "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" Film:
Buffy: "Last night. You knew I was sitting on a fresh grave, *didn't you?*"
      ("Semalam kau tahu aku duduk di atas kuburan baru, *kan?*")

From sentence above the writer found that"…, *didn't you?*" here is a form of a negative tag question, because the statement is positive. Meanwhile

the subtitling is appropriately transferred to the target language. The content of the source language can be conve yed into the target language by the subtitler. The target language is clear to understand. Therefore, the content of the source language is received easily

The writer chooses comedy film because she finds several data related to tag questions which have va rious form and the appropriateness subtitling. So, in this research paper the writer conducts a further research entitled: A SUBTITLING ANALYSIS OF TAG QUESTIONS USED IN COMEDY FILM AND ITS SUBTITLING.

B. Previous Study

To prove the originality of the study, the researcher represents the previous research. First, Novianti, she analyzes the tag question, entitled *a Descriptive Analysis of Tag Questions Used in Comedy Films (A Socio Pragmatic Study)*, UNISRI, 2007. In her research paper has aimed at analysis the tag question in comedy film entitled: Ace Ventura, Evan Almighty, and Rebound, based on a socio pragmatic study. The writer combines the two studies, namely sociolinguistic and pragmatic study. With sociolinguistic study, she can describe the functions of tag questions in comedy film and with pragmatics study; she can determine the intentions of using tag question in comedy film. This study belongs to a qualitative study. In this method, this research is conducted in order to describe of the form, function and intentions of tag question. To collect the data, she uses the documentation method. The

technique of data analysis, the writer uses grammatical rule to know the form of tag question to be analyzed and she uses Hyme's speaking theory of sociolinguistics to determine the function of tag question. Besides, the writer uses speech act theory to know the intention of tag question. Based on the analysis, the writer draws some conclusion as follows. First, she analyzes the three forms of tag question, namely: declarative tag questions, imperative tag question, and special case. Second, she finds four function of tag question (based on the speaking theory): (1) for expressing uncertainty, (2) for facilitating of speech or positive politeness devices, (3) for softening sentence when someone talks with the other, (4) for expressing phatic communication. Third, she finds five intentions of tag questions: (1) the act for persuading, (2) the act for opening conversation, (3) the act for reassuring, (4) the act for asking for help, and (5) the act for complaining.

Second, this studies related to the research was conducted by Wibawati who analyzes interrogative sentences, entitled *Analysis of Interrogative Sentences in Subtitling of Means Girls Film*, UMS, 2008. In this research the writer analyzed the types of interrogative sentences and the appropriateness subtitling of interrogative sentence in Means Girls film. This study belongs to a qualitative study. In this method, the research is conducted in order to describe of the types of interrogative sentences. To collect the data, she uses the documentation method. The technique of data analysis, the writer uses grammatical rule to know the types of interrogative sentences to be analyzed and she uses subtitling theory to determine the appropriateness subtitling of

interrogative sentences. Based on the analysis, the writer draws some conclusion as follows. She presents three types of interrogative sentences, namely: Yes-No question, interrogative-word Question, and attached or Tag Question. From 170 data found by the researcher, 74 data or 43, 5 % belong to yes-no questions, I datum or 0, 1 % belong to attached or tag question. The other analysis found that from 170 data 1 data or 0,6 % belong to interrogative sentence use the same form and syntactic order as does as a statement sentence but change the intonation from a falling to arising curve at the end to make it a question. The appropriateness of subtitling is dominated by appropriate subtitling and 43 data or 25, 3 % fit in inappropriate subtitling.

In contrast, the writer classifies the forms of tag questions used in comedy film entitled "My Best Friend's Wedding", "The Majestic", "Buffy: The Vampire slayer", and "Bruce Almighty" and the appropriateness of subtitling of the tag question used in comedy film.

C. Research Problem

Based on the background, the writer tries to formulate the research questions dealing with tag questions as follows:

1. What are the forms of tag questions used in comedy films?, and
2. How is the appropriateness of subtitling of the tag questions used in comedy films?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the research problem mentioned above, the writer has the following objectives:

1. to classify the forms of tag questions used in comedy films, and

2. to describe the appropriateness of subtitling of the tag questions used in comedy films.

E. Limitation of the Study

This research only focuses on classifying the tag questions used in comedy films entitled: "My Best Friend's Wedding", "The Majestic", "Buffy: The Vampire Slayer", and, "Bruce Almighty". This particularly designed paper is to get the best result of the study with effective time and energy. It is also to make specific focus of the study. Therefore, she describes the appropriateness of subtitling of tag questions in Comedy Films.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer expects that the research can give contribution for academic sphere and practical sphere:

1. Academic Sphere

    a. This research is beneficial to enlarge linguistics theory especially the form of tag questions.

    b. This study is beneficial to enlarge subtitling theory especially the appropriate subtitling and inappropriate subtitling.

c. This study is also useful for further references for those who are interested in conducting a research on tag questions.

2. Practical sphere

a. For the students

The reader will be introduced the concept of tag questions and their subtitling problems.

b. For the teacher

The research finding gives benefits to film-subtitling professionals in order to improve their subtitles.

c. For another reader

The reader can avoid using it in wrong way.

G. Research Paper Organization

In order to have guidance in doing the research the writer divides the research organization into five chapters:

Chapter I is introduction. This chapter deals with the background of the study, previous study, research problem, objective of study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, and the research paper organization.

Chapter II is using underlying theory. This chapter contains the theory of translation, subtitling, and tag question.

Chapter III is using research method. This research relates to the type of research, object of the research, data and source of the data, the method of data collection, and the technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV is research finding and discussion. This chapter consists of the form of tag questions and their subtitling, and the appropriateness of subtitling.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. It draws conclusion of the research and then it proposes some suggestion.