CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

We live in a world where diversity becomes a part of our lives. The diversity itself can be in a form of countries, nations, ethnics, characteristics of people, and even languages. The diversity of nations leads to diversity of languages because each nation surely has its own language which is definitely different with other nations. As the result of that fact, there are numerous languages in this world. Language itself grows along with the development of human beings on this earth. According to bbc.co.uk, it is estimated that up to 7,000 different languages are spoken around the world where 90% of these languages are used by less than 100,000 people. Over a million people converse in 150-200 languages and 46 languages have just a single speaker.

Generally, the function of language itself is as a tool to communicate and to share what people have in their minds with others whether it’s verbally or non-verbally. Basically, language plays big role in building our social lives. Kramsch (in Rahyono 2011:21) states that language is the principal means whereby we conduct our social lives. In other words, language cannot be separated with our social lives. By using language, people can communicate with others; express what they have in their minds; get information about what is happening in other parts of the world because all of the international news broadcasted on TV, radio or even newspaper delivered by using language. It proves that language helps human in building his social life.

Every language has its own uniqueness which is obviously different with other language. All the difference can be a problem for people to communicate or understand
the language from other countries. So what it has to be done to solve this problem? Translation is maybe the only way to get this problem done in order to avoid the misunderstanding caused by the differences of one particular language with other languages.

Larson (1984:3) states that translation is transferring the meaning of the source language (SL) into the receptor language. This is done by going from the form of the first language to the form of a second language by way of semantic structure. It is meaning which is being transferred and must be held constant. Nida (in Hartono 2009:1) also conveys the same idea that translating consists of reproducing the receptor language to the closest natural equivalent of the SL message, first in the term of meaning and secondly in the term of style.

Generally, translation can be defined as transferring the meaning that exists in the SL into Target Language (TL). So basically, translation is about transferring the meaning, not the forms.

As what has been mentioned above, every language has its own uniqueness. By means uniqueness, it can be phonologically, syntactically, or even morphologically. For instance, in English, there are 12 types of tenses according to which a sentence is made, they are Present Simple Tense, Present Continuous Tense, Present Perfect Tense, Present Perfect Continuous Tense, Past simple Tense, Past Continuous Tense, Past Perfect Tense, Past Perfect Continuous Tense, Future simple Tense, Future Continuous Tense, Future Perfect Tense, and Future Perfect Continuous Tense. There is no such grammatical rule in Indonesian Language. In Indonesian Language, when we want to say something that happens in the past, we only have to add adverb of time in
the sentence while in English, we have to use past simple tense. We cannot use any other tenses to say something that happens in the past as shown in the example below:

SL :  
    Saya mengerjakan tugas saya kemarin

TL :  
    I did my assignment yesterday

Lying upon that fact, there can be no absolutely correspondence between languages. It is also stated by Nida (in Venuti, 2000:126) that there can be no absolute correspondences between languages since no two languages are identical.

The difference of grammar between two languages is the one that leads to the occurrence of shift in translation as uttered by Vinay and Darbelnet (in Newmark 1988: 85), “Shifts is a translation procedure involving a change in the grammar from SL into TL”. Shift is required when grammatical structure of SL does not exist in the TL. For example, morpheme –ly does exist in English but that kind of morpheme does not exist in Indonesian Language, but as a word which has meaning dengan as shown in the example below:

SL :  
    She always washes her car carefully.

TL :  
    Dia selalu mencuci mobilnya dengan hati-hati.

Catford (in Venuti 2000:41) states that shifts mean the departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from SL to TL. He says that there are two major types of shifts. They are level shifts and category shifts. Category shifts later divided into four types; unit shift, class shift, structural shifts, and intra-system shift.

If Larson only focuses on shift occurred in the level of syntax, another type of shift introduced by Nida and Taber where they acquaint type of shift occurred in the level of semantic. In his book entitled The Theory and Practice of Translation (1969),
they divide semantic shift into shift from generic meaning to specific meaning or vice versa and shift that occurs due to cultural differences. This kind of shift which is firstly proposed by Nida and Taber is then later adapted by Simatupang as he mentions in his book *Pengantar Teori Terjemahan* (2000:77).

Related to the phenomena of shift in translation as explained above, through this thesis, the writer has big intention to analyze shifts that often occurred in a translated novel, which in this case is represented by *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Titan's Curse* novel. This thesis uses *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: the Titan’s Curse* novel by Rick Riordan as SL which is translated into Indonesian Language, *Percy Jackson & Dewa-dewi Olympia: Kutukan Bangsa Titan* novel by Nuraini Mastura as TL. The sources of data themselves are gathered from the translated version. This novel was released in 2007 as the third novel in the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series. The writer chooses this novel because it is one of the most phenomenal novels that have been made. From its original country, this novel has won numerous awards, winning ones such as the No. 1 The New York Times children's series best seller and Book Sense Top Ten Summer Pick for 2007 ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Titan’s_Curse. Accessed on 20 January 2015, at 8.56 PM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Titan’s_Curse. Accessed on 20 January 2015, at 8.56 PM)).

As a product of translation, this novel surely contains many shifts, shift is useful to convey an idea or meaning in SL so that the idea or meaning in TL can be correctly understood by the readers. For instance:

a. **SL** : "She's pretty okay," I admitted  
   **TL** : “*Dia memang lumayan asyik,*” akuku.
Shift found in word “she” which actually has specific meaning that refers to third person female singular pronoun, translated as “dia” which has more general meaning. The word “dia” does not refer to any particular gender; it can be used to point out both for female and male. It shows that this sentence contains semantic shift where specific word ‘she’ translated into generic word ‘dia’.

Another type of shift can also be seen in the example below:

b. TL : A black dagger-like projectile about a foot long.

SL : Sebuah proyektil seperti belati hitam sekitar tiga puluh senti.

From the translation above, it can be seen that the terms ‘a foot long’ in SL is translated into ‘tiga puluh senti’. As already be known, the term ‘foot’ is a scale of measurement in English. This type of measurement does not exist in the TL which is Indonesian Language. Therefore, in translating this term, the translator changes it into the scale of measurement that exists in the TL which belongs to the same standard. One foot is equal with 30 centimeters. Hence, the term ‘a foot long’ is translated as ‘tiga puluh senti’. It is also called as shift where shift occurred due to cultural differences.

Furthermore, through the elaboration in this thesis; it will be revealed what are shifts that can be found in the translated version of *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Titan’s Curse*.

1.2 Problem of the Study

In order to elaborate the shifts in this thesis, the problem will be deliberately centered into the question below:
1. What shifts from generic meaning to specific meaning (or vice versa) are found in the translated version of Rick Riordan’s *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Titan’s Curse* and what are the factors causing it?

2. What shifts that occur due to cultural difference are found in the translated version of Rick Riordan’s *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Titan’s Curse*?

### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives lead to something that should be found out and solved. In order to make a successful analysis, it is essential to make some specific objectives that later can be used as directions to do the analysis. The objectives themselves are arranged based on the problems that the writers are interested to discuss as what have been mentioned above.

The objectives that are needed to be affirmed in this thesis are:

1. To find shifts from generic meaning to specific meaning (or vice versa) in the translated version of Rick Riordan’s *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Titan’s Curse* and the factors that are causing it.

2. To find shifts that occur due to cultural difference in the translated version of Rick Riordan’s *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Titan’s Curse*.

### 1.4 Scope of the Study

Giving a limitation in the explanation of problem is definitely needed in discussing a certain problem in a certain field. Through this scope of analysis it will be much easier for the readers to figure out the problems and the ideas systemically.

Lying upon that matter, in doing the analysis, the writer will only focus on semantic shifts proposed by Nida and Taber as introduced in their book *The Theory and*
Practice of Translation (1969). Semantic shift is divided into two types; shift from
generic word to specific word or vice versa and shift that occurs due to cultural
differences

1.5 Significances of the Study

An old proverb says “when you do something, do something useful”. Everything
we do in this life, whether it is small thing or bad thing, it is desirable to give benefit to
others, including this thesis. This thesis is expected to give significances that are useful
for the readers. Just like any other thesis, this thesis also has significances. This analysis
hopefully could give worth significances where:

1. This analysis could enrich the understanding of translation, especially in the
terms of shifts in translation.

2. This analysis could give some necessary information about semantic shifts found
in the translated version of Rick Riordan’s Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The
Titan’s Curse.

3. This analysis could give a significant consideration for readers in doing
translation, especially to those who currently work as translator.

4. This analysis practically could be used as a consideration for the readers who are
interested in the same subject.