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The Seminar with its theme “Malay and Indonesian Studies” is an opportunity for scholars, researchers, linguists, and literary men at the local, regional, and international levels to contribute their ideas, concepts and thoughts through their papers presented in this Seminar.

For your information, we have dream and expectation to develop linguistics and literature through teaching, researching, consultation and community services.

We sincerely express our appreciation and thanks to all the committee’s members who have done their best in this last 4 months arranging the registration, editing and publishing this proceeding with ISBN.

Last but not least, we extend our great thanks to our key note speakers as well as the participants of this Seminar for your kind participation. We want to assure you that our welcome to you is warm and heartfelt. Have a successful Seminar! May God bless us.

Trang 4th -5th June 2010

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TOPICAL THEME SHIFT IN FACTUAL ENGLISH-BAHASA INDONESIA TRANSLATION ON RECONSTRUCTION OF SINABANG PORT SPECIFICATIONS

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Language as the main characteristic of human is used to communicate. It plays the main role in human interrelationship communication when they work with others. It is used to convey one message in human mind into utterances. Aronoff and Janie (2001:108) state that the basic function of language is as a means of communication, and this communicative function is expressed in utterance. Utterance consists of words arranged orderly which is influenced by many factors. The factors can be communicative situation and language context (Dijk, 2008: 159).

Eggins (2004: 192) states that whenever people use language they are using it to interact, to exchange. She adds that the fundamental purpose of language is to enable people to make meanings. Language users neither interact to exchange sounds with each other, nor to exchange words or sentences. People interact one to another in order to make meanings, to make sense of the world and of each other.

Furthermore, the global era has put language into an important role as a means of communication for people in the world. Cooperation has been made among countries in all over the world today. The countries involved in the cooperation use different languages orally and literally where translation has turned into a must to make their cooperation runs well and easier. Therefore, the role of translation is becoming essential in the world of communication.

Newmark (1988:7) says that translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language. Newmark gives a term attempt here to set some circumstances that translation is not an easy and simple task. McGuire (1980:2) states that translation involves the rendering of a source language (SL) text into the target language (TL) so as to ensure that (1) the surface meaning of the two will be approximately similar and (2) the structure of the SL will be preserved as closely as possible, but not so closely that the TL structure will be seriously distorted. Both Newmark and McGuire focus their definitions on the attempt of doing a transfer of meaning.

To sum up, translation is a study that consists of studying the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and the cultural context of the source language text, analyzing meaning, and reconstructing the same meaning using the lexicon and grammatical structure which are appropriate in the receptor language
and its cultural context. Evidently, translation becomes very essential in reserving the message transferred from SL into TL.

Newmark (1998:285) has once briefly talked about the deviation in translation. It is his belief that the study of textual meaning shift should be one part of a translation theory. It will lead to neither the lowering of the status of translators nor the devaluation of translated works. On the contrary, it will bring forth a more comprehensive understanding of the translation process and a more objective and appropriate evaluation of translated works.

This thesis works on the translations of Sinabang Port Specifications since such documents are usually translated by unprofessional translators; those who do not know techniques of translating and the subject of the project; or by the engineers who master the subject of the project and understand English but are not qualified to use techniques of translating. Most of them, when translating from English to Bahasa Indonesia or vice versa, use literal translation directly. It means they translate words or clauses the same way as it expressed in their own language. That’s why of the misunderstanding occurs. Meanwhile, this kind of translation is a very important instruction work as it clarifies all steps and assurance of reconstruction in the fullest details. Misinterpretation in translating such document brings problems on its quality and reliability. The specifications, for sure, should meet certain standard made by donor countries. Inability to translate the document at an equal level causes low quality of works and wrong doings. The translation of such documents made by unprofessional translator causes a fatal result for the project.

Sinabang translation version is a fact that lies in the existence of the language. It bridges 2 nations from different language and culture. Other than that, the translation version has given a way for scholars to learn the rapid development and technology from other nations.

This study analyzes the topical theme shift between SL and TL. Topical theme shift deals with textual meaning where Theme and Rheme construct the textual strand of meaning. Halliday (1985: 39) defines Theme as the element in textual meaning which serves as “the starting point for the message: it is what the clause is going to be about”. In writing a clause, what is first made in the clause is what the writer wants to focus on. In other word, Theme is the main message of the writer and Rheme is the description of what the writer wants to say about the Theme. There are three types of theme in textual meaning, namely ideational (topical theme), interpersonal and textual theme. The reason to choose the title lies in the problem that there are lots of theme shift in translation. The most common shift of theme is in topical theme. The study tries to uncover the presumed opinion whether such shift changes or devaluates the quality of a translation work.

In the process of translating, there is a problem for a translator because the theme in SL might be different from the theme in TL. The shift of theme in SL and TL is unavoidably due to different grammatical structure of the languages. The study focuses on analyzing shift of theme of both ST and TT. The dominant theme found
in SL and TL is also described in a more detailed explanation. It also tries to figure out why certain theme is dominant in SL and TL and how the shift affects the quality of a translation work. The data are taken from the translation of Reconstruction of Sinabang Port Specifications. This study comes out with a guide for a good factual translation.

1.2 The Statement of Problems

Having identified the problem of topical theme shifts through Systemic Functional Linguistics and aspects of why such shift happens to translated version of Sinabang Port Specifications, the problems are then formulated in the form of questions as follows:

1. What is the type of themes found in SL and TL?
2. How can the certain theme be dominant?
3. How is the topical theme shift in SL and TL?
4. How does topical theme shift affect the quality of a translation work?

1.3 Purpose of Study

In line with the formulation of problems, the purposes of the study can be summarized as:

1. to describe the type of themes found in SL and TL,
2. to describe the dominant theme found in SL and TL,
3. to describe why certain theme can be dominant,
4. to describe the topical theme shift in SL and TL, and
5. to analyze the impact of topical theme shift towards the quality of translation.

1.4 Scope of Analysis

In functional grammar, repetition, conjunction and thematisation are regarded as three of the main ways in which textual meanings are constructed in a text. Thematisation relates not to the way that individual components are expressed but to the structuring of the clause itself—the order in which elements appear in the clause. (Thomson, 2004: 118).

There are many analyses in Systemic Functional Linguistics. The analysis to be conducted here is the topical theme shift in factual report of reconstruction of Sinabang Port Specifications. The Specifications has seven chapters which fall into 616 clauses considered as the population. Chapter One, where found 89 clauses, is chosen to be analyzed as sample since the chapter contains a full description of the Specifications. Other six chapters are the explanation of Chapter One. The main evaluation is to observe topical theme shift in the chosen sample.