

Simile Translation in *Hujan* by Tere Liye

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Abstract

This study examines how similes are translated in Tere Liye's 2016 novel *Hujan*, which is full of figurative language that gives its story emotional and thematic depth. *Hujan* uses similes to heighten the emotional ambiance while fusing dystopian themes with deep insights on human resilience, love, and grief. The purpose of the study is to determine the kinds of similes that were utilised in the source material and investigate the methods that were used to translate them into English. The study assesses how translation strategies including literal translation, vehicle replacement, and omission preserve the novel's emotional resonance and imagery. The results show that translating similes in *Hujan* is a difficult procedure that calls for striking a balance between maintaining the original meaning and making adjustments for cultural quirks. The research makes a contribution to a deeper understanding of figurative language translation, particularly in works that bridge cultural and emotional divides.

Keywords: *Simile; translation; hujan; figurative language translation; translation strategies.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The novel *Hujan* by Tere Liye (2016) is known for its language style that is rich in metaphors and similes, which play an important role in creating an emotional atmosphere in the story. The translation of similes in the novel is interesting to study because it can affect the reader's experience in the target language. This study focuses on simile translation in Tere Liye's novel *Hujan* (2016), a well-regarded work of modern Indonesian fiction. *Hujan*, which means "Rain" in English, takes place in a dystopian future where natural calamities have wrecked the world. The plot revolves around Lail, a little girl navigating the emotional intricacies of grief, memory, and the vestiges of a world that is no longer what it once was. The work raises profound philosophical themes about human resilience, relationships, and the cyclical cycle of existence, with "rain" serving as a recurring metaphor for renewal, melancholy, and hope. The novel's title, *Hujan*, is meaningful. Rain is utilized repeatedly throughout the novel to symbolize both destruction and healing. Rain, which can wash away, cleanse, or renew, represents Lail's emotional journey. Tere Liye combines science fiction elements with emotional observations on human life, eliciting a wide range of

emotions as he examines subjects such as loss, love, memory, and survival. The novel's emotional depth is strengthened by its use of figurative language, particularly similes, to relate the characters' internal feelings to the chaotic external world. Similes are basic literary strategies that compare two dissimilar things with words like "like" or "as" to create an image or provoke emotion. Translating similes entails keeping their meaning, while ensuring that the reader in the target language can relate to the imagery and emotions created by the original text. This study looks at the tactics utilized to translate similes in "*Hujan*," with the goal of preserving Tere Liye's imagery and thematic complexity.

In translation studies, *Hujan* by Tere Liye, has been studied in various aspects of figurative language and its translation challenges. Arifin (2019, 45) analyzed nature imagery, particularly rain as a recurring metaphor, emphasizing how cultural and environmental meanings might shift when translated. In terms of translation methodology, investigated strategies such as paraphrasing, substitution, and literal translation for figurative language in *Hujan*, based on Mona Baker's (2018) framework. Her research centered on how these strategies affect the accuracy and emotional resonance in the translated text. Other relevant studies, like Pratiwi's (2020, 37) stylistic analysis, focused on Tere Liye's narrative techniques, particularly the poetic use of similes and metaphors, and compared these to his other works, while Firdaus (2018, 77) examined how figurative language in *Hujan* enhances the depiction of psychological states, although his research was not focused on translation. These various studies underline the complexity of translating the emotional and symbolic layers of *Hujan*, particularly in cross-cultural context. This study aims to identify the similes used in *Hujan* by Tere Liye, also to examine the strategies used in translating similes from *Hujan* from Indonesian to English.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of simile translation is an essential topic in translation studies, especially given the figurative language's intricacy and cultural significance. Similes, one of the most popular types of figurative language, necessitate special attention during the translation process to preserve both the stylistic and emotional qualities of the original text. This literature review looks at previous research on simile translation tactics and how they are applied to literary texts, as well as their significance to Tere Liye's *Hujan*.

2.1. Translation

Translation plays a crucial role in facilitating cross-cultural communication and knowledge dissemination. As a field of study, translation has evolved significantly, influenced by linguistic theories, cultural studies, and technological advancements. This literature review explores key perspectives in translation studies, including equivalence, translation strategies, cultural adaptation, and the impact of technology. According to Newmark (1988), translation in literature involves both semantic and communicative approaches, ensuring that the essence of the text is

conveyed while adapting to the target language's cultural context. Translation, in general, can be defined as the process of translating from the source text into the target language either meaning or form. The role of translation in foreign language learning cannot be ignored (Sundari & Febriyanti, 18, 2016). Translation is a multifaceted and dynamic field that extends beyond word-for-word substitution. It includes linguistic, cultural, and technological concerns, all of which influence how meaning is conveyed between languages. Theories of equivalence, translation strategies, and cultural adaptation offer useful insights into translation's issues and solutions. Furthermore, the integration of technology continues to change translation processes, opening up new opportunities while also bringing constraints. As translation studies progress, their function in language learning, communication, and globalization remains critical.

2.2 Simile

Similes, one of the most popular types of figurative language, necessitate special attention during the translation process to preserve both the stylistic and emotional qualities of the original text. Similes are essential for increasing the depth and emotional impact of literary works. According to Aisenman (2014, p.112), similes enable readers to connect abstract ideas or foreign situations to more concrete or familiar images, making them especially useful in children's and young adult fiction. In *Hujan*, similes are utilized to portray characters' emotions, relationships, and atmosphere, connecting human emotions with natural elements such as rain, which is crucial to the novel's topic. According to Pierini (2007), similes serve both an aesthetic and cognitive function by forming mental images that assist readers understand complex subjects. In this sense, similes help with both narrative development and character characterization. Translating similes is a difficult endeavor since it requires keeping both the imagery and emotional effect of the original text. Despite their literary significance, translating similes is a considerable issue. The process entails retaining both the visual and the emotional impact of the original text while also ensuring that the translation is culturally and linguistically appropriate for the intended audience. Because different languages and cultures interpret metaphors and parallels differently, translators must decide whether to keep, adapt, or modify similes in order to maintain their intended impact. This review will look at several translation strategies, particularly those proposed by Pierini (2007), and assess their success in topic and the vehicle resonance in translated literary works

2.3 Simile and Translation

Simile Translation Strategies Pierini's (2007) framework for simile translation strategies outlines several approaches:

2.3.1 Literal Translation

The simile is translated exactly as it appears in the source text, maintaining both the comparative structure and the imagery. This approach is used when the simile has universal elements that can be easily understood across cultures. As a result, this

sentence can be easily translated because the vehicle used in the source text can be described in the same way in the target text. (Ramli, p.376, 2014)

2.3.2 Replacement Of The Vehicle With A Different Vehicle :

The original image is replaced with a more familiar or culturally appropriate one in the target language, keeping the comparative structure but adjusting the imagery for better resonance with target readers. This adjustment is required for target readers in the target language because they may not understand what puffballs are or what they look like, allowing them to simply "imagine" how the youngsters look in an oversized winter coat. (Agoes, p.116, 2021)

2.3.3 Reduction Of The Simile, If Idioms, To Its Sense:

The simile is translated by explaining its meaning without using a comparative structure. This approach focuses on conveying the intended message or effect rather than the specific linguistic form. Instead of directly translating the simile, the translator paraphrases it to convey the intended meaning that something is confusing or difficult to understand. This approach can be useful when the original simile might be idiomatic or culturally specific, making it less effective in the target language.

2.3.4 Retention Of The Same Vehicle Plus Explication Of Similarly Feature(s):

The original image is kept, but the translation adds contextual notes or explanations to help the reader understand unfamiliar cultural references. While retaining the original image, this approach ensures that the reader understands the comparison, especially if the original reference might not be as familiar in the target culture.

2.3.5 Omission Of The Simile:

When a simile is particularly difficult to translate or might disrupt readability, it may be omitted, especially if it doesn't contribute significantly to the overall meaning or aesthetic of the text. If the translator translated the sentence word by word, the results would not be the same as the original. That is why the translator decided to exclude the translation in the target language. (Ramli, p 377, 2014)

2.3.6 Replacement Of The Vehicle With A Gloss:

In some cases, a translator might add a simile in the target language if it helps clarify the meaning or maintains the stylistic feel of the source text, even if the original sentence lacked a simile. In this strategy, the translator adds a simile that was not present in the source text. This might be done to enhance the expression and convey the level of tiredness in a way that feels more vivid and relatable for the target

audience. This approach can help maintain the stylistic flair of the original while also ensuring clarity and engagement.

Pierini's six strategies allow translators to adapt similes while maintaining cultural relevance, readability, and emotional effect in the target language. The choice of strategy is determined by the context, target audience, and language disparities between the source and target texts. This paradigm has been used in a number of research, including Zukhri (2020, p. 67), who investigated figurative language translation in *The Little Prince*, his studies emphasize the importance of striking a balance between preserving the original meaning of the simile and adjusting it to the target language's cultural and linguistic norms. Translating these similes from Indonesian to English necessitates careful consideration of both linguistic and cultural considerations, while also preserving the similes' poetic and symbolic elements. Previous research on *Hujan* by Tere Liye has concentrated on its characterization Lestari (2018), language style Putriyanda (2022), and education values Ediwarman (2018), but there has been little research explicitly on simile translation. This gap provides a chance to investigate how the novel's figurative language is portrayed in translation and how different tactics alter the reading experience

The translation of similes in *Hujan* involves unique issues that necessitate striking a balance between keeping the original meaning and adapting it for a new audience. By evaluating the translation procedures proposed by Pierini (2007) and others, this study hopes to offer insight on how similes function in Tere Liye's work and how they are changed for translation.

3. METHODS

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive methodology. The goal is to examine and understand Tere Liye's similes in *Hujan*, as well as translate them into English. Qualitative research is ideal for this topic since it focuses on analyzing and comprehending the meaning of figurative language, particularly similes, as well as how these linguistic devices are translated into another language. The study looks into the obstacles and solutions utilized when translating similes, with a focus on cultural and linguistic concerns.

Close reading is the primary data collection strategy used in this study. Close reading is a detailed and complete investigation of the text that allows the researcher to find and understand similes within the novel's setting. A thorough reading of the text is carried out to identify all instances of similes in the Indonesian version along with its English translation. Similes are identified by their structure, which usually includes comparative phrases such as "like" or "as" in both languages.

This study uses content analysis to interpret and categorize the similes found in *Hujan* by Tere Liye. Content analysis is well-suited to examining textual data for patterns and themes, particularly useful in analyzing figurative language like similes. Through this approach, the study identifies the similes in the original Indonesian text and then evaluates the translated English versions. The content analysis, by systematically categorizing and examining each simile, aims to uncover patterns in the

translation approach and identify key challenges and solutions in translating Indonesian simile language into English.

4. RESULTS and DISCUSSION

This section discusses the use of similes found in the text, analyzing their meanings and also the translation strategies that were used.

4.1 Similes in *Hujan* By Tere Liye

The following are examples of similes found in the text, along with their explanations.

4.1.1 Datum 1

“Anak tangga yang dipegang Lail bergetar, seperti sedang menaiki wahana fantasi” (p 28)

The description of the staircase shaking suggests instability, which is likened to the thrilling, unpredictable experience of a fantasy amusement ride. The Topic of the simile is “Anak tangga yang dipegang Lail bergertar” and for the vehicle is “seperti sedang menaiki wahana fantasi” This imagery reflects Lail's emotional state, hinting at feelings of exhilaration mixed with anxiety. The vehicle is “wahana fantasi” and for the simile marker is “seperti”.

4.1.2 Datum 2

“Lail tidak bisa melihat pucuk-pucuk tenda di kejauhan, seperti ada kabut menyelimuti sekitar”(p 50)

In this comparison, the topic is the unclear or obstructed view of the tents in the distance, while the vehicle is the presence of fog covering the surroundings. This simile suggests that something is preventing Lail from seeing clearly, either physically (actual fog or mist) or metaphorically (a sense of confusion or emotional haze). By using this comparison, the author creates a vivid image of obscurity, reinforcing the atmosphere and mood of the scene. The vehicle is “kabut menyelimuti sekitar” and for the simile marker is “seperti”.

4.1.3 Datum 3

“Dia tidak menangis, tapi seperti ada bagian yang kosong di hatinya dibawa pergi yang dia tidak mengerti” (p 49)

In this simile, the topic is the person's emotional state, while the vehicle is the feeling of an empty part of their heart being taken away. This comparison emphasizes a sense of loss and emptiness, suggesting that although the person does not outwardly cry, they feel an inexplicable void inside. By using this simile, the author conveys a profound emotional experience in a way that makes it more tangible and relatable to the reader.

The vehicle is “bagian yang kosong di harinya dibawa pergi” and for the simile marker is “seperti”.

4.1.4 Datum 4

“Rambut kribonya sangat lebat, mengembang seperti bola besar” (p 77)

Captures the voluminous nature of the character's curly hair, emphasizing its thickness and the way it expands outward. The comparison to a “bola besar” suggests a sense of fullness and exuberance, potentially reflecting the character's lively personality or the vibrant energy she embodies. The vehicle is “bola besar” and for the simile marker is “seperti”.

4.2 Translation Strategies

Table 1. Results

Translation Strategies	Amount (%)
Literal Translation	70%
Replacement of the Vehicle with s Different Vehicle	16%
Reduction of the Simile, if Idiomatic, to its Sense	9%
Retention of the Same Vehicle Plus Explication of Similarity Feature(s)	5%
Omission of the Simile	0%
Replacement of the Vehicle with a Gloss	0%
Total	100%

4.2.1 Literal Translation

Literal translation strategies are employed when simile is translated exactly as it appears in the source text, maintaining both the comparative structure and the imagery. This approach is used when the simile has universal elements that can be easily understood across cultures.

Datum 5:

"Kenangan saat ibunya terjatuh ke bawah lubang anak tangga darurat muncul di kepalanya. Seperti layar televisi yang mengulang sebuah adegan dalam gerakan lambat" (p 71)

"Her imagination raced back to the moment her mother had fallen down the emergency stairs. Like a television screen replaying a scene in slow motion"

This literal translation keeps the original imagery of a "television screen replaying in slow motion," maintaining the visual and emotional resonance for readers, as the concept of a TV screen replaying a scene in slow motion is universally understood.

4.2.2 Replacement of the Vehicle with a Different Vehicle

The original text is replaced with a more familiar or culturally appropriate one in the target language, keeping the comparative structure but adjusting the imagery for better resonance with target readers.

Datum 6:

"Secara sederhana intervensi itu sama seperti seember air keruh diberi tawas, airnya menjadi jernih, bisa digunakan." (p 132)

"The intervention is like plunging a bucket of dirty water into a pail of alum; the water turns clear and drinkable."

Expanding the imagery by clarifying what alum does helps make the metaphor clearer, particularly for readers who may not be familiar with the process of water purification. This expansion preserves clarity and enriches the metaphor without detracting from the conciseness.

4.2.3 Reduction of the Simile, if Idiomatic, to its Sense

The simile is translated by explaining its meaning without using a comparative structure. This approach focuses on conveying the intended message or effect rather than the specific linguistic form.

Datum 7:

"Berkali-kali Ibu Esok menghembuskan napas, seolah ada beban berat menghimpit dadanya" (P 68)

"Esok's mother exhaled repeatedly, showing deep distress."

In this case, the translator paraphrases the simile rather than translating it literally. This approach ensures that the translation prioritizes clarity and natural expression in English while preserving the original meaning. This approach conveys the intended emotional impact and meaning without maintaining the exact comparative format, making it clearer and more fluid in English while still preserving the overall sense of burden that the original simile communicates.

4.2.4 Retention of the Same Vehicle Plus Explicitation of Similarity Feature(s)

The original image is kept, but the translation adds contextual notes or explanations to help the reader understand unfamiliar cultural references.

Datum 8:

"Reruntuhan gedung masih di mana-mana, membaur bersama bangunan baru di kanan-kirinya yang bagai jamur tumbuh di musim hujan" (p 72)

"The ruins of buildings are still everywhere, blending in with the new buildings on the right and left, which, like mushrooms in the rainy season, rapidly emerge and spread."

This strategy is evident because the translator retains the original imagery of "mushrooms in the rainy season" without altering the concept or adapting it for the target audience. This approach allows the readers to grasp the original meaning and significance of the simile while maintaining the vividness and clarity of the imagery.

4.2.5 Omission of the Simile

4.2.6 Replacement of the Vehicle with a Gloss

6. CONCLUSION

Simile translation in Hujan necessitates careful consideration of language and cultural elements. The techniques used whether literal translation, vehicle substitution, or omission emphasize the difficulties in expressing metaphorical language while maintaining its emotional nuance and aesthetic appeal. The difficulties of translating Tere Liye's complex, metaphorical language are clarified by this study, which also provides insights into the larger area of literary translation. Through an analysis of simile translation techniques, this study advances our knowledge of how figurative language can be successfully communicated across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

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