
Analyzing Translation Strategy of *Loneliness* Song Lyric

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ABSTRACT

The song *Loneliness* went viral after America's Got Talent gave it a Golden Buzzer for the performance of the song's owner, Putri Ariani. Behind the popularity of this song, there is a sad story that Putri experienced, such as being underestimated because of her physical limitations. In this case, a song lyric can have value and be able to attract attention if the choice of words is correct. As the function of lyrics and songs is to speak universally, they can express the contents of the creator's heart, and reflect the culture of various existing cultural diversity. Therefore, examining song lyrics can provide an academic narrative of the meaning contained therein. This research aims to explain the technique of translating English into Indonesian for the song *Loneliness* by Putri Arian. Using a theoretical approach to translation techniques from Newmark (1988) and Larson (1984), the song *Loneliness* was analyzed qualitative-descriptive. The results of research on the lyrics of the song *Loneliness* by Putri Ariani are the meaning of the song using adaptation techniques, semantic translation and the concept of lexical items.

Introduction

Popular culture is a human product created as a result of technological progress. These cultural products tend to be dominated by the production and consumption of material goods and with the motive of economic profit



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(Chaniago & Basri, 2018). Popular culture has also become part of elite culture in some societies. Because it emphasizes the entertainment side, popular culture often gives the impression of strong consumer values. Entertainment and the meaning of entertainment are now often closely linked to music, which dominates popular culture. Today, music has become a very important component of entertainment, often combined with various other art forms. It is almost impossible to find entertainment without the significant role of music; on the contrary, music is the foundation of great and comprehensive entertainment (Gustam, 2015). The origins of the word “music” can be traced to the word “muse,” which refers to a figure or deity in ancient Greek mythology who represented various branches of art and science. Therefore, music can be called the god of musical arts and science. Music also has the effective power to provide calm and inspire people who listen to it. The strains of tones and sounds arranged to certain rhythms can also help in the learning process and overcome boredom (Jayanti & Fitriani, 2021)

Music is an art form consisting of sounds, songs, or compositions. This is part of art, which plays an important role in the development of the human civilization system which always adapts to changes in culture, technology and science. Music, in this context, has a strong connection with language, because the message of music is related to content, form, and especially the relationship between sounds and words (Nurdiansyah, 2018). In its use, music functions as a communication medium. For example, songs are used to ease children's sleep. In this case, music is used as a means to express parental love by entertaining children through singing. The hope is that the child can sleep soundly. Apart from that, music also has a role in identifying ethnic identity and in the context of religious rituals (Rambah, 2011). Without realizing it, music has influenced social life in society. Song lyrics are a part of music that functions as a tool to convey a message. This is similar to poetry, where lyrics contain words that convey a message. Song lyrics can be used as a means to describe important social realities, helping people understand their existence and relationships in the context of social life (Nathaniel & Sannie, 2018). A wisely chosen song lyric can have the same value as thousands of words or events, and can capture individual attention. The strength of song lyrics is



an important element in musical success, because the message conveyed by the songwriter comes from within the creator himself.

Therefore, each song has a different story, starting from the song being sung with nuances of happiness, sadness, humor, and others. One of the songs that describes the story of her life, especially love issues, is the song entitled "Loneliness" which was sung by a blind singer from Indonesia, namely Putri Ariani. Putri Ariani became a public topic of conversation because she received the Golden Buzzer from Simon Cowell at the America's Got Talent 2023 event. Putri performed her own song, namely "Loneliness" when she appeared. The song managed to touch the hearts of the judges and audience. According to Susila (2023), this song has reached 20,7 million listeners and continues to grow over time. This song has deep meaning but with simple lyrics and rhythm. Therefore, the deep meaning in this song needs to be explored academically so that its meaning can be explicitly understood.

Many research has been carried out regarding translation techniques in songs. One of them is research by Ekasaputri (2023), with title *Reviewing Translation Technique in Niki's La La Lost You: A Case Study*. This research concludes that technical translation can be done in various ways, and this depends on the context and author. This research uses Loneliness lyric song as the primary data and Newmark and Larson as the approach. The theory from Newmark and Larson, in this research, is the most relevant approach to analyzing the meaning of song lyrics. In particular, concepts such as adaptation and semantic translation can help in understanding how the meaning of song lyrics can be adapted or translated correctly into the target language by considering context, culture and other aspects. This approach allows a deeper analysis of how the messages in song lyrics can be understood and accurately translated in different contexts. (Pramayougha, 2012). Another explanation by Larson (1984) is the concept of lexical items. This method is used to show how lyric translation works and its impact on lyrics in the target language.

Method of Research

Methods are a means to achieve certain goals. According to Dukeshire & Thurlow in (Sugiyono, 2019) "Research methods are processing activities in the form of



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data collection, analysis and making interpretations related to research objectives. The method used in this research is qualitative research with descriptive analysis. This research aims to analyze the meaning of the song *Loneliness* with a translation according to the lyrics and also in accordance with the theory used. The theories used in this research include the theories of Newmark (1988), Larson (1984). The adaptation technique seems to dominate in the translation of these songs because according to Newmark (1988), this technique is the most flexible to use because it discusses the effectiveness of the target language by referring to the scenes given in the source text. In addition, it uses semantic translation techniques and lexical items. These lyrics can function as a single song even if they have been translated. The aim of this research is to explain the true meaning of the song *Loneliness*. This research analysis is only limited to textual analysis. The use of expressions in some data is only intended to show the suitability of syllables in the source language and target language speech.

Result and Discussion

a. Conveying the Reality in The Loneliness Song

Loneliness means that it is about acceptance, how can we accept mistakes and accept ourselves and that something that is good is not necessarily the best for us. The lyrics in this song also show how someone feels "wrong" in choosing a partner and feels disappointed when their expectations are not met. Judging from the lyrics, Putri Ariani's song *Loneliness* describes a deep feeling of heartache due to being abandoned by someone she loves. As a result of being left behind, the figure of *Aku* in the lyrics feels deep loneliness until he remembers memories from the past. These memories are depicted in the first stanza, especially the promise they made to always be together. The first verse in the lyrics of the song *Loneliness* is:

| Source language (SL) | Target Language (TL) |
|--|--|
| I remember when we still one | Aku ingat saat kita masih bersama |
| Your laugh, your voice, and your bright eyes | Tawa Anda, suaramu, dan matamu yang bersinar |
| We're together in this love | Kita bersama dalam ikatan cinta ini |
| Promise we'll forever | Berjanji akan selamanya |
| And now you left me alone | Dan sekarang kamu meninggalkanku sendiri |



| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Cause you find someone better | Karena kamu menemukan seseorang yang lebih baik |
| You're in that way with her | Kamu seperti itu dengannya |
| And one think I know | Dan satu hal yang kutahu |

Table 1. Loneliness Lyrics verse 1

The song's lyrics provide clear information. Where the first verse clearly expresses memories with his lover and they have promised to live together, namely in the lyrics *I remember when we were still one. Your laugh, your voice, and your bright eyes. We're together in this love*. Where they have promised to always be together in their story in the lyrics *Promise we'll forever* and at the same time express sadness because they have been left behind with another woman which is in accordance with the lyrics *And now you left me alone. Cause You found someone better*. Here it can be concluded that he expressed his sadness through the lyrics in this verse where he had lived his life together but suddenly his lover left him. The lyrics of the second verse in the lyrics of the song Loneliness also have a deep meaning, namely as follows:

| Source language (SL) | Target Language (TL) |
|--|---|
| You break my heart, break my hope | Kau patahkan hatiku, hancurkan harapanku |
| Make me so down in a <i>Loneliness</i> | Buatku terpuruk dalam kesepian |
| You left me when I deep | Kau meninggalkanku ketika begitu dalam (mencintaimu) |
| Thought you are my best scene | Kupikir kamu adalah bagian terbaikku |
| Being my prince, but I was wrong | Menjadi pangeranku, tapi aku salah |
| Baby, you change a pink into the blue | Sayang, kamu merubah warna pink menjadi biru (merubah diriku yang awalnya berbunga-bunga menjadi sedih) |

Table 2. Loneliness Lyrics verse 2

In this second verse, it expresses more of the feelings from the bottom of his heart because the lyrics "You break my heart, break my hope" contain the meaning that he was devastated when he saw his lover with another woman. And suddenly he felt lonely and down because of his lover's



behavior and was abandoned when he started to accept his lover, this is in accordance with the lyrics of the section "Make me so down in a Loneliness. You left me when I was deep." He was wrong because he thought that his lover would be his best companion but he wasn't, according to the lyrics "Thought you are my best scene. Being my prince, but I was wrong." In this second verse there is an implied message where he also expresses his frustration, because he misjudged his lover, who at first he thought would be the best thing in his life, turned out to change his flowery or happy life into a sad one, according to the lyrics "Baby, you changed a pink into the blue."

The meaning of the song Loneliness can be seen in the third verse too, each lyric contains implicit or explicit meaning. The lyrics in the third verse are as follows:

| Source language (SL) | Target Language (TL) |
|---|---|
| And what does it mean all the things that we have written | Dan apa artinya semua hal yang telah kita tulis |
| The great conversation and a beautiful future | Percakapan hebat dan masa depan yang indah |
| Perfect definition of sadly flower | Definisi sempurna dari bunga yang sedih |

Table 3. Loneliness Lyrics verse 3

In the lyrics of the song Loneliness in the third verse, there is an implied meaning which states that everything that happens must be accepted even though everything has been through together but everything is just a short memory, namely in the lyrics "And what does it mean all the things that we have written. The great conversation and a beautiful future." Meanwhile, the last lyric, "Perfect definition of sad flower," means that everything will look perfect or fine even though he is actually sad.

b. Newmark's (1988) and Larson's (1984) theories in the meaning of Loneliness Songs

The translation method observed in this research object is dominated by the adaptation method proposed by Newmark (1988). This includes the omission of words, which Newmark (1988) calls "omission," as well as changes in syntactic structure, which Newmark calls "shift" (Pramayougha,



2012). Apart from adaptation, the concept of semantic translation proposed by Newmark (1988) is also visible in the object of this research. According to Newmark (1988), the semantic translation method is an approach that emphasizes the aesthetic aspects of translation. The concept of "lexical items" proposed by Larson (1984) is considered suitable for analyzing the data in this research. As Larson explains, a "lexical item" can imply that the choice of words in the translation can have a different meaning from the original meaning.

One of the song data analysed is a song by Putri Ariani entitled Loneliness where the opening lyrics read "I remember when we were still one." The word "one" here can have a double meaning. As explained by Larson (1984), a word can have additional meanings when used in a special context. The first meaning would immediately think that the meaning is "one" but the meaning is different in the lyrics of this song, "one" which is meant here is "together" according to the context of the sentence where he remembers the moment when they were still together.

The next line reads "Your laugh, your voice, and your bright eyes" which means the word "bright" has a double meaning. If interpreted alone, in the target language it is translated as "bright" but the meaning in the lyrics of this word is "shining". However, the meaning of the word remains one when combined with the lyrics in that line.

The song lyrics in the third line of the first verse which reads "Promise we'll forever" have an omission in the translated lyrics. In accordance with Newmark's (1988) theory regarding erasing the meaning of translation so that the meaning can be continuous with what is happening. The "we" part which means "us" is not interpreted in its entirety. The removal of "we" in the translated lyrics can be considered as a way of adapting the translated lyrics to the rhythmic structure of the original song. The translated result of the lyrics is "Promise will be forever". In case of equivalence, the resulting translation can be considered acceptable. This deletion does not disturb the context of the lyrics in the source language, so it does not cause any changes.

In the fourth line of the lyrics "And now you left me alone" the word "left" has a double meaning, based on the actual translation meaning is "left". However, in this line the word "left" is the second verb or in the past



form of "leave", namely means "to leave". The meaning of a song must be equated with the context of the sentence. Here, what is most related to the fourth line of the lyric is the meaning of "abandoning".

The lyrics to the next line are "Cause you found someone better" with the translation meaning "Because you found someone better" in the lyrics there are no translation deletions in sentences or words with double meanings. The next lyric is "You're in that way with her" in the lyrics there is the word "in that way" which can be interpreted as "in that way" but a translation that fits the context refers to "like that". This does not change the meaning of the song, because there is an adjustment to the context of the language structure.

The last line in the first stanza reads "And one thinks I know" in the word "think" here the meaning is "thinking" but according to the context of the language order "think" refers to "things" so the full meaning of this lyric is "and one thing that I know". This also does not change the meaning of the song, because there is an adjustment to the context of the language structure. You must be able to sort out the meaning of the song according to the sentence.

The second verse in the lyrics of the first line of the song Loneliness is "You break my heart, break my hope". In this sentence there are two words that are the same, namely "break" but the meanings can be different, the first word "break" is interpreted as "broken" but the meaning of the second word "break" is "destroyed" which actually matches the translation of "break" which means "damaged". These words are interpreted and interpreted according to the context of the existing sentence, which also does not destroy any order in the lyric sentence.

The next line reads "Make me so down in a loneliness" with the translation being "Make me so down in a loneliness". It can be seen that there is an omission of a word in the translated lyrics, namely in the word "so" the word is not interpreted because the meaning of the word "down" already shows the deepest feelings so that "so" is not fully interpreted. And there is also a word that has a double meaning, namely "down" where the actual translation means "down" but "down" here is interpreted as "down". However, it will not damage the meaning and significance



Conclusion

This research concludes that the song "Loneliness" has many meanings for its listeners. This song can be a motivation for them to accept themselves as they are and also strengthen their sense of self-love. Putri Ariani's song "Loneliness" tells the story of a woman who feels very lonely because she was abandoned by the lover she loved so much. His passing left deep wounds. All the promises and hopes they once made together have disappeared. The lover who is considered a true prince left with someone else who is considered better. The song's lyrics firmly reflect deep sadness and disappointment, with broken hearts and dashed hopes. The meaning of the song "Loneliness" can be described line by line by applying the theory proposed by Newmark in 1988 and the concept introduced by Larson in 1984. The techniques used include adaptation, semantic translation, and the concept of "lexical items."

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