



Analysis of Simile Translation from English to Indonesian in *The Silent Patient*

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Article Info	Abstract
Article History Received: 2025-01-10 Revised: 2025-02-20 Published: 2025-03-09 Keywords: <i>Similes;</i> <i>Strategies Translation;</i> <i>Novel.</i>	This study analyzes what translation strategies are used in translating similes in English into Indonesian in the novel <i>The Silent Patient</i> by Alex Michaelides. The theory of simile translation strategies based on Pierini are used as the theoretical framework of this research. In addition, this research uses qualitative research and the data were classified by identifying and analyzing the strategies used to translate the similes in the source text based on Pierini's theory. The result of this study shows that all of the strategies that have been used to translate the simile identified in the novel and the dominant strategy used is literal translation (retention of the same vehicle) 87.10% by translator to translate the simile in the novel.
Artikel Info	Abstrak
Sejarah Artikel Diterima: 2025-01-10 Direvisi: 2025-02-20 Dipublikasi: 2025-03-09 Kata kunci: <i>Simile;</i> <i>Strategi Penerjemahan;</i> <i>Novel.</i>	Penelitian ini menganalisis strategi penerjemahan apa saja yang digunakan dalam menerjemahkan simile dalam bahasa Inggris ke bahasa Indonesia dalam novel <i>The Silent Patient</i> karya Alex Michaelides. Teori strategi penerjemahan simile menurut Pierini digunakan sebagai kerangka teori dalam penelitian ini. Selain itu, penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian kualitatif dan data diklasifikasikan dengan mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis strategi yang digunakan untuk menerjemahkan simile dalam teks sumber berdasarkan teori Pierini. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa semua strategi yang digunakan untuk menerjemahkan simile teridentifikasi dalam novel dan strategi yang dominan digunakan adalah penerjemahan harfiah (retensi wahana yang sama) sebesar 87,10% oleh penerjemah untuk menerjemahkan simile dalam novel.

I. INTRODUCTION

Effective communication in various languages is critical in our increasingly linked world. Translation is an important tool for facilitating such communication as it allows ideas, knowledge, and information to be communicated across language borders. The previous statement supported by Horse that translation is an essential component of all global localization and glocalization processes (2016:2). According to Larson, translation is transferring the meaning of the source language into the receptor language (1988:3). In addition, Newmark defines translation as a process of transferring the meaning of a source text into another form of target text in the way the author wants the text to be understood (1988). That means, translation plays an important role in the dissemination of information, knowledge, ideas, overcoming language difficulties, transcending international boundaries and also the definitions highlight the importance of preserving meaning and intent rather than simply translating words directly.

Translation is also important in analyzing a novel by translating the source text into the target text. Khairunnisa & Iskandar state that the novel is one of which include literary works

(2022:50). A novel is a work that has many literary works as figurative language such as metaphor, simile, idiom, culture, etc which make the storyline engaging and colorful to readers that has been delivered from the author's mind and feeling. The remark is corroborated by FT Amalia's and Juanda's statements that literary work is a product of the thought of writers to convey their ideas to writers through oral and written language (2021:20). As a translator of literary works there have great challenges in translating the source language into the target language. Furthermore, the translator acts as a mediator who must not only understand the source and target languages, but also have a deep understanding of the culture behind the two languages. This is a significant challenge, as every literary work contains nuances and meanings that are tied to a particular cultural background. The statements above are supported by Poerwanto that one of the main challenges in literary translation is the difference in perspective and values shared by two different cultures (2024:2).

However, translators should pay attention to what the author of the original text intended and adhere to translation standards so that the

translated work has the same context and message as the original text, even though the translation has a different context and meaning. In addition, the translator can choose the right cultural language that does not lose the beauty and stylistics of the simile, and the translator should consider which technique is most suitable for maintaining the integrity of the simile while ensuring that the translation remains acceptable to the reader.

There are some previous studies using Pierini's theory and strategies in translating similes. First, Silvia Erlin Aditya Sembiring and Harun Sigit (2020), "An analysis of metaphor and simile translation strategies in "The Jungle Book" novel", in their analysis the research found that the most dominant types of metaphor in "The Jungle Book" are original metaphor (50%) and simile (73%). The dominant strategy for translating metaphors is reproducing the same metaphorical image in the target language (75%), with the least used strategy being translating a metaphor using a simile (10%). The least used strategy is reducing idiomatic similes to make sense (4%). Second, Rizki Setiawan Samsuar (2023), "An Analylsis of Simile Translation in Anak semua Bangsa Novel by Pramodya Ananta Toer and Its Translation child of All Nation by Max Lane", in his analysis that The study examines similes in literary works, specifically novels, and their translation into Turkish. Four strategies were used: literal translation (91%), replacement with a different vehicle 3%, reduction to sense 3%, and retention of the same vehicle + explication of similarity feature 3%. Third, Susanti and Silfana Asri (2022), "An Analysis of Translation Strategies in Translating Similes in Red Queen into Indonesian", in her analysis that the study analyzed 19 open similes and identified five strategies for translators: literal translation (52.63%), retention of similarity features (21.05%), gloss replacement (15.79%), simile reduction (5.26%), and different vehicle replacement (5.25%). Future research should focus on Indonesian source texts and English target texts. Fourth, Farida Agoes, M. Fajar Naufal, Nita Henita Koesoemah (2021), "An Analysis of Indonesian Translation of Similes Used in Philip Pullman's Novel Entitled the Golden Compass", in their analysis that the study reveals 87 similes in The Golden Compass novel, with comparison markers "like" and "as". Out of six translation strategies, only five are used in the translation version. The literal translation strategy dominates, with 84.9% of the similes

used. The translator may have considered the similes familiar in the target language and did not need necessary changes. The last, Abigail Thesa Padmasari (2019), "An Annotated Translation of Simile and Personification in the Novel IMAGINARY CITY by Rain Chudori", in her analysis that This study examines the annotated translation of personification and simile expressions in Rain Chudori's novel Imaginary City. It aims to identify problematic similes and personifications, describe the translator's strategies, and explain the use of Teilanyo techniques. The translator annotated 12 examples, focusing on seven personifications and five similes. The study highlights the importance of context and cultural differences in annotating simi-larity and personifications.

In the source text (ST), The Silent Patient is novel as this analysis was written by Alex Michaelides and Published by Macmillan in 2019. The target readers are intended for adults who enjoy stories with themes of art and emotional conflict and also in the process of finding themselves and their identity. Alex Michaelides has had several books written titled The FURY, The MAIDENT, SESSIZ HASTA, FECIORELE, AS MUSAS, PACJENTIKA, DEN TYSTA PATIENT. In the target text (TT), The silent patient has been translated into Indonesian by Rini Nurul Badariah and published in 2019 by Gramedia Pustaka Utama.

This study was conducted because of the lack of researchers who examined The Silent Patient novel. The novel that was written by Alex Michaelides tells about Alicia Berenson, a painter who kills her husband and then chooses not to speak. A therapist, Theo Faber, is determined to help Alicia uncover why. As he delves into Alicia's past, many secrets are revealed, including the trauma and betrayal that shaped her decision. The story builds suspense until the very end, when the truth behind Alicia's silence is revealed in a shocking twist.

The reason why the researcher analyzes similes in The Silent Patient Analyzing the imagery in "The Silent Patient" can be very important. In the novel The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides, there are several similes that are used to enrich the narrative and give depth to the characters and their emotions. This simile helps readers feel the tension and psychological complexity faced by the main character. They can provide insight into a character's psyche, especially Alicia's, and help the reader understand her state of mind and the complexity of her situation. Examining how imagery is used

can reveal relationships between characters, foreshadow events, or even highlight contrasts in the story.

In this paper, the researcher will analyze simile that using the translation strategies based on Pierini (2007) and see the translator in translating simile in the target language of that novel that translated into Indonesian.

Based on the background above, this research aims to: (1) To identify similes found in the novel *The Silent Patient*. (2) To find out how the translator translates similes from source text to target text in the novel *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides according to Paolo Pierini's theory of simile translation.

II. METHOD

This research uses qualitative research. According to Bryman in Hammersley's book, qualitative research is a research strategy that usually emphasizes words rather than quantification in the collection and analysis of data (2013: 1). The researcher chose this method because it aligns with the aim of this study, which is to analyze and identify similes using Pierini's translation strategy. This strategy is widely used by translators and can help assess the quality of the translated work. As Denzin and Lincoln (2011) also emphasize, qualitative research allows for a deeper understanding of the context and the intricacies of human experience, offering insights that quantitative data might not fully capture.

In qualitative research, data collection involves close reading, which is a comprehensive interpretation of a text by determining the main theme and analyzing its development. According to Patton (2002), close reading allows researchers to immerse themselves in the text, paying attention to nuances, themes, and language use that are critical for understanding. The researcher follows several steps, such as the first step of reading the original novel versions in English (SL) and Indonesian (TL). The researcher then identifies the similes in both versions, making a list of the similes found and selecting those that will be analyzed in depth.

Additionally, content analysis is used as the data analysis method. According to Krippendorff (2004), content analysis helps in identifying trends, tendencies, or changes in language, ideas, or messages that emerge from data. This analysis technique provides deep insights into what a text reveals and how meaning or information is organized or represented. It involves several steps, including identifying, classifying, analyzing,

and calculating the percentage of similes in the data. As stated by Neuendorf (2002), content analysis is a systematic and replicable technique for analyzing the content of communication. By using this method, the researcher is able to systematically identify patterns and extract meaningful interpretations of the similes found in the source and target texts.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Result

There are six strategies presented by Pierini (2007); literal translation (retention of the simile), replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle, reduction of the simile, if idiomatic, to its sense, retention of the same vehicle plus explication of similarity feature, Replacement of the vehicle with a gloss and omission of the simile. The results of this study indicate that not all types of translation strategies found are used when translating similes in the novel *The Silent Patient*. The results are shown in percentage form in the table below.

No	Translation Strategies	Amount Data	Percentage
1	Literal Translation (retention of the simile)	27	87.10%
2	Replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle	4	12.90%
Total		31	100.00%

Based on the table above, only two of the similes translation strategies found in the novel *The Silent Patient* are literal translation (retention of the simile) and replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle. A dominant strategy that is used by the translator is the literal translation (retention of the simile) and few only use replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle strategy. The reason the translator decided to choose only two strategies above is probably because similes have been familiar to the target language which is Indonesian readers. So, no need for some similes to reduce similes, retain vehicles by adding by explanation of similarity features, replacement of the vehicle with a gloss and also omission similes.

B. Discussion

Based on the findings in the previous section, this section discusses the translation strategies utilized in translating the similes in *The Silent Patient*.

1. Literal translation (retention of the simile)

Datum 1

Source Text	Target Text
Her dress glowed ghost like in the torchlights. (P.2)	Gaun putihnya berkilau seperti hantu diterangi cahaya senter. (P.15)

Topic : Her dress

Vehicle : Ghost

Point of similarity: The glowing appearance of the dress that was illuminated by torchlights.

The first simile, the strategy used by the translator is literal translation, the reason being that simile translation is a method in which the translator keeps the original vehicle or image of the simile without changing it to fit the target language., in literal translation, this would be: "Alicia was found standing by the fireplace. Her dress shone like a ghost in the torchlight."

Alicia's white dress glistens in the flashlight's light creating an ethereal and mysterious feel, similar to the appearance of ghosts which are often perceived as transparent or luminous. Alicia is found near a fireplace, creating a warm, eerie atmosphere. Her dress glows ghost-like, evoking a supernatural aura. Torchlights illuminate her, adding mystery and suspense. The combination of these elements creates a captivating atmosphere.

Datum 2

Source Text	Target Text
Her spirit, her soul, was rising from the corpse, like a large bird with yellow wings, soaring to the heavens. (P. 131)	Jiwanya, rohnya, meninggalkan jasad, bagaikan burung besar bersayap kuning, menjangkau surga. (P. 186)

Topic: her spirit/her soul

Vehicle: A large bird with yellow wings

Point of similarity: the act of soaring or rising to heaven that portrays freedom.

The second simile, the strategy used by the translator is literal translation because this strategy is appropriate in this case simply because it keeps the original imagery, meaning, and poetic effect without loss or distortion. The analogy between the soul and a huge bird with yellow wings soaring to the skies is universally intelligible and requires no cultural adjustment. Furthermore, the symbolism of ascension, liberation, and

transcendence stays unchanged across languages, making a direct translation the most efficient approach to express the original simile's depth and passion that essence of the original sentence while ensuring the meaning remains clear in the target language. So, this strategy is effective and understandable because the imagery of a bird flying upwards symbolizing the soul's ascent is universally understood and does not require cultural adaptation.

2. Replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle

Datum 1

Source Text	Target Text
Alicia kept staring at me; I felt like a rabbit in the headlights, frozen, unable to look away or move. (P.78)	Alicia masih menatapku. Rasanya aku seperti kelinci yang tersorot lampu besar, membeku, tak mampu berpaling atau bergerak. (P.118)

Topic: The speaker, who feels frozen and unable to move

Vehicle: a rabbit in the headlights

Point of similarity: Being paralyzed by fear, unable to move or look away.

The first simile above that was found, the strategy used by translator is replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle because the simile in source text shown there is idiom or figurative expression which is "like a rabbit in the headlights" it is idiom english often contain culturally specific is commonly used to describe someone frozen in fear or shock that may not be easily understood or relatable in the target language that is Indonesian. However, in Indonesian culture, this specific imagery might not evoke the same immediate understanding. More familiar animals or scenarios may be needed to make the meaning clearer and more relatable. So, this strategy is suitable for translated text, remains effective and resonates with the target audience. It allows the translator to adapt idioms in a way that feels natural and meaningful while keeping the essence of the original message.

Datum 2

Source text	Target text
Her silence was like a mirror reflecting yourself back at you. (P.79)	Sikap bungkamnya bagaikan cermin memantulkan bayanganmu. (P. 119)

Topic: her silence

Vehicle: a mirror

Point of similarity: self-reflection or introspection.

The second simile above can be shown that the translator using the strategy of replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle due to in the source text which is the original English simile suggests that "Her silence was like a mirror reflecting yourself back at you" vehicle has changed into different vehicle in the target text which is "Sikap bungkamnya bagaikan cermin memantulkan bayanganmu" to evoke this feeling more effectively in Indonesian. In replacing the "like a mirror reflecting yourself back at you" with a "bagaikan cermin memantulkan bayanganmu". So, the sentence can not be translated word to word because "back at you" has been replaced into "memantulkan bayanganmu" allowing the translator to tap into different cultural associations with those images, potentially creating a more powerful and resonant simile for the Indonesian reader. Ultimately, this strategy is suitable because it allows the translator to prioritize the communicative function of the simile, ensuring that its meaning and impact are effectively conveyed across cultures, even if it means departing from the literal form of the original image.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

This research shows 31 similes that were discovered by researchers in the novel *The Patience Silence* that take the data similes of two versions from source text (English) and target text (Indonesian) have the remarks/comparison markers "like" and "as". According to findings and analysis that have done, the results of this analysis can be shown that the strategies translation based on Pierini (2007) is not all the strategies can be used by translator, only 2 out of 6 strategies that can be proven by analysis and has been calculated with form a percentages which are literal translation (retention of the same vehicle) strategy has the highest data of 27 similes and

has a percentage of 87.10% and is followed by replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle that has data of 4 similes and a percentage of 12.90%. Other translation strategies owned by Pierini as many as six strategies, not all strategies are fulfilled or used by translators in English into target Indonesian readers such as strategies, reduction of the simile, if idiomatic, to its sense, retention of the same vehicle plus explication of similarity feature(s), replacement of the vehicle with a gloss and omission of the simile more using literal translation because one of the main reasons according to the translator is the importance of preserving the figurative language of the source text. The translator may believe that similes themselves, as stylistic devices, make a significant contribution to the author's message and should be retained for the target reader. This approach may be preferable when the translator prioritizes fidelity to the form of the source text to the target text because both languages can be conveyed appropriately and no further additions are necessary.

B. Suggestion

Based on the conclusion of this study, it is suggested that future translators consider exploring and utilizing a wider range of translation strategies, as suggested by Pierini (2007), to achieve a more varied and nuanced approach when translating similes. While the retention of the same vehicle through literal translation proved to be the most frequent strategy, exploring other strategies, such as reduction or explication of similarity features, might offer additional insights into the translation process and enhance the quality of the translated text. Additionally, translators should consider balancing fidelity to the source text with the need for clarity and readability in the target language.

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