



## AN ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION METHODS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES IN THE NOVEL *EARTH*

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### Abstract

*Bumi* is an Indonesian novel written by Tere Liye that has been translated into English and was written using some types of figurative language which is part of a language that always changes because of culture and has implied meaning. However, since this world has a lot of different languages, translation is needed in translating one language to another language no matter how difficult it is to be translated, including figurative language. Therefore, some translation methods could be found in one text to make a great-quality translation. This research focused on the novel written by Tere Liye, *Bumi*, and its translation, to find out the methods that the translator used in translating the novel and the figurative languages that the author used in writing the novel. This research was approached qualitatively by employing content analysis. The writer used a human investigator to collect the primary data and analyze the data. The data has been analyzed based on the theory by Newmark (1988) and Taylor (1981) and checked by the translator of the novel. The research shows that there are 13 types of figurative languages in the novel and the translator mostly used semantic translation in translating them.

**Keywords:** *Translation Methods, Figurative Language, Types of Figurative Language, Novel*

### 1.1 Introduction

According to Abdulfatah, Widodo, and Rohmadi (2018), a novel is a piece of literature that is longer in lengthwise than a short story that tells and develops themes, backgrounds, and characters who are in the story. A novel, as stated by Abdulfatah, Widodo, and Rohmadi (2018), also can be used as a medium to encourage reading habits to people in this era where a lot of people are not really into reading. Furthermore, it was also noted by Abdulfatah, Widodo, and Rohmadi, a novel also can be used to teach or tell people about good morals that the writer is trying to say and even can be used to learn a language or culture. A novel also comes in different genres, such as fantasy, comedy, mystery, romance, Sci-Fi, magical realism, and some others.

A novel always provides a lot of different language styles and points of view since writers come from different backgrounds so a novel could reflect their writers' life as stated by Abdulfatah, Widodo, and Rohmadi (2018). In a novel also, since the writers are free to write anything they want, people could learn about different cultures of different countries could help people to know more about something new that is related to cultures such as a habit of society, food, and even figurative language. Among many novels, *Bumi* is a magical realism novel that has a little bit of fantasy and reality mixed into the book and has some educational values that can be found and used in daily life. This novel is written by Tere Liye, and most of his books always have figurative languages in them such as *Daun yang Jatuh Tak Pernah Membenci Angin, Pulang*, and

*Moga Bunda Disayang Allah*, including *Bumi*.

Figurative language is part of a language that has implied meanings where Fadlilah (2017) noted that figurative language is believed to be used to make sentences look entertaining. It is also difficult to be understood since figurative language always changes because of the culture of a place and its meaning is not always clear as stated by Roberts and Kreuz (1994), which means understanding the meaning of one figurative language, will need someone's knowledge about the culture of that place. However, there are a lot of countries and languages in this world which means each of them has different languages. Therefore, interpretation and translation of a language are needed to deliver a message from one language to another language, so that two different languages could communicate with each other.

However, translation is not an easy task as stated by Hijriyah (2012) that translation has to start by analyzing the text from the source language, then learning about the culture of each language. A single mistake in translation could change the meaning or the message, leading to miscommunication. A translator has to apply the correct strategies, methods, or techniques to make a perfect translation. Due to that reason, the writer believes that those are some of the most critical things in the world.

Based on the explanation above, the writer decided to research to analyze the translation of figurative language that can be found in the novel *Bumi* and its translation, *Earth*. *Bumi* is one of the books that is written by Tere Liye that has been translated into the English language by Gill Westaway, where according to Ramadhan, Baharuddin, and Wardana (2021), the translator did great in choosing the correct translation methods for translating the novel that can be proved by the fact that there is no odd text in the translation, and as noted by Nugroho, Zufli, and Amiruddin

(2018), there are three educational values in the novel, makes this novel worth to read. This study focuses on the translation method rather than the strategy or techniques as noted by Molina and Albir (2002), technique is the micro-unit of the method, strategy is used as the procedure of the whole process, while method talks about a way of how the translation is done which would be more appropriate to be used in analyzing the translation of figurative language since it is more detailed than strategy but not as detailed as technique, that would help the translator in translating the whole sentence with his own thought or opinion so that the sentence will not be too awkward. The problems of this study are formulated as below:

1. What are the Indonesian figurative languages that can be found in the novel *Bumi* and the translation in the novel *Earth*?
2. What are the translation methods that the translator used to translate the figurative languages from Indonesian to English?
3. What is the most frequent translation method that the translator used to translate each of the figurative languages from Indonesian to English?

Based on the research problems above, the study aims to find out:

1. the Indonesian figurative language in the novel *Bumi* and the translation in the novel *Earth*;
2. the translation methods that the translator used to translate the figurative languages from Indonesian to English;
3. the most frequent translation method that the translator used to translate each of the figurative languages from Indonesian to English.

Through this research, the writer hopes that this research will be beneficial for:

1. Theoretically will be useful for translating knowledge into figurative language and theoretical

development whether it is for the readers or the next researcher with a similar topic.

2. Practically will be beneficial for the reader that it will be able to tell the most common method that is used in the translation of figurative language from the novel *Earth*.

## 2.1 Literature Review

There are two theories that the writer used to conduct this research. There is a theory by Richard Taylor (1981) about figurative languages and a theory by Peter Newmark (1988) about the translation method. There are three categories of figurative language that are mentioned by Taylor (1981) which are comparison and substitution, representation by substitution, and contrast by discrepancy and inversion. There are also subcategories of each of the figurative language categories by Taylor (1981) which means there are 13 types of figurative language in total.

Here are the 13 types of figurative language by Taylor (1981).

### a. Comparison and Substitution

Comparison and substitution are figurative languages that are based on the comparison of one thing to the other thing that could be in direct or indirect form. Comparison and substitution are divided into simile which compares things by using the word “like” or “as”, a metaphor that compares things directly by saying one thing is the other thing, and allusion that compares things in some well-known reference that could recall readers’ mind, metonymy that uses the nearest comparison that is strongly related to the compared object, an analogy that compares the way of something that is happening similarly, and allegory that compares things that is not stated in the text. These kinds of figurative languages are different, but still do a comparison to the other substitute.

Table 1.1 Comparison and Substitution Example

Type	Example	Explanation
Simile	She is as pretty as her mother.	The sentence compares the beauty of a daughter to her mother by using the word “as”.
Metaphor	Time is money.	It compares time to money without using any connecting phrase.
Allusion	You are not Spiderman.	It compares the person to something that would remind someone of a fictional character that is famous almost all over the world.
Metonymy	Jewellery shop just walked in.	It compares a person to jewellery shop because the person is wearing a lot of jewellery.
Analogy	We have to come out from our comfort zone just like a butterfly come out from its chrysalis.	It compares the way of something happens in similar way.
Allegory	The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis	This title of novel talks about a war between the lion and the witch. However, the allegory behind it is that Aslan (the lion) represents Christ, while the Witch represents the devil, and Edmund (the prince) represents Judas that betrayed Aslan (Christ).

b. Representation by Substitution

Representation by substitution is divided into synecdoche, personification, and symbol. A synecdoche is a figure of speech that uses a subordinate portion or aspect of a greater picture or idea for the image that will act as the substitute. Personification uses an image that can be understood by people easily and that is able to explain the things that someone is trying to talk about. A symbol is a representation of something to stand for or stand in place of something that represents an idea.

Table 1.2 Representation by Substitution

Example		
Type	Example	Explanation
Synecdoche	I have four mouths to feed.	It means the person has four family members that need to be fed, the mouths represent the family members.
Personification	The sky is crying.	Means it is raining. Crying could explain raining since both of these qualities means water is coming out.
Symbol	Life is a roller-coaster.	The roller-coaster symbolizes the up and down in our life that people have to face.

c. Contrast by Discrepancy and Inversion

The last category is contrast by discrepancy and inversion. This kind of figurative language is used to compare things that look different, yet it is common to put up a semantic opposition in contrastive devices. This category is divided into overstatement also known as hyperbole which exaggerates something that is supposed to be common in higher

quality and understatement as the opposite of overstatement, a paradox that contrasts things illogically, an irony that contrasts something that is happening and what is expected (situational irony), the irony that contrasts about saying one thing and the actual situation (verbal irony), and irony that contrasts the fictional character's understanding and what the reader or people understand (dramatic irony).

Table 1.3 Discrepancy and Inversion

Example		
Type	Example	Explanation
Overstatement	I have a million things to do.	It means the person has a lot of things to do.
Understatement	She broke her ankle, she is fine.	It exaggerates something that is in lower quality. It is impossible that someone with broken ankle is fine.
Paradox	This empty glass is full of water.	An empty thing will never be filled by a thing.
Situational Irony	Chefs will never eat their own cooking.	The actual situation is chefs always need to eat their own food.
Verbal Irony	I really love him.	The actual situation is the person hate him a lot.
Dramatic Irony	Romeo thinks that Juliet has died.	The actual situation or from readers or people's point of view, Juliet is just sleeping.

According to Peter Newmark (1988), there are eight types of translation methods that are divided into two groups which are TL emphasis translation methods, which are adaptation translation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative

translation; and SL emphasis translation methods, which are word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, and semantic translation. Down below is an explanation of each of the translation methods.

a. Word-for-Word Translation

As the name of this method, this method is used to translate a sentence exactly in the same order as the source language. For example:

SL: I will go to Bali tomorrow.  
TL: *Saya akan pergi ke Bali besok.*

b. Literal Translation

A literal translation could be done by translating the source language to the closest equivalent of the target language. For example:

SL: I know that little girl.  
TL: *Aku tahu anak perempuan itu.*

c. Faithful Translation

The faithful translation is a method where the translator tries to translate the meaning from the source language to the target language while maintaining grammatical and lexical ‘abnormality’.

SL: She was sent to her aunt’s house in a small town.  
TL: *Dia dikirimkan ke rumah tantenya di sebuah kota kecil.*

d. Semantic Translation

Semantic translation considers the aesthetic value in the translation that could reduce or not translate some words that are not necessary.

SL: My friend is a book worm.  
TL: *Temanku seorang kutu buku.*

e. Adaptation

The adaptation method translates cultures in the source language to the target language and rewrites the text.

SL: You make my world light up inside.  
TL: *Kau membuat duniaku berseri-seri.*

f. Free Translation

The free translation method translates the source language to the target language which could result in the translation coming in a different form from the original.

SL: You are not supposed to come here.  
TL: *Tidak seharusnya kau datang ke sini.*

g. Idiomatic Translation

This method translates the message by reproducing the form of the source language to the target language which will make the translation sounds more familiar in the target language by using some phrases or idioms that are often used in the daily situation.

SL: Hey, watch your step!  
TL: *Hei, berhati-hatilah!*

h. Communicative Translation

This method focuses on the acceptable and easy-to-understand value to the reader.

SL: Don’t litter!  
TL: *Dilarang membuang sampah di sini!*

The theories above are the ones that the writer used in collecting and analyzing the data.

### 3.1 Methodology

This study uses a qualitative approach and content analysis where according to Yusuf (2016), it focused on finding and analyzing the data from books, newspapers, essays, interviews, and much more, and then writing the result in the narrative. To support the approach above, the writer uses the descriptive research method. According to Siedlecki (2020), the goal of descriptive research is to describe individuals, events,

or conditions by observing them as they are without changing any of the variables. This research aims to find out the figurative languages that can be done by reading without changing anything from the novel and identify the translation strategies.

This research was done by using a human investigator as the tool to collect the primary data from the novel. The data is all the figurative language sentences from the Indonesian novel that are collected by using Richard Taylor's theory (1981). The writer then finds the translation from the English novel and analyzes the translation method that the translator used in translating this novel by using Peter Newmark's theory (1988). Once the data has been analyzed, the writer has to test the data by doing credibility, dependability, confirmability, and reliability tests to make sure that the data is valid and reliable.

According to Sidiq and Choiri (2019), there are six types of tests that can be used to perform the credibility test, there are observation, increased perseverance, triangulation, negative case analysis, using reference materials, and member checking. The writer will do the credibility process by doing triangulation by checking out the methods of translating figurative languages from some sources or articles that are collected through websites or journals and member checking where the writer will ask the translator of the English version book, Gill Westaway, to check some of the samples that the writer have found. The transferability will be performed by the detailed, clear, systematic, and trustworthy report as an external validation, while the dependability or reliability will be done by conducting an audit of the complete observational process. The Confirmability test will be done by doing triangulation, the writer will collect some sources that are relevant to this research that can approve the confirmability.

#### 4.1 Finding and Discussion

There are 15 types of figurative language explained in Richard Taylor's theory (1981). However, based on the data that the writer has found and analyzed, the writer found that there are only 13 types of figurative language in the novel. The figurative languages that the writer found are simile, metaphor, allusion, metonymy, analogy, synecdoche, personification, symbol, overstatement, understatement, paradox, situational irony, and verbal irony. Here is the explanation of a sentence from the novel of each category.

##### 1. Simile

Simile is one of the figurative languages that compares two things with specific words such as "as" and "like". One of the simile sentences that the writer has found is "*Tubuhku menjadi lebih bening dibanding kristal air, menjadi lebih transparan dibanding tetes air*". This sentence is written in Bahasa Indonesia and it is simple since it has a specific word in Bahasa Indonesia that is used to compare something which is the word "*dibanding*". There are also some specific words that the writer has found from the data that the writer has collected that can be used to write a simile sentence: *dibanding*, *seperti*, *bagaikan*, and *bagai*.

##### 2. Metaphor

Metaphor is a figurative language where it compares one thing to other things without any comparative word. There are five metaphors from the novel and one of them is "*Pagi sekali, jam beker alami rumah kami, Mama, sudah berteriak-teriak membangunkan.*" The phrase "*jam beker*" compares the mom and an alarm clock where both always wake someone up. This sentence is also a metaphor since it does not have any comparative words.

##### 3. Allusion

Allusion is one of the figurative languages that uses well-known references. There is only one allusion from the book which is "*Kecepatan kapsul tadi membuatku seperti naik wahana Dunia Fantasi, tapi dengan tingkat tantangan seratus kali lebih ekstrem.*" This sentence is

an allusion since it uses a well-known place in Indonesia which is *Dunia Fantasi*.

#### 4. Metonymy

Metonymy compares and substitutes something where the substitute is strongly related to the compared object. There are eight metonymies and one of them is “*Melihat situasi itu, ibunya merasa terancam, mahkota anaknya dalam posisi terancam.*” The word “*mahkota*” which means crown in Bahasa Indonesia talks about a throne where a leader or a king always wears a crown.

#### 5. Analogy

Analogy is the other version of simile. However, it compares a way of something happening. There are 23 analogies from the novel and one of them is “*Ali menatapku seperti sedang menatap anak kecil yang tertangkap basah mencuri permen – tidak bisa menghindar.*” This sentence tells the way Ali looks at Raib is just like looking at a small child who was caught red-handed stealing something which means Raib was like panicking when Ali confronted her.

#### 6. Synecdoche

Synecdoche represents something by using substitution that is related to the other thing. One synecdoche sentence that the writer could find is “*Bel berdering persis saat kami hendak naik tangga, membuyarkan dengung suara keramaian anak-anak bercampur suara gerimis.*” The word “*dengung*” which means echo in English represents the noise or the crowd. Both echo and noise are related to sound, but the author decided to use the word noise instead.

#### 7. Personification

Personification represents something by using objects that seem alive but not. One personification sentence that the writer could find is “*Tetes air hujan deras menerpa wajahku.*” The word “*menerpa*” is used to describe the rain where it represents the rain falls on Raib’s face. Rain is not alive however it does something in the sentence. There are also some verbs that the author used to write personification:

*disusul, menyembunyikan, menerpa, menyelamatkan, berbelok, membungkus, menganga, menggantung, membentuk, menyergap, menderu, mendesis, menusuk, menggigit, terbungkus, mengalahkan, memijat, menimpa, memotong, meruncing, tergelincir, menyukainya, menjilat.*

#### 8. Symbol

Symbol uses objects to represent or explain an idea. One symbol sentence from the novel is “*Dasar perut karung.*” The word “*karung*” represents Seli’s stomach capacity which is really high that she could eat a lot just like how a sack could fit a lot of things.

#### 9. Overstatement

Overstatement is part of figurative language that exaggerates something. One overstatement that the writer could find is “*Omelet lezat sedunia, Ma.*” The sentence “*Omelet lezat sedunia*” could be translated as “the most delicious omelet in the world” and it is perhaps not the most delicious omelet in the world since the “*Mom*” character is not a professional chef. The phrase “the most delicious” is used just to describe that the omelet is delicious.

#### 10. Understatement

Understatement contrasts something being less in quality than it actually is. There is only one understatement from the novel: “*Kilau tajam petir dan gelegar guntur menghiasi awal malam.*” This sentence says that lightning and the sound of thunder both make a beautiful night where both of those things actually could scare people.

#### 11. Paradox

Paradox is used to contrast something illogically. One paradox sentence that the writer could find is “*Waktuku tidak banyak, Nak.*” This sentence could be translated as “I do not have a lot of time” which does not make sense since time is unlimited.

#### 12. Situational Irony

Situational irony is part of irony that contrasts something that is expected to happen to the actual situation. The situational irony sentence that the writer found is: “*Aku menggaruk kepala yang*

*tidak gatal, kasihan melihat Mama yang pasti keukeuh tidak akan tidur, tidak akan makan sebelum Papa pulang.*” The situational irony is shown by the phrase “*menggaruk kepala yang tidak gatal*” which means the person is scratching her head, but her head is not itchy at all, while when someone is scratching their part of bodies, it must be because of itchiness that they have on their body.

### 13. Verbal Irony

Verbal irony is also part of irony that contrasts a statement or sentence with the actual intent. “*Pasangan paling serasi pagi ini,*” is the verbal irony sentence that the writer found. Before this sentence appears in the novel, there are some sentences, saying that there are two people, Raib and Ali, are fighting and bickering outside, and the teacher scolds them for that while saying that both of them are the most harmonious couple. However, a harmonious couple should never fight or bicker just like what Raib and Ali have done.

Out of 139 sentences that the writer has found, two sentences have two figurative languages. Down below are the sentences with two figurative languages.

*Kenapa pula si biang kerok ini ada di saat aku masih penasaran setengah mati siapa sosok tinggi kurus tadi?*  
(Sentence 1)

*Pukulannya bukan hanya menderu bagai angin puyuh, tapi juga mendesis dingin.* (Sentence 2)

Sentence one consists of two figurative languages which are overstatement and metonymy. The metonymy is presented by the phrase “*si biang kerok*” while the overstatement is presented by the phrase “*penasaran setengah mati*”. Figurative languages that can be found in Sentence 2 are personification which is presented by the phrase “*mendesis dingin*”, and simile which is presented by “*bagai angin puyuh*”. These sentences show that there is

a possibility that a sentence has more than one figurative language.

There are eight translation methods stated by Newmark (1988), yet there are only five methods that the translator used in translating figurative languages, there are faithful, semantic, free, idiomatic, and communicative translation methods with the most used method being semantic translation. According to Newmark (1988), semantic translation is a translation method where the sentence is translated by emphasizing the source language or can be called as SL based translation. With semantic translation being the most used method in translating the novel, it means that this novel is translated by using a method that follows the author’s thought (SL emphasis) rather than follows the target language culture (TL emphasis). By using semantic translation also, the translator will not have freedom in translating than using the TL based-translation such as communicative translation, idiomatic translation, adaptive translation, and free translation, since in SL emphasis the translator has to follow the author’s thoughts or emphasize the source language more than target language, and it will make the translated text having more equivalent effect to the original novel where it could be a problem for a non-Indonesian reader who will have a hard time in imagining something to get or to conceive the situation of the novel, yet it is useful in introducing the culture or the way the community of the source language thinks.

The analysis of the translation method that the writer did, has gone through a validation process where the translator of the book, Gill Westaway, analyzed the data that have been analyzed by the writer, and out of 15 numbers of data, the translator agreed with all of them, but one number was left with a note. The sentences are as presented below.

SL: *Terlepas dari peraturannya – aku benci peraturan-peraturan*

*Mama yang kalau dibukukan bisa setebal novel – Mama ibu rumah tangga yang hebat, cekatan, mengurus semua keperluan rumah tangga sendirian, tanpa pembantu.*

TL: Apart from the rules – I hate rules – Mum’s rules could fill a thick novel – Mum was an amazing housewife, the real McCoy, organizing all the household chores herself without a maid to help her.

The writer and the translator agreed that this sentence was translated by using the semantic translation method. However, the translator thinks that this sentence has some idiomatic sense of it since the translator used the phrase “the real McCoy” in translating “...ibu rumah tangga yang hebat, cekatan...” There is a translation method that is called as idiomatic translation method where the translated sentence that is translated by using this method will sound more familiar in the target language since it uses some phrases or idioms that are often used in daily situations, just like the word “cekatan” that was translated into “the real McCoy” which perhaps a phrase that native English speaker uses in the daily situation. Even though this sentence has idiomatic sense, it also cannot be denied that this sentence was dominated by semantic translation method as the phrase “*terlepas dari peraturannya*” was translated into “apart from the rules”, or the phrase “*mengurus semua keperluan rumah tangga sendirian, tanpa pembantu*” was translated into “organizing all the household chores herself without a maid to help her” where both of these phrases are translated by using semantic translation method.

## 5.1 Conclusion

There are 15 types of figurative language explained in Richard Taylor’s theory (1981). However, based on the 139 figurative languages that the writer has found in the novel, there are only 13 types

of figurative language based on Taylor’s theory (1981) that the writer could find from the novel. The 13 figurative languages are simile, metaphor, allusion, metonymy, analogy, synecdoche, personification, symbol, overstatement, understatement, paradox, situational irony, and verbal irony with two sentences having two figurative languages in them. It shows that in a sentence there is a possibility of it having more than one figurative language.

Peter Newmark (1988) divided translation methods into two big groups which are SL emphasis and TL emphasis and each of them has four translation methods which are word-by-word, literal, faithful, and semantic for SL emphasis, and adaptation, idiomatic, free, and communicative for TL emphasis. Out of eight translation methods that are presented by Newmark’s theory, there are only five translation methods that the translator used in translating figurative languages from the novel. Those five translation methods are semantic, faithful, free, idiomatic, and communicative.

There are five translation methods that the translator used in translating the novel and the most frequent translation method that the translator used to translate each of the figurative languages are semantic translation method for simile, analogy, allusion, synecdoche, personification, symbol, situational irony, and verbal irony, semantic and faithful translation method for metaphor, communicative translation method for metonymy, overstatement, and understatement, and free translation method for paradox. The writer found out that the translation method that the translator often used in translating each figurative language is mostly dominated by a semantic translation which means that the translator translated the novel by following the author’s thought or emphasizing the source language rather than emphasizing the target language. This could affect readers who are not Indonesian native speakers where they would have a hard time imagining

something to get or to conceive the situation of the novel. However, SL emphasis is useful in introducing the culture or the way the community of the source language thinks.

Based on the research above, the writer provides some suggestions below.

1. For someone who is learning language especially figurative language, it could be done through reading books, comics, or any media that can be used as a supporting media than just an example on a paper or textbook, since it provides more examples and the usage with an interesting topic, so that the learners will not feel burn out in learning.
2. For someone who is learning about translation methods, the writer also suggests observing a translation of a specific topic, especially on a specific area of language, so that it will be more challenging, but also will help someone to gain more knowledge in the language.
3. For the next researcher, this study is supposed to be a useful reference and guide in doing the next research for the researcher who could possibly be working on research with a similar topic. The writer suggests researching to find out how a translation technique could describe a translation method of a translated sentence.

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