LOANWORDS IN THE MALAY TERMINOLOGY: FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF TRANSLATION

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Abstract- In the development of a language, the contacts with another language is a very common phenomenon. Malay is also experiencing various contacts of languages and cultures. Loanwords occur due to contact with different languages and cultures. A loanword is distinguished from a calque (loan translation), which is a word or phrase whose meaning or idiom is adopted from another language by translation into existing words or word-forming roots of the recipient language. This paper discusses the loanwords in the Malay language from the perspective of translation. The researcher looks into the English texts and translated version in the Malay texts. Thus, this paper explores whether there exist similarities and connections between Malay and other cultures. This paper also analyses the differences between languages, in terms of cultural differences. One of the translation procedures are available in translating literary text is borrowing (transference). Translation procedures that involve can be generalise into three categories; (i) borrowing (transference), (ii) adaptation between two cultural word (naturalization and modification), and (iii) description of the cultural word (addition and descriptive equivalence). Findings indicate that borrowing occurs due to differences between two languages and cultures. This procedure offers local colour and atmosphere towards the target reader, however transference does not communicate, and it emphasises the source culture and excludes the message. The findings also show that the loanwords can be classified into a number of categories namely, unassimilated loanwords, partial assimilation, and full assimilated loanwords. The best choice for the translator is that minimises the differences, and choose the one that would convey the message closer to the source language using the borrowing procedures.

Index Terms-Loanwords, Malay Language, Translation, Borrowing, Culture

I. INTRODUCTION

Terminology is an important aspect in the language planning, especially, the Malay language. The first stage of the language planning process involves the collection of data and decision making of language policies. The second stage involves the codification, elaboration and preparation of terminologies and dictionaries. According to Karam (1974, p.109), the third stage involves monitoring and assessing results of both the planning and implementation activities, including the development of the language itself and providing feedback to both planning and implementation. This paper is concerned with one of the second stage of language planning that is the lexical expansion of the Malay language via terminology. In the Malaysian context, the international language is English. However, the Malay language plays an important role in shaping the scenario of the development of language planning through the decades. Malay, is the national language in Malaysia. One aspect of laguage development is the modernization of the lexicon.

II. DEFINITION OF CONCEPT

A. Terminology

Terminology is the study of terms. Terms are words and compound words or multi words that represent concepts, meaning, process, situation or characteristics in a specific field. For a translator, these words can be defined as difficult words to translate specially when the concepts are not present in the target culture and language. The difference between a term and common word is that a common word is an ordinary word in a language, but a term is a word to denote a specific usage in a particular field. A terminologist must have adequate language skills in bilingual or multilingual and master the principles of terminology. Modern terminology has its roots in the 1930s back in Austria. One of the most prominent figures in modern terminology is Wuster (1898-1977). He introduces the General Theory of Terminology (GTT). His general theory is based on the following five main principles: 1. In terminology, the onomasiological approach is applied (terminology studies concepts before terms); 2. Concepts are strictly delineated from each other and can be placed in a concept system; 3. Concepts are to be defined in a traditional definition; 4. A term is assigned permanently to a concept; 5. Terms and concepts are studied synchronically.

B. Loanwords

A *loanword* is a word that is borrowed from another language with or without modification. Haugen (1953) classified loanwords according to the substitution of individual phonemes that occurred in the transfer of the morpheme and its phonemic form in the recipient language, namely, none, partial or complete. The researcher looks into unassimilated loanwords, partially assimilated loanwords, and

wholly assimilated loanwords. Borrowing is the process in which elements from one language are taken over and used "in the context: of another " (Haugen, 1956, p.3). There are another two terms in contexts of lexical borrowing namely, loanblends, which there is only partial morphemic imported; a native morpheme has been substituted for part of the foreign language and *loanshifts* in which there is a complete morphemic substitution (p.50). However, Haugen (p.61) stresses that no classification can be airtight or apply to all languages.

C. Translation

Translation is a process of transmitting knowledge into another culture or language. Translation has several meanings. On the linguistic aspect of defining, Jakobson (2000, p.114) categorised translation, first, intralingual translation, or rewording: 'an interpretation of verbal signs of other signs of the same language'; second, interlingual translation, or translation proper : 'an interpretation of verbal signs by means of other language' ; third; intersemiotic translation, or transmutation : 'an interpretation of verbal signs by means of signs of non-verbal sign system. Translation procedures that involve can be generalise into three categories; (i) borrowing (transference), (ii) adaptation between two cultural word (naturalization and modification), and (iii) description of the cultural word (addition and descriptive equivalence). The author discusses the borrowing process from the perspective of translation.

Darwish (2003, p.63) regards translation as :

"A dichotomous, cumulative and iterative process that musters a host of cognitive science relating to language, rhetoric, linguistics, communication and culture. It is dichotomous because it deals with two languages that have different linguistic and cultural norms and patterns and different communication codes. It is cumulative because the knowledge gained in translating one piece of discourse, I applied to translating another piece of discourse. And it is iterative because it undergoes a repetition of a sequence of events yielding results successly closer to the finished text".

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

This study of borrowing of words is included in the field of language contacts. Malay is also experiencing various contact of languages and cultures. The spread of an item of a culture from people to people is known as cultural diffusion. According to Sapir, contact between cultural groups to whatever degree the nature of contact will lead to a certain of linguistic influence. This simplest kind of influence is the influence " that one language may exert on another on another is the 'borrowing' of the word (Haugen, 1950,p 81).

The first to introduce the difference between borrowing and inteference is Weinreich (1953). He referred to the former as an inteference of language, while the latter as inteference in speech. According to Mackey (1965) who explains the effects of interference may or may not be institutionalized in the language, resulting ion different degrees of language borrowing, which affects the code and becomes the property of those who use the language – monolingual and bilingual alike (p.239).

In the Malaysian scenario, Heah (1989) studied the English influence on the lexical expansion in Bahasa Malaysia. She describes the processes by which English has influenced the vocabulary development in the Malay language. She also examines the importation of pure loanwords and loanblends. Her discussion also included the conflict which has arisen between the language agencies as a result of different policies , mainly over the use of English as the source of terminological innovation. Borrowing from English in the spontaneous sector was not just 'denotative', but also 'connotative' in nature.

Antia (2000, p.xxi), discusses globalization, language planning and terminology in a broader context. Her study established the bases for alternative needs analysis, work methodologies as well as modes of theorisation in language planning, specifically planning in respect of terminology. She looks into the role of terminology in language planning. According to her, terminology is part of Haugen's model; as anaspect of inttellectualism in Garvin's language development; a part of a modernisation in Ferguson's scheme; a component of Neustupny cultivation approach. etc. (p.10). From her point of view, terminology, like other aspects of corpus planning, can be the reason for choosing a code.

From the translation point of view, there are strategies, procedures, methods, techniques, plans, tactics, rules etc. that had to be considered in translating. Hewson and Martin (1991, p.58) define strategies as an overall operation to achieve a certain result. This involves procedures as the working basis for the production of the desired object. Lorscher refers strategies as "procedures, often highly individual kind' in contrast to methods which are "supra individual, tried, and tested procedures".

Katan (2012) sees translation as important means of communication between cultures. This involves translator, interpreters and other mediators as the most important group to bridge the cultural-gap in multiracial society. His writings serve as a framework for interpreters and translators (both actual and potential) working between English and any other language, and also for those working or living between theses cultures who wish to understand more about their cross-cultural successes and frustrations. (p.2).

From the preceding brief account above, it is clear that the investigation of loanwords in the Malay translated creative texts has been quite inadequate. This paper is

an attempt to outline the categories of loanwords and the integration and effects of loans on the Malay language.

IV. PROBLEM STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES

The coining of terms in the Malay language is not an easy task. The Agency of Language and Literature Malaysia (or known as Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka) is an important resource centre for translators who are involved in translating texts from any source language in the Malay language. There are steps to be taken when coining terms in the Malay language. First, identify the source language term, secondly find the meaning of the source language term and find the equivalent term in the Malay language. There are priorities in doing so, first choose a term in the standard Malay or in other Malay dialect. If this is not possible, then choose a term from the Malay language family mainly, Javanese, Sundanese or from the East Malaysian languages such as Iban, Kadazan, Dusun and so forth. If this is also not possible, then retain the source language, but with a modification in the spelling accordingly. The last choice is borrowing the term as a whole without any change of spelling. There is a need to increase the number of academic books in Malay and translation is one the means to do this. Another important aspect is having the right terminology to equivalent the concepts translated from the foreign language. One of the alternatives is by borrowing words or terms from other languages. As for creative texts, there is a consideration for translating the cultural specific items which needs a careful interpretation of norms and culture.

The objective of this study is to elaborate the processes in coining the terminology in the Malay language by looking into the borrowing processes. This study also investigates the integration of borrowed innovations and their impact on the structure of the Malay language. It is hoped that this paper will help people to understand the nature of influence of the foreign languages and accepted that borrowing indeed plays an important role in shaping the Malay language as a modern language that conveys conceptual knowledge from all over the world.

V. METHODOLOGY

The author adopts texts analysis in this study. In collection of the data, the author emphasizes the written sources. This is justified by the fact, Malay being the national language is the form that is used in writing. The author looks into the translation of creative texts in English translated into Malay. Furthermore, translation from English to Malay potrays lexical innovations in the Malay texts. Data used in this study is obtained from the fiction titled *Tunnels* by.... and translated into Malay as *Terowong* . The corpus of creative texts are used as a means of analysis of analysing the translation product by comparing the texts in the source language (ST) (English) with the texts in the target language (TT) (Malay). The author adopts the qualitative descriptive for the discussion. The source texts (ST) refers to the English texts. The target texts (TT) refers to the Malay texts translated from English into Malay. As Malaysia is a multilingual country, it is not possible to look into all languages in order to examine the processes of translation in Malaysia. This study concentrate on the Malay language and focuses on the text mentioned above. Classification of the loanwords depnd on whether the word retain features of spelling, pronunciation, denotation and morphology especially tif the concept is not found in the Malay world.

VI. FINDINGS

A translator who is faced with problems of translating relia as defined by Florin as the words or combinations of words denoting objects and concepts characteristics of the way of life, the culture, the social and historical development of one nation and alien to another (1993,p.123) have two strategies of communication the word in the TT, namely transcription and subtitution. Transcription involves transferring the specified item into TT either through transliteration or phonetic adaptation. Meanwhile, substitution involves neologism which includes calque, linguistic assimilation and formation of new words. It is not an easy task to find an equivalence linguistic correspondence with the rapid advancement of the global knowledge which is not matched with the terminological development. The influence of English in the language can be observed in the coining of the Malay terminology.

The importation process as mentioned by Heah (1989,p.97), produced what is known as assimilated assimilated terms which can be categorised as below:

D. Unassimilated Loanwords

These group of terms are produced as pure loanwords which do not show any morphemic substitution during importation. The terms are borrowed wholly from English and do not show any integration with Malay elements (Heah, 1989, p.98). In the “General Guidelines for the formation of terms in Malay” stated that a foreign term from any language could be borrowed based on the suitability of the meaning, more concise than the translated Malay word and the absorbed foreign term simplifies standardization if the Malay term has many synonyms. Examples are as follows:

ST

...he seemed to focus on a point between the ranks of the *courgetes* and the cucumbers (Tunnels, p.137)

TT

...Encik Clarke sibuk merenung *courgettes* dan timun (Terowong, p.140)

courgettes is a member group of the cucumber family found in the western countries.

ST

...he'd read of Asian fisherman netting *coelacanths* (Tunnels, p. 69)

...seperti nelayan-nelayan di Asia yang telah menjumpai ikan *coelacanths*

coelacanths is a member group of the fish in the ice age.

ST

...and knew they had reached a way back into the *Labyrinth* (Tunnels, p. 426)

TT

... dia tahu mereka sudah hampir ke *Labyrinth.* (Terowong, p. 415)

1. ST

There was a dining table in one corner and in another a musical instrument that Will recognised as a *harpsichord.* (Tunnels, p.182)

TT

terdapat sebuah meja makan di satu sudut dan sebuah alat muzik yang Will tahu dipanggil *harpsichord.* (Tunnels, p. 178)

2. ST

There were odd snatches of music, as if scles were being played on a strangled *zither*. (Tunnels, p.269)

TT

Sesekali dia mendengar bunyi muzuk *zither* yang sumbang. (Terowong, p. 264)

The translator has to borrow the terms in the ST language because the objects or the concepts do not exist in the Malaysian environment. The terms *courgettes, coelacanths, Labyrinth, harpsichord* and *zither* are cultural specific terms which only can be found in the ST culture. The model in English and the replica in Malay would be identified in form and meaning (Heah, p.99). This also shows that the intensity of information flow from the West into Malaysian society. This phenomenon is obvious in the advertising industry and technical field, but lately it takes form in the literary translation. This form can be recognised in any Malay discourse because the terms are written or printed in italics. A specific foreign term with it's pronunciation and spelling being used in all languages, is also accepted in Malay on condition that the word is underlined or printed in italics such as *bona fida.*

E. Partially Assimilated Loanwords

Partially assimilated terms are loanwords which show evidence of the morphemic shape of their English origin with some degree of orthographic adaptation (Heah, p.103).

ST

She had whispy white hair and wore a floral *housecoat*. (Tunnels, p.71)

Wanita tua yang sudah beruban itu hanya memakai *hauskot*. (Terowong, p. 64)

ST

...and mayonnaise sandwich. (Tunnels, p. 23)

TT

...dan mayones. (Trowong, p. 17)

ST

Horlicks again, with a hint of brandy. (Tunnels, p.14)

TT

Air horlicks lagi dan dicampur dengan brandi. (Terowong, p. 85)

In the above example, the term *housecoat* had it equivalence as *hauskot.* The changes are only for the orthographic adaptation. This term denotes foreign clothing, food and drinks.

F. Wholly assimilated Loanwords

It is quite a difficult task to identify the wholly assimilated terms. To be able to distinguished the terms, you have to know the background or knowledge of the historical or social-cultural circumstances of the English-Malay contact. The degree of assimilation likely depended upon the length of period, which the word has been used in Malay language.

G. Other Forms of Borrowing

Loanblends are hybrid loanwords as a result by combining morphemic importation and substitution in the same item. This can be classified into marginal loanblends, nuclear loanblends and compound loanblends.

II. DISCUSSION

The author finds that borrowing is a must when the term is not assimilated semantically, such as an object that is typically for the country of their origin. A new term could be formed by translating a foreign term. In translating a foreign term, one can seldom find a term which has a one-to-one equivalent. The important thing is the semantic exactness not the literal meaning.

There are loanwords which do not not assimilated grammatically for example, nouns borrowed from Latin or Greek which keep their original plural forms. Also, the loanwords are not assimilated phonetically or graphically. The implication of borrowing brought about the integration of loan material to the structure of the Malay language.

Based on the integrated status, the loanwords in the Malay language can be divided into two categories. Firstly, the foreign elements is not fully absorbed in the Malay language like landrover or ad hoc. The pronunciation and writing should be maintained as in the source language. Secondly, the loanwords whose pronunciation and writing are fully absorbed. The methods of writing vary. These are known as the orthographically assimilated loanwords. Heah (1989) stated that this type of adaptation occurs because of the nature of English and Malay orthographies. English orthography is not phonemic while the Malay is phonemic and therefore, Malay spelling is a sound and systematic guide to pronunciation.

CONCLUSION

As a conclusion loanwords, in translation, is a common phenomenon, but the undertaking of translation of the concept must be dealt accordingly. The Language and Literature Agency or known as Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka plays a major role in fostering the Malay Language in Malaysia. Translators should be smart enough to solve any terminological problems by using the right techniques to overcome the problem while translating. Borrowing seems to be a popular technique employ by most translators. There are also other techniques in translation such as calque, adaptation and coining new terms in the Malay language. Hopefully, this paper had shed some light on some of the translation issues, especially choosing the right term while translating and using the right procedure.

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