

Volume 25 No. 1, April 2025

Analysis of Translation Technique Used in Translating a Poetry titled “Alone” by Edgar Allan Poe on Channel YouTube “MDV Translation”

Mira Efriyani^{1*}, Ratih Inayah², Wuri Syaputri³, Widyasari⁴,

Sastra Inggris Bidang Minat Penerjemahan, FHSIP, Universitas Terbuka^{1,2,4}, Program Studi Pascasarjana Linguistik, FIB, Universitas Andalas³

Email: mieraukasya@gmail.com

Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah mengidentifikasi teknik penerjemahan yang digunakan dalam menerjemahkan puisi “Alone” karya Edgar Allan Poe. Terjemahan puisi ‘Alone’ dari versi kanal YouTube MDV Translation menjadi sumber utama dalam penelitian ini. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menganalisis dokumen secara komprehensif untuk mendapatkan jenis-jenis teknik penerjemahan yang digunakan. Untuk studi ini, metode deskriptif kualitatif diterapkan. Enam kategori teknik terjemahan telah ditemukan dalam penelitian ini, yaitu transposisi (16,1%), modulasi (35,5%), penerjemahan harfiah (19,4%), adaptasi (12,9%), reduksi (12,9%), dan amplifikasi (3,2%). Dari data yang telah dikumpulkan, modulasi merupakan salah satu teknik yang paling umum digunakan oleh penerjemah dalam menerjemahkan puisi.

Keywords: Edgar Allan Poe, penerjemahan puisi, metode penerjemahan, teknik modulasi

Abstract

This study aims to identify the translation techniques used in translating Edgar Allan Poe's poem "Alone." The MDV Translation's YouTube channel's translation of the poetry 'Alone' served as the primary source for this research. The researcher conducted this research by comprehensively analyzing documents to identify the types of translation techniques used. For this study, a descriptive qualitative methodology was adopted. Six categories of translation techniques have been found in this study, namely transposition (16.1%), modulation (35.5%), literal translation (19.4%), adaptation (12.9%), reduction (12.9%), and amplification (3.2%). From the data gathered, modulation is one of the most common techniques employed in poetry translation.

Kata Kunci: Edgar Allan Poe, poetry translation, translation method, modulation technique

Introduction

Translation plays an important role in human interaction, facilitating the crucial exchange of information, and understanding across diverse linguistic and cultural contexts. More than two disparate languages can be connected through the translation process, which replaces the source language with the target language to convey its meaning. Translation scholars have offered various definitions of the term, for instance Sembiring (2022) defines translation as “the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL).” Similarly, House (2023) characterizes translation as a process of transferring meaning from the source text into the target text. This understanding of translation becomes particularly complex when applied to literary work, especially poetry. Holmes (2021), however, stated that literary translation is the most testing type of translation. Likewise, Translation of poetry is also considered as the most demanding and the most challenging form of translation. Even poetry is not always suitable for the process of translation. The quality of translation in TL cannot be preserved as the initial text in SL. Therefore, in the scope of translation, the translation of literary works has always been controversial.

Kretz (2025), in his anthology *Poem into Poem*, posited that poetic translation is like a living spark, a flow of energy between the past and present and cultures. Defining poetry itself, Ammanamanchi et al. (2023) characterizes it as a literary composition governed by elements such as meter, rhythm, and versification. Furthermore, Arba et al. (2023) highlights poetry’s distinctiveness in meticulous word selection, underscoring its unique artistic nature. The inherent strength of poetry stems from its frequently complex, subject to multiple interpretations, and often ambiguous meanings. To navigate this complexity, experienced translators dedicate significant effort to recognizing and figuring out how to communicate the source’s various meaning potentials to minimize the possibility of losing meanings during translation (Pelata et al., 2023). Nevertheless, it is recognized that the target language may not always fully embody every identified semantic possibility of the original.

To produce a solid translation of poetry, translators need to know the author’s intended meaning of the poetry and have extensive insight and techniques so that they

can translate without causing a shift or reduction in its meaning. In the poetry “Alone,” Edgar Allan Poe shared the story of his heartbreaking life and the loneliness he experienced since childhood, which he poured into his work. This study will investigate how the translation of specific linguistic elements (word, phrases, and sentence) within each stanza works to preserve both the original poetry’s semantic integrity and its aesthetic qualities. Therefore, this study aims to identify the translation techniques utilized in conveying Edgar Allan Poe’s ‘Alone’ from English (SL) to Indonesian (TL). Recognizing the inherent difficulties in poetic translation, particularly concerning its literal meaning, emotional resonance, and aesthetic qualities, this research seeks to uncover the specific strategies employed by the translator and to determine the fidelity of the translated poetry to its original meaning.

Method

This study employs a descriptive-qualitative approach (Creswell & Guetterman, 2024) to analyze the translation techniques used in MDV Translation’s YouTube video “Terjemahan Puisi ‘Alone’ oleh Edgar Allan Poe”. (<https://www.youtube.com/@mdvtranslation>).

The data analysis process involved the following steps:

1. **Careful Reading:** The researcher meticulously read both the English and Indonesian versions of the poem to understand their nuances and potential translation challenges.
2. **Identification of Textual Units:** The English and Indonesian versions were compared to identify corresponding textual units (words, phrases, sentences) for analysis.
3. **Technique Identification:** Translation techniques employed in each corresponding textual unit were identified.
4. **Classification:** The identified techniques were classified based on Creswell & Guetterman (2024) framework.

5. **Analysis and Interpretation:** The classified techniques were analyzed and interpreted to understand their impact on meaning and aesthetic elements in each stanza.

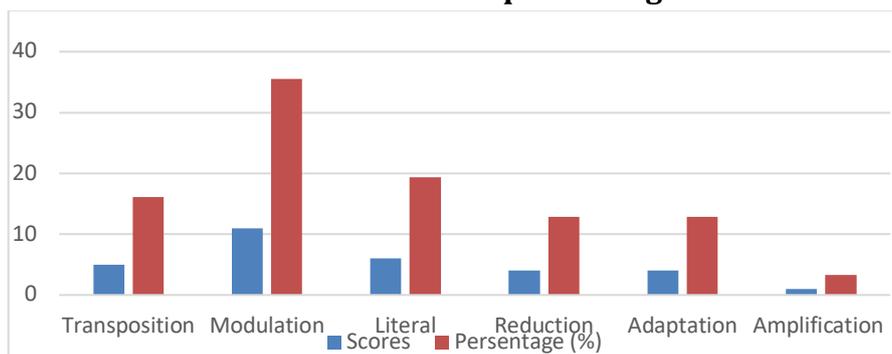
The terminology for translation techniques in this study is based on Molina & Hurtado Albir (2002) framework. This framework was chosen because it provides a comprehensive and widely recognized system for analyzing translation strategies, allowing for a systematic and detailed examination of the techniques employed in the translation of 'Alone'.

Findings and Discussions

A. Findings

This section presents the results of the identified translation techniques employed in MDV Translation's rendition of Edgar Allan Poe's poem 'Alone.' The analysis was conducted using Molina & Hurtado Albir (2002) framework. The analysis revealed that the translator utilized six distinct translation techniques in the English-to-Indonesian rendition of 'Alone.' The overall frequency and percentage of each technique are summarized in illustrated in Figure 1:

Figure 1: Distribution of Translation Techniques in Edgar Allan Poe's 'Alone'



According to the data, there is a finding that six translation techniques have been used by the translator in translating this poetry, namely, transposition, modulation, literal, adaptation, and amplification. The highest score data is modulation technique; in contrast, the lowest data is amplification by details: Transposition obtains five scores (16.1%), modulation obtains 11 scores (35.5%), literal obtains six scores (19.4%), reduction obtains four scores (12.9%), adaptation obtains four scores (12.9%), and

amplification obtains one score (3.2%). Based on the accumulated data in the diagrams, the translator is more dominant in using the modulation technique in the translating process.

B. Discussions

Transposition

Molina & Hurtado Albir (2002) said that this technique is used to alter the grammatical structure transposition as similar to 'shift' that changes grammatical forms from the source language to the target language. Moreover, McClintock (2024) explained that four types of transposition are like the shifting forms:

1. Compulsory or automatic shifts. The system and rules that cause this transposition type to occur. In this case, the translators do not have any other choice, so they must use the transposition technique.
2. Grammatical structural shift. An unavailable structure or grammar in the target language causes this type.
3. Transposing caused natural expressions since reasonable equivalents in the source language are not found.
4. Transposing units in language.

Table 1: The Transposition Technique

Source Language	Target Language
From childhood's hour	<i>Berawal dari masa kecilku</i>
From the red cliff of the mountain	<i>Dari tebing merah sebuah gunung</i>
And all I lov'd	<i>Dan semua yang kucintai</i>
In its autumn tint of gold	<i>Yang berwarna keemasan di musim gugur</i>
Of the mountain	<i>Sebuah gunung</i>
Total	5

In Table 1, the translator uses the transposition technique. Five phrases have been translated into the target text by using the transposition technique. For instance, the phrase "The red cliff of the mountain" is translated into the language target to be "*Dari tebing merah sebuah gunung.*" It is a transposition technique because it changes the phrase structure without changing the meaning core.

Volume 25 No. 1, April 2025

Modulation

The second is modulation. Lexically and structurally, modulation is a translation approach that alters the perspective, emphasis, or conceptual categories present in the source language. The table data presented below.

Table 2: The Modulation Technique

Source Language	Target Language
I have not been as other were	<i>Yang berbeda dari yang lainnya</i>
I have not seen as other saw	<i>Aku terlihat tidak seperti yang lainnya</i>
I could not bring my passions	<i>aku tak bisa mewujudkan keinginanku</i>
From the same source	<i>Di masa itu</i>
I couldn't awaken my heart to joy at the same tone	<i>Aku tak mampu merasakan kegembiraan yang mereka dapatkan.</i>
As it pass'd me lying by	<i>Yang terbang menyambar</i>
Took the form	<i>Berbentuk</i>
Good and ill	<i>Kebaikan dan buruknya</i>
When	<i>Di mana</i>
Around me roll'd	<i>Menaungiku</i>
Binds me still	<i>Masih saja menghantuiku</i>
Total	11

In Table 2, there are a sentence, a clause, and four phrases that have been translated by using modulation techniques. For example, the phrase “I have not seen as other saw” is translated into the target language become “*Aku terlihat tidak seperti yang lainnya,*” which is the modulation technique that is translated from the active structure to the passive voice because the translator needs to modulate it accurately.

Literal

Molina & Hurtado Albir (2002) categorized this technique as a word-by-word translation technique since it attempts to translate a word or phrase by word for word. This technique translates word-by-word based on the function and meaning in the sentence level.

Table 3: The Literal Technique

Source Language	Target Language
Then in my childhood	<i>Kemudian di masa kecilku</i>
From the lightning in the sky	<i>Dari kilat di langit</i>
And the cloud that	<i>Dan awan yang</i>

Or the fountain	<i>Atau air mancur</i>
From the red cliff	<i>Dari tebing merah</i>
From the sun that	<i>Dari matahari yang</i>
Total	6

In Table 3, seven phrases have been translated by using the literal technique. For example, the phrase “Then in my childhood” is translated to “*Kemudian di masa kecilku*” is a literal technique because it has the same structure and meaning in the target language.

Reduction

According to Molina and Albir (2002), the reduction is a translation technique that reduces an item of information in the target language that is completely or more stated in the source language. Furthermore, Molina and Albir (2002) expressed that this technique is the same as what Vaxquez Ayora and Delisle stated as the omission technique (p.505). In their opinion, the omission technique is like the unjustifiable suppression of elements.

Table 4: The Reduction Technique

Source Language	Target Language
And storm	<i>Badai</i>
From every depth of	<i>Dalam setiap</i>
The mystery which	<i>Misteri itu</i>
A common spring	<i>Musim panas</i>
Total	4

In Table 4, five phrases that have been translated by using the reduction technique. For example, the phrase “From every depth” is translated to “*Dalam setiap*” is a reduction technique because it omits the element of ‘depth of’ so making the meaning and the structure are more simply.

Adaptation

According to Molina & Hurtado Albir (2002), adaptation is a translation technique that replaces a cultural element in the source language with a cultural element that is compatible with target language users or target cultural elements.

Table 5: The Adaptation Technique

Source Language	Target Language
Common spring	<i>Musim panas</i>
From the thunder	<i>Dari gemuruh</i>
The rest of heaven	<i>Langit lainnya</i>
From the torrent	<i>Dari semburan</i>
Total	4

In Table 5, four phrases that have been translated by using the adaptation technique. For example, the phrase “Common Spring” is translated to “*Musim Panas*”, which is an adaptation technique because the country of the target language is not familiar with common Spring, so the translator translates that phrase into the relevant phrase.

Amplification

Molina & Hurtado Albir (2002) stated that the amplification technique is a translation method employed when the target language utilizes additional signifiers to address syntactic or lexical deficiencies.

Table 6: The Amplification Technique

Source Language	Target Language
Was blue	<i>Berwarna biru</i>
Total	1

In Table 6, there is a phrase that has been translated by using the amplification technique. The phrase “Was blue” is translated to “*Berwarna biru.*” which is an amplification technique because it adds the word “*Berwarna*” as a signifier in the target language to make the meaning obvious.

Conclusion

This study concludes that in translating Edgar Allan Poe's poem "Alone" on MDV Translation's YouTube channel, the translator employed six distinct translation techniques: transposition, modulation, literal translation, reduction, adaptation, and amplification. Modulation emerged as the most frequently utilized technique,

Volume 25 No. 1, April 2025

highlighting its prominence in rendering the poem into Indonesian. This prevalence suggests that the translator often opted to shift perspective or conceptual categories to convey the poem's complex meanings and emotional nuances more naturally in the target language.

Bibliography

- Ammanamanchi, S. L., Meeran, J. A., Dharmapuri, K., & Sharma, N. (2023). *Basic Concepts of Literary Devices in English Literature*. Academic Guru Publishing House.
- Arba, N., Widyasari, W., Efendi, Y., & Syaputri, W. (2023). Analisa hasil terjemahan Google Translate dalam lirik lagu "To the Bone" oleh Pamungkas. *Jurnal Pembahsi (Pembelajaran Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia)*, 13(1), 55–67. <https://doi.org/10.31851/pembahsi.v13i1.11874>
- Creswell, J. W., & Guetterman, T. C. (2024). *Educational research: Planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research*. ERIC. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED672918>
- Holmes, J. S. (2021). *Translated!: Papers on Literary Translation and Translation Studies. With an introduction by Raymond van den Broeck* (Vol. 7). Brill.
- House, J. (2023). *Translation: The basics*. Routledge.
- Kretz, D. M. (2025). *Poets and Translators at the End of a World*. <https://knowledge.uchicago.edu/record/15441>
- McClintock, B. (2024). *The Discovery & Character of Transposable Elements: The Collected Papers (1938-1984) of Barbara McClintock*. Taylor & Francis.
- Molina, L., & Hurtado Albir, A. (2002). Translation techniques revisited: A dynamic and functionalist approach. *Meta*, 47(4), 498–512. <https://doi.org/10.7202/008033ar>
- Pelata, C. M. M., Widyasari, W., Efendi, Y., & Syaputri, W. (2023). Analisa Puisi "Dreams" Oleh Langston Hughes. *Jurnal Pembahsi (Pembelajaran Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia)*, 13(2), 217–225. <https://doi.org/10.31851/pembahsi.v13i2.13677>
- SEMBIRING, E. A. (2022). *STUDENTS' TRANSLATION PROCESS IN TRANSLATING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT TENTH GRADE OF SMK SWASTA AL KAROMAH BERASTAGI*