CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

English swearing words are known by people in a different language through many media, and one of them is a movie. Undoubtedly one of the biggest contributors in the movie industry is the United States. United States becomes the biggest movie exporter in the world which also means that they introduce their language and culture across countries through audiovisual programs, included Indonesia. The presence of swearing word may be found easily in conversation within United States movies. *Hangover* becomes one of the movies which contain many swearing word in almost all the conversation throughout the duration of the movie. This movie that can be categorized as a comedy becomes the subject of this research study due to the rich number of swearing words in it. Bad language is considered as a phenomenon that cannot be ignored because its presence is closely related to the culture and people who are in it. Although the majority of people will be shocked when they hear that word said in front of the public, everyone knows that swearing word will keep exist and survive as a part of the language.

According to Vingerhoets (2013:287) “Swearing is a form of linguistic activity utilizing taboo words to convey the expression of strong emotions…the
uttered swearwords can shock and disturb others”. Anderson and Trudgill (1990:63) added that “swear-words are words you use when you have no others at your disposal”.

At the conclusion swearing word is a word that is used by people to express their emotions when they have no other suitable word to say and it is mostly said spontaneously as a first reaction when they are losing control in unexpected situations or facing such of bad conditions. According to Burton (2012) there are 7 reasons for swearing, they are: “pain relief, power and control, non-violent retribution, humour, peer and social bounding, self-expression, psychological and physical health” (Hell Yes: The 7 Best Reasons for Swearing, Para. 1). Usually, people make efforts to release tension by speak out harshly using swearing word in order to show their power toward others when they feel angry, disappointed, dissatisfied, and shocked. Anderson and Trudgill (1990:54) explain that “swearing does not have to be emotional”, it can be used as “style-giver”. Swearing words are frequently found in USA movie and those rude words are inserted in the conversation to make the utterance sound more artistic which means it is possible to happen in real world because movie represents condition of people at the time. The aim of doing that is to attract the attention of others, denigrate others, and express happiness or tell a joke.

The concept of swearing word in every language is different, as people know swear word has different patterns in each language. The only similarity is these words are classified into the words disrespectful and inappropriately to say in front of
public. Over history, in the 15th century people who swear in front of public they would send to prison, lose their tongues, or be killed in the death penalty as the punishment of swearing (Pinker, Stone and Hazelton in Vingerhoets et al 2013).

Indonesian language has a lot of swear words vocabulary, not yet included in the regional language in each region, as well as English language. Swearing word goes side by side with the culture of each country, as manifestation of culture and cannot be separated from the culture itself. Both Indonesia and English language have swearing word in their vocabularies, nonetheless the people who live in both countries and speak in the language of the country has a different culture. It causes the emergence of different expression of swearing and difference in the way of how people use it and say it, for example English uses blasphemous like Goddamn, Jesus Christ, Virgin Mary as swearing words but in Indonesian it is impossible to find the similar word to represent its meaning because Indonesian do not use religion term as swearing word. Besides that, different language, of course, creates different vocabulary of swearing word. It will be a hard task for the translators to find equivalent swearing word between English language and Indonesian language.

Swearing word is not always just a word. Andersson and Trudgill (1990:59) say that “The vocabulary of swearing is not only simple swear-word but also compound (skitbra), formulas (go to hell) and frames (who give a ---) “. Every word consisting of a swear phrase, for example, seven hells, is a ready-made formula. People could not just replace the number with eight, nine, or ten for seven in that
phrase. Translator could not grab correct description when they just translate the meaning of this phrase literally. Translator needs a better comprehension to deal with swearing word because it cannot be avoided that almost all of meaning of swearing word is far away from literal.

In translating swearing word the translator will face some problems, especially when they get in touch with cultural differences as stated above. Culture difference plays a big role in creating variation of problems of translating swearing word. English swearing word seems too rough for mostly Indonesian mindset so that Indonesian translation of an English swearing word tends to be polite to adjust Indonesia’s culture. On the other hand, the adjustment of Indonesian translation of English swearing word in order to fulfill the acceptability in the culture will create weaknesses in the form of decreasing level of the offensiveness of swearing word. The offensiveness of swearing must be communicated properly to the target language. It will become the own value in the movie, it can strengthen the character of the actor in the movie and also as an identity of the movie when it played in the certain genre (Fernández, 2006, para. 21). Of course, it is not an easy thing for the translator to bring the translation of swearing in culturally acceptable and delivery correctly at the same time, in one side while maintaining the cultural acceptance but on the other side keep the power of word of the swearing words.

Wrong execution of translating swearing word will make the word loss its power as emotive word, if the translator slips in unwise decision in translating, s/he
will be trapped into unacceptable word due to crash of culture. Translating swearing word is not an easy thing, “it is not only a matter of grammar or syntax but of differences in the way people swear. There is a great distinction between being grammatically correct and being socially correct” (Fernández , 2006, para. 15).

Dilemmatic problem occurs when swearing word needs to be translated culturally to adjust target reader’s culture. On the other hand, it would make the word loses its artistic value and decrease the level of rudeness. “Swearing word can be too offensive and shocking for many people, but in order to retain a film’s original artistic integrity, swearwords should be translated as, both the sense and the appropriate level of intensity should be communicated”( Fernández , 2006, para. 21). It is difficult to achieve for a translator to get the correct word in translating swearing word without losing its power as emotive language, but at the same time does not clash with the target language culture. Every translator has their own ideology and consideration before deciding the proper word to render the message of swearing word. Here their comprehension about strategies and techniques for translating swearing word has a great effect to determine the most appropriate word in target language. Different translator with different background may translate a same swearing word with different word in the target language. Indeed, it will bring the word to a different degree of rudeness and it can lead to a different perception for target readers if it is presented at once to them.
Take a look at the example below:

First example

**ST :** What’s going on, you *fucking crazy motherfucker*?

**TT :** *Apa kabar, pecundang tengik?* (DVD Version)

**TT :** *Apa kabar, keparat gila?* (Television Version)

The example above happens when Stu, Phill and Alan came to Ed's house to figure out what had happened last night when they got drunk and when their best friend, Doug, suddenly lost. Ed was shocked to see Stuart, who became a wild crazy man he ever met, so he addressed him like that.

*Fucking crazy motherfucker* is translated by the DVD translator into *pecundang tengik* while the TV translator chose *keparat gila*. *Motherfucker* is a swearing word which comes from 2 words, mother, and fucker. When the word mother is combined with fucker, it created a bad perception on the reader because it will damage the meaning of mother as an innocent and pure person (Sagarin (in Fernández, 2006: 217)).

Obviously, this word cannot be translated literally because the meaning of *motherfucker* based on context situation above is to call a man who acted outside his limits, or in other word, a man who is crazy (because of drug).

The first translator uses “translating using swearing word of less expressive word”. It can be seen in Indonesian version, the word *pecundang* is sounded not as offensive as the real meaning in the source language. While the second translator uses “translation by cultural substitution” in translating *motherfucker* into *keparat* in target language. *Keparat* has the same effect as *motherfucker*. This word is very rude and it
sounds as offensive as *motherfucker*. KBBI (KBBI, para. 1) has several meanings of *keparat* as “*jahanam, terkutuk, bangsat, kafir*”. In Indonesian language, those words are very rude when it is said by people towards others.

Second example:

ST: There’s a *fucking* tiger in the bathroom

TT: *Ada harimau di kamar mandi* (DVD Version)

TT: *Ada harimau di kamar mandinya* (Television Version)

The example above is taken from the dialog of Stuart, Alan and Phill when they were so shocked finding a tiger in the hotel bathroom after waking up from sleep.

Both of the translators use a “translation by omission”, they were omitting the word *fucking* but the meaning still can be caught by the audience because the word *fucking* here is only complementing of subject *tiger*. *Fucking* here has a meaning of *sialan* in Indonesian version. But the omission of the word *fucking* also makes the translation more acceptable in Indonesian culture.

In this research, the researcher took swearing words as the main issues. The researcher chose the movie entitled *Hangover* as the source of data because this movie contains a large number of swearing words that are interesting to discuss. The researcher compares techniques and quality of swearing word between the translations of the DVD version and the translation of the television version. Both of them are official translations and the subtitles come from trustworthy translators so that the subtitles could be accounted for its contents. The techniques which were used
by the translators become the main focus to be analyzed in order to assess the level of accuracy and acceptability. The researcher tried to compare the subtitles of *Hangover* in the DVD version and the television version to decide which one is better and fulfill the level of accuracy and acceptability.

**B. Problem Statements**

1. What are the types of swearing words found in film entitled *Hangover* and how are they translated (translation techniques) into the target language?

2. How do the translation techniques applied by the translators affect the quality of the translation of swearing words in the case of accuracy and acceptability?

**C. Research Objectives**

1. To find out the types of swearing word that are found in the film entitled *Hangover* and how they are translated, It also refers to the translation techniques applied by both of the translators in translating swearing words.

2. To find out how the techniques of the translation affect the translation quality in the case of accuracy and acceptability levels of translation.
D. Research Limitation

Due to the problem statements formulated above, this research is limited on dialogues in the movie entitled *Hangover* which contains swearing words and their Indonesian translation. The research focuses on analysis in comparing translation techniques applied by both of translator and its quality in case of accuracy and acceptability.

E. Research Benefits

1. Students of English department
   
The result of this study can be used as additional knowledge and information about the comparison techniques in translating swearing words. The result can also be used to enrich the documentation as additional reference relating to the swearing word issues, particularly in term of translation techniques used by the translator to translate swearing word.

2. Other researchers
   
   This research purpose is hopefully beneficial to give a contribution to the other researchers who need information related to swearing word and to be useful for them when they have to deal with further research related to the translation of swearing words.

3. Translator of the movie subtitle
   
The research is hopefully beneficial to give information about translating swearing words in the movie. The translation in the data can become an
additional reference for the translator who has similar cases in translating swearing word.

F. Thesis Organization

This research is divided into five chapters as follows:

Chapter I: Introduction consists of research background, problem statements, research objectives, research limitation, research benefits, and thesis organization.

Chapter II: Literature review consists of definition of translation, kinds of Meaning, translation technique, translation quality assessment, swearing word, function of swearing word, the hangover and review of related study.

Chapter III: Research Methodology consists of research type and design, data and source of data, sampling technique, method of data collection, technique of data analysis, and research procedure.

Chapter IV: Data analysis and Discussion consists of data analysis and discussion, type of swearing word and how they are translated, translation quality assessment, the impact of translation technique to the quality of translation in the case of accuracy and acceptability of translation.

Chapter V: Conclusion and suggestion consists of conclusion and suggestion.