

## Translation Techniques Used in the English Version of Andmesh Kamaleng Song's *Hanya Rindu* Translated by Emma Heesters

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### Abstract

*This research aims to explore the translation techniques that implemented at English version from Andmesh Kamaleng's song titled Hanya Rindu which Emma Heesters translated it using the group of 18 techniques of translation from Albir & Molina (2002). This study implements a descriptive qualitative approach to examine the techniques which applicated on translating Indonesian song lyrics into English. Data were collected from the English version of the song lyrics and the original Indonesian version. This study utilized content analysis and note-taking, the steps are as follows: 1) listen to and observe the lyrics of both versions of the song; 2) identify the categories from the usage techniques of translation; 3) make a conclusion. The study identified 9 out of 18 possible translation techniques used in 48 sample lyrics. The findings show that amplification is the most frequently used technique which is 12 times (25%), followed by literal translation 9 times (19%) and modulation 9 times (19%), linguistic amplification 7 times (15%), transposition 4 times (8%), reduction 3 times (6%), linguistic compression 2 times (4%), generalization 1 time (2%) and 1 time discursive creation (2%). The prevalent use of amplification indicates the translators' tendency to add contextual elements to enhance clarity and maintain the emotional context of the song, as well as to make the translated lyrics match the melody so that it is singable. The findings of this study contribute to a deeper understanding of song translation and expose the challenges faced by translators in preserving song messages across languages.*

**Keywords:** *song lyrics, translation, translation techniques*

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## 1. Introduction

The development of time and technology makes it easier to access information between countries. Communication occurs when there are two or more people talking to each other (Meilany & Nugroho, 2024). If people communicate in different communities, they also have different customs and social norms, in addition to speaking different language (Nugroho, 2010). However, if in the communication process, there are parties who do not understand the information conveyed, it can lead to misunderstandings, in this case a translator is needed as a bridge for communication between different languages (Adha et al., 2023). Therefore, a translator must master both languages, as well as understand the linguistic rules (Nugroho et al., 2022).

Translation defined as a mechanism by sending one language as a source to another language as the target. Another opinion on the definition of it is stated by Pangaksami & Nugroho (2023) which translation defined as a mechanism of language changing as well as the message by the source to the target. This procedure is used to discover the communication or information that occurs between people (Astiningsih & Nugroho, 2024). Translators not only translate words or sentences literally, but they must also be able to fully and accurately explain what is contained in the source to readers. Translators must understand the cultural terms of both language to avoid producing low quality translation (Pratama et al., 2021).

Translation also has been applied at various literaries to transfer text from the source to the target , thus helping readers understand the context better (Sitio & Nugroho, 2023). Newmark (1988), stated that translation defined as a mechanism to translating a text meaning to the different language by preserving the original means. It can be difficult by making the natural looks of translation to balancing the original and the changes text. The translator have to give attention to the translation quality, ensuring that the message is conveyed well (Muhaya & Nugroho, 2024). It requires appropriate techniques to achieve that goal.

Speaking of translation technique, when translating a translator must understand the concept of using the right techniques to produce the best translation. A very important skill for translators is the ability to choose the right translation technique (Zainudin & Awal, 2012). Translation techniques are used by translators to solve problems or difficulties between two languages (Molina & Albir, 2002). The translators need to consider several aspects such as the purpose of the translation, the target audience, and also the type of object to be translated. One challenge translators encounter is the disparity in grammar structures among the target and source language (Romdhati et al., 2018). Therefore, translators must ensure that the translated product can be understood by the target audience by maintaining clarity, tone, and compatibility with the original text. When these aspects are carefully considered, the translator can overcome linguistic and cultural barriers and ensure that the final product effectively conveys the intended message.

A phenomenon of translation that is often encountered today is the translation of songs. In translation theory, songs are not easily translated into other languages because the lyrics must be conveyed in the way the writer intended and have the appropriate meaning (Fauzi et al., 2022). Translating a song into another language is a challenging process for a translator. In the process, the translator not only translates the means of it but also considers the rhythmic pattern and number of syllables so that the translated lyrics do not disturb the rhythm of the song and the lyrics can be sung smoothly. In addition, maintaining the feel of the song is also important, so that the emotional nuances that the original author wants to convey can be conveyed well so that the listener can also feel the same emotions. Songwriters often use hidden meanings or wordplay to create a poetic feel, with rhyme being an important element to make a song pleasant to listen to listeners (Miladesia et al., 2023). Another thing that must be considered when translating songs is cultural elements, because in a song lyrics usually contain several cultural elements. Therefore, the translator must understand the exact context of the lyrics, so as not to make a mistake in translating. It is also common for some lyrics don't have any

relevance, so in-depth research needed for the translation can be well received by listeners and produce good-quality translations.

Related to existing phenomena of translating song lyrics, like in the case of the song *Hanya Rindu* which was translated into English. The song *Hanya Rindu*, released by Indonesian singer Andmesh Kamaleng in 2019, became popular for its touching melody and lyrics. It became Andmesh's third most popular song, with 125 million plays on Spotify and over 283 million views on YouTube. Expanding to social media and covers, including an English version by Emma Heesters, a singer known for translating and covering songs from various countries, her cover of *Hanya Rindu* has received 16 million views. Apart from the fact that the original song was also popular when it was made into an English version, many audiences liked this version. Also, foreign audiences may like the original song, and finally, they can better interpret the song meaning by the English version. Therefore, in this case, some questions must have arisen such as whether Emma Heesters used the right translation technique in mechanismvev. Because, if the translation technique is used inappropriately, it will affect the meaning contained in the original song.

Previous studies on the translation of song lyrics have been conducted, one of them is the study by Hidayati (2020) entitled "A Translation Analysis of Indonesian Song Lyrics into English", which aims to explain Emma Heesters' translation process in translating the lyrics of two Andmesh Kamaleng songs, *Cinta Luar Biasa*, and *Hanya Rindu*. The research focuses on whether the source language or the target language is more prominent in the translation. It also aims to examine the factors that make Emma Heesters choose a particular translation approach. This study assesses the English and Indonesian lyrics using Newmark's theory. Although the song *Hanya Rindu* has been studied, the framework used to analyze the song lyrics is different. The previous study applied Peter Newmark's theory of translation methods, whereas this study adopts Molina and Albir's theory of translation techniques. The choice of this theory allows for a more detailed analysis. With this research, the researcher can learn more about the linguistic, cultural, and emotional elements involved in the translation process of song lyrics with 18 specific categories proposed by Molina and Albir.

The previous study was conducted by Mukminin (2024) entitled "Translating Techniques, Methods, and Ideologies of Tiara Andini and Arsy Widiyanto's Song Lyrics 'Cintanya Aku' by Emma Heesters". Both studies used the method theory by Molina and Albir (2002) but with different data sources. The current study inspect the English version translation by *Hanya Rindu*, with a focus only on the translation techniques used. Meanwhile, the previous study used the English version of *Cintanya Aku* as the data source, not only examining the translation techniques but also with a broader discussion on the ideology and method of translation. The difference in data sources can determine whether the translation techniques used by Emma Heesters in the two different songs are similar or different in overcoming the challenges faced when translating the song lyrics.

The other previous study by Putri (2022) entitled "The Analysis of Translation Procedures of Indonesian into English Song: Vinay and Darbelnet's Theory". This study examines the translation of two English versions of Andmesh's songs, which are Just Missing You and Incredible Love. Although the object of research is the same, the theory used to analyze the translation is different. The previous study examines the translation procedure using the theory of Vinay and Darbelnet, which is classified into 7 types. Meanwhile, the current research implements the theory by Molina and Albir, which is divided into 18 techniques. The current research implements the theory that has more types and is more detailed so that it can examine the translation of song lyrics more deeply.

Based on the phenomenon of song translation, the statement of the problem that will be studied are as follows:

1. What translation techniques are used in the English version of Andmesh Kamaleng's song *Hanya Rindu*?
2. What translation techniques are most and least frequently applied by the translator in the English version of Andmesh Kamaleng's *Hanya Rindu*?

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Translation

Translation defined as the mechanism of accurately transferring a message from the source language to the target language (Nugroho et al., 2019). The function of translation is to facilitate access to information for those with language barriers, enabling them to obtain information from other countries that speak different languages (Aloojaha et al., 2018). Translation requires someone to bridge the process of sending information between languages so that the recipient can understand the message properly (Shafira & Nugroho, 2023). If a statement or text has similar relation to another text, the it can be considered as a translation (Nababan et al., 2012).

According to Muam & Nugraha (2021), translation is basically a transformational work. The translator must identify the appropriate equivalent that aligns with the language and cultural context of the target language. Likewise, Ma'mur (2004) also argues that translation is the process of finding target language equivalents to source language utterances. Furthermore, Sindhuja (2021) highlights that translation involves transferring speech or writing from one language to another while preserving the original context, meaning, style, and tone as closely as possible. Thus, translation requires a deep understanding of both languages, not only in terms of vocabulary but also in terms of culture and context. To ensure that the target audience receives the same information as the reader of the original text, the translation must be correct, clear, and accurate (Iriawan & Nugroho, 2023).

Nugroho et al. (2020) mentioned that a translator must acquire several sub competences, one of them is bilingual, which means that a translator must have a good understanding of both the source and target languages. This shows that the translator function as a language converter and intercultural mediator. So that the meaning, message and context of source text can be conveyed correctly and naturally in the target language. A translator is one of the important aspects in translation, therefore must have the ability to apply appropriate translation strategies to overcome problems that arise in the translation process (Nugroho et al., 2016).

### 2.2 Translation Techniques

Translation technique can be defined as the process of translation, which includes the methods and strategies used in translation (Fitria, 2020). The mechanism of transferring messages by the source to the target applying translation techniques includes the words level. Translation techniques are implemented by translator to the address problems or challenges which may take while translating (Nduru, 2017). Normalita & Nugroho (2023) states that text must be translated from small textual units like words, phrases in order to understand translation techniques word. There is 18 techniques based on Molina & Albir (2002):

**Adaptation** is a technique in translation that replaces cultural elements from the source language with those cultural elements of the target language, making it easier for speakers of the target language to understand the content of the text.

**Amplification** is the translation technique of paraphrasing things that are not explicitly stated in the source text.

**Borrowing** is a translation technique that involves taking terms directly from the source text and incorporating them into the target language. Borrowing is categorized into: pure borrowing and naturalized borrowing.

**Calque** is a technique that literally translates an expression or structure while retaining the original meaning.

**Compensation** is the translation technique that is done by changing the writing style of the source text to be more in line with the writing rules of the target language.

**Description** defined as technique which fully describes a term on text

**Discursive creation** is a technique in translation which used relevant words out of context.

**Established equivalence** this is a technique which implements terms in target language.

**Generalization** is the technique used by the translator to convert certain terms in the source language into more commonly used terms in the target language.

**Linguistic amplification** is a technique in translation that involves incorporating additional linguistic elements into the target language.

**Linguistic compression** defined as technique in which the text in the source language is shortened or simplified to the target language while maintaining the main meaning.

**Literal translation** is a word-for-word translation technique.

**Modulation** is a translation technique that involves altering perspective, focus, or cognitive framework related to the source text.

**Particularization** is the process of using more specific or technical language.

**Reduction** technique that removes part of a term in the source text.

**Substitution** yet replaces linguistic and paralinguistic elements with words or signs that are more familiar and understandable to speakers of the target language.

**Transposition** technique which alter the grammatical form in the translation of the source text.

**Variation** is a translation technique that modifies linguistic and paralinguistic elements, affecting aspects like dialect, tone, style, and more.

### 3. Research Method

#### 3.1 Research Design

The researcher implemented a descriptive qualitative approach in this study. Hennink et al. (2020) stated that qualitative research allows you to see problems through the perspectives of study participants, as well as explore their meanings and interpretations of behaviors, events, or objects. When a precise description of a phenomenon is required, a qualitative study approach is the one to use (Sandelowski, 2000). Employing descriptive qualitative, the researcher can understand the context of language use thoroughly and identify the translation techniques implemented in the process of translating song lyrics.

The unit of data to be analyzed in this study is a phrase in the lyrics of the song *Hanya Rindu*, in both source and target languages. Data was taken from a video of a cover song by Emma Heesters, uploaded on her YouTube channel. The song titled *Hanya Rindu* is a song by Indonesian singer Andmesh Kamaleng, which was translated into English by Emma Heesters

#### 3.2 Instruments

In this study, the researcher used the technique of content analysis and *simak catat* (note-taking). Content analysis is conducted by obtaining the data related to both source and target languages. Whereas, *simak catat* (note taking) is done by listening and writing the data found.

Several steps were taken. The first step the researcher took was to listen to the English versing of the song *Hanya Rinud* translate and sung by Emma Heesters. After that, the researcher then proceeded to read the lyrics of the English version. In the next step, the researcher then analyzed the English and Indonesian lyrics, making notes on the parts related to the subject of the research. Then, to ensure accuracy and completeness, the researcher repeated this review process.

### 3.3 Data Analysis

Once the data collected, this research will use an analytical method based on Molina & Albir (2002) theory to understand the translation techniques implemented and their subsequent impact on the meaning, emotions, and nuances in the songs. The researcher will categorize the data based on the type of translation technique implemented.

## 4. Result

This section presents the data analyzed by theory of Molina & Albir's (2002). To gather deeper insights of the techniques used to translate the song lyrics, the data has been categorized and analyzed into specific translation techniques. The detailed results of this categorization, along with the frequency of each technique, are presented in the table below.

**Table 1** Translation Techniques in English Version of *Hanya Rindu*

No	Translation Techniques	Frequency	Percentage
1	Amplification	12	25%
2	Literal Translation	9	19%
3	Modulation	9	19%
4	Linguistic Amplification	7	15%
5	Transposition	4	8%
6	Reduction	3	6%
7	Linguistic Compression	2	4%
8	Generalization	1	2%
9	Discursive Creation	1	2%
Total		<b>48</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table above presents in rendering the song lyrics of *Hanya Rindu* into English. Molina & Albir's (2002) methods including equivalent, adaptation, reduction, generalization, modulation, and many more. Based on the data in Table 1, the researcher identified that the translator utilized 9 of these techniques.

#### Excerpt 1

SL: Saat Kusendiri

TL: When I am by myself



The translator uses two translation techniques in this lyric. The first technique is literal translation because it is translated directly. The second technique is linguistic amplification because the translator added 'by' in the target language.

#### Excerpt 2

SL: Kulihat foto dan video

TL: Looking at photos and videos



The translator uses three translation techniques in this lyric. The first method is linguistic compression because the word 'ku' in 'kulihat' is removed in the target language, this removal is done to compress the sentence without changing its meaning. The second technique is literal translation because it is used to translate 'foto dan video' to 'photos and videos' the translator maintains accuracy without

changing the word order. The third technique is linguistic amplification because the translator added 'at' in the target language to improve sentence clarity and sound more natural.

**Excerpt 3**

SL: Bersamamu yang tlah lama kusimpan



TL: That we took I've been keeping them for so long

The translator uses two translation techniques in this lyric. The first technique is amplification because the translator added 'that we took' to give more context of the lyric. The addition of the word 'them' is also amplification, to clarify the context of the things being saved, in this case referring to photos and videos. The second technique is transposition because there is a change in the structure of the phrase 'tlah lama kusimpan' is transformed to 'I've been keeping for so long'.

**Excerpt 4**

SL: Hancur hati ini melihat semua gambar diri



TL: And with my broken heart I see all the pictures of myself

The second technique is literal translation because the phrase 'melihat semua gambar diri' is directly translated into 'see all the pictures of myself'. The third technique is modulation because 'hancur hati ini' is translated into 'my broken heart', where the translator changes the perspective of belonging by adding 'I' in the target language. The fourth technique is amplification because there is the addition of 'I' to the target language, even though it is not stated directly in the source language.

**Excerpt 5**

SL: Kuingin saat ini engkau ada di sini



TL: I want you to be here with me

The first technique is literal translation because 'kuingin' is directly translated as 'I want'. The second technique is reduction because the phrase 'saat ini' is removed in the target language, but it doesn't affect the meaning. The third technique is transposition because 'ada' is transformed into 'to be' which means changing the grammatical structure. The fourth technique is amplification because the translator added 'with me' to clarify the context of the lyric.

**Excerpt 6**

SL: Walau hanya sebentar tuhan tolong kabulkanlah

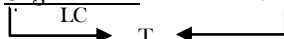


TL: And even if it just for a while then god please give us the time

The translator uses four translation techniques in this lyric. The first technique is linguistic amplification because of the addition of 'and' and 'then' in the target language as connecting words to enhance the coherence. The second technique is literal translation because the phrase 'walaupun hanya sebentar' translated directly as 'even if it is just for a while'. The third technique is modulation because 'kabulkanlah' is translated as 'give us the time' and changes the way the request is expressed. The fourth technique is amplification because the word 'us' is added in the target language to clarify the context.

**Excerpt 7**

SL: Segala cara telah kucoba



TL: I tried everything

The translator uses two translation techniques in this lyric. The first technique is linguistic compression because the phrase 'segala cara' is compacted to 'everything', and the meaning is similar.

The second technique is transposition because there is a change in the grammatical structure of the phrase ‘telah kucoba’ to ‘I tried’, the changes in the placement of ‘I’.

**Excerpt 8**

SL: Namun semua berbeda  
R → M ←  
TL: Nothing is the same

The translator uses two translation techniques in this lyric. The first technique is modulation because the translator changes the perspective of conveying the lyric in the target language but remains the same meaning. The second technique is reduction because the word ‘namun’ is not translated or in other words it is removed in the target language, but it doesn’t affect the meaning.

**Excerpt 9**

SL: Hanya Rindu  
→ LT, AM ←  
TL: Just missing you

The translator uses two translation techniques in this lyric. The first technique is literal translation because ‘hanya rindu’ is directly translated as ‘just missing’. The second translation is amplification because the translator added ‘you’ in the target language to clarify the context of the lyric.

**Excerpt 10**

SL: Kurindu senyummu ibu  
→ M, LT, LA, AM ← G  
TL: It’s your smile that I miss from you

The first technique is modulation because the translator changes the perspective of conveying the lyric, from a direct to more complex statement. The second technique is literal translation because ‘senyummu’ is directly translated as ‘your smile’. The third technique is linguistic amplification because the translator added ‘it’s’ and ‘that’ in the target language to clarify the context of ‘smile’. The fourth technique is amplification because of the addition of ‘from you’ in the target language to add more context. The fifth technique is generalization because although it is not removed, the word ‘ibu’ is changed to ‘you’ in the target language as the specific reference.

## 5. Discussion

This study aims to analyze the translation techniques applied in the English version of the song *Hanya Rindu* by Andmesh Kamaleng, translated by Emma Heesters, by referring to Molina & Albir’s (2002) framework of translation techniques. The result showed that 9 out of the 18 techniques are used in translating song lyrics to maintain the meaning, rhythm, and emotion of the original lyrics. The amplification technique being the most dominant, was used 12 times (25%). In contrast, generalization and discursive creation techniques were the least used, only once (2%).

The amplification technique is the most frequently used in this song translation. As stated by Anwar (2020), amplification make it easier for the audience to understand the meaning of the source language by including more information in the target language without changing the core of the message. The predominance of the amplification technique in this translation shows that the translator, Emma Heesters, prioritizes adding information in the target language. This is in line with the purpose of translating song lyrics, where the translator must ensure that the content is accessible to the target listener. Including additional explanatory details allows the translator to enhance comprehension and retain the emotion of the original song, which is very important for capturing the listener’s attention. The addition of certain elements also aims to make the lyrics in the English version singable. In

accordance with the statement by Saragih & Natsir (2023), translators tend to add new vocabulary to match the lyrics with the melody of the song, so that the translated lyrics focus only on making the lyrics singable and still pleasing to the ear. As described by Molina & Albir (2002) the amplification technique involve adding information that is not present in the source text. The findings of this research align with research conducted by Wibowo et al. (2023), which also highlights the amplification technique used to add additional information to facilitate message delivery or understanding for the reader without changing the meaning, this technique is similar to explicitness, addition, and exclusive paraphrasing. Furthermore, also explained in the research conducted by Wijaya & Hadi (2024), the translator describes relational interactions using amplification, which provides emotional context and equality.

In addition to amplification, this study also found that the literal translation is applied quite common, which has a crucial role in maintaining harmony with the original lyrics. Literal translation allows for a direct transfer of language from the source text, retaining its structure and meaning. However, the use of this technique needs to be balanced with other techniques to maintain the quality of the lyrics and the emotion they convey. Pinheiro (2015) states, that literal translation serves as 1<sup>st</sup> step to analyzing also conveying the basic meaning of the lyrics directly the aim is to preserve the essence of the original message before the translator improves it to fit the rhythm, musicality and poetic elements in the song. Literal translation is applied when words, phrases, and sentences in both language are equivalent (Jeremia et al., 2022). Research conducted by Surayya et al. (2024), this study shows that the literal translation technique is most commonly implemented in song translation. Thus, the use of literal translation is useful to maintain the authenticity of the original lyrics.

In the translation of the lyrics of *Hanya Rindu*, the researcher found that the translator tends to use amplification and literal translation techniques. In some lyrics, the translator chooses to add context so that the translated lyrics can match the melody of the song so that singable. While in some other lyrics, the translator did not change the structure or meaning to maintain the authenticity of the lyrics. The results of this study emphasize the importance of using the right techniques to achieve a perfect translation. A translator needs to pay attention to various important factors when translating song lyrics, such as the connection between meaning, emotion, and melody.

## 6. Conclusion

After the process of analyzing the translation techniques in song lyrics of *Hanya Rindu*. The researcher found 9 out of 18 techniques, which are amplification, literal translation, modulation, linguistic amplification, transposition, reduction, linguistic compression, generalization, and discursive creation. The amplification was used 12 times (25%), literal translation used 9 times (19%), modulation used 9 times (19%), linguistic amplification used 7 times (15%), transposition used 4 times (8%), reduction used 3 times (6%), linguistic compression used 2 times (4%), both generalization and discursive creation used only once (2%).

In translating song lyrics, multiple translation techniques are often used in a single sentence or phrase due to the characteristics of lyrics that must combine the meaning, emotion, and melody. In order to be easily sung and understood in the target language, the translator needs to combine several translation techniques to achieve results that fulfill these aspects. In the case of translating the song *Hanya Rindu*, the translation technique most frequently used was amplification. The high use of amplification indicates that Emma Heesters tends to add additional elements or information into the translation to make meaning clearer and improve the comprehension of target language listeners, as well as to match the melody of the song.

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