



Translation Technique in the Subtitle of the Movie “Dilan 1990” From Indonesian in to English

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the translation techniques used in the English subtitles of the Indonesian film "Dilan 1990" by applying Molina and Albir's (2002) classification. The research aims to identify the dominant translation techniques and to assess the accuracy of the subtitles. Employing a qualitative descriptive design, the data were collected from the original Indonesian dialogues and their corresponding English subtitles, focusing on lines rich in idiomatic expressions, slang, and cultural references. The findings show that seven translation techniques are utilized: established equivalence (69.5%), borrowing (19.1%), amplification (10.6%), reduction (2.1%), with literal translation, modulation, and adaptation each used less than 1%. Established equivalence and borrowing dominate, reflecting the translator's effort to use natural English expressions while preserving Indonesian names and cultural elements. Amplification is used to clarify Indonesian-specific content, while reduction occurs due to space constraints typical in subtitles. The accuracy analysis based on Nababan et al. (2012) indicates that 61.3% of subtitle lines are fully accurate, 33.8% less accurate (minor omissions or tone shifts), and 4.9% inaccurate (significant changes or omissions). The study concludes that the subtitle translation successfully maintains the core message and cultural nuances, though minor meaning loss occurs, especially with slang or culturally bound expressions. These results contribute to audiovisual translation research and provide practical guidance for translators working on culturally rich Indonesian films destined for international audiences.



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1. INTRODUCTION

Translation plays an essential role in facilitating cross-cultural communication, especially in the era of globalization where audiovisual media such as films are widely consumed across linguistic boundaries. In Indonesia, the increasing demand for English subtitling is driven by the popularity of local films among international audiences. Subtitling, however, presents unique challenges due to structural, contextual, and cultural differences between the source and target languages. Translators must therefore apply appropriate translation techniques to ensure both accuracy and cultural relevance in conveying the original message.

Molina and Albir (2002) provide a widely adopted framework for classifying translation techniques based on micro-units such as words, phrases, and clauses. Their model allows a systematic analysis of how meaning is transferred from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL). In audiovisual translation (AVT), this is particularly relevant because subtitle translators must balance linguistic fidelity with constraints such as space, time, and audience readability.

Previous studies in subtitle translation have largely focused on foreign films translated into Indonesian, with limited attention to the reverse direction. Research by Ghufuron et al. (2022), Larasati (2023), and Nofiyani et al. (2024) examined techniques such as literal translation, amplification, modulation, and adaptation, but mostly within the context of Mandarin or Arabic into Indonesian. These studies also highlighted issues of readability, acceptability, and cultural nuance, yet rarely engaged with popular Indonesian films as source texts.

To address this gap, the present study investigates the English subtitles of the Indonesian movie *Dilan 1990*, a culturally significant youth romance film set in Bandung. By employing Molina and Albir's micro-unit framework and Nababan et al.'s (2012) accuracy model, this study identifies the dominant translation techniques and evaluates the effectiveness of subtitle translations in preserving both meaning and cultural context.

This research contributes to the field of Audiovisual Translation by offering insights into Indonesian–English subtitling practices and presenting empirical data on how translation techniques affect subtitle accuracy and cultural transmission. The findings are expected to provide practical guidance for subtitle translators and enrich academic discussions on AVT in Southeast Asian contexts

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research applied a qualitative descriptive approach supported by a documentation method. Data were collected from the original Indonesian dialogues in *Dilan 1990* and their English subtitle versions. Purposive sampling was used to select dialogue pairs rich in idiomatic expressions, slang, and cultural references.

Data analysis followed the interactive model of Miles & Huberman (1994):

1. Data Reduction: selecting and simplifying data units.
2. Data Display: organizing data into tables with technique identification and accuracy assessment.
3. Conclusion Drawing: identifying patterns and verifying findings.

Translation techniques were classified using Molina and Albir's (2002) typology, while translation accuracy was assessed using Nababan et al.'s (2012) criteria: accurate, less accurate, and inaccurate.

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

A total of 1,256 subtitle lines were analyzed. Seven translation techniques were found, with the following distribution:

Table 1. Analysis of Techniques

Technique	Frequency	Percentage
Established Equivalence	873	69.5%
Borrowing	240	19.1%
Amplification	133	10.6%
Reduction	26	2.1%
Literal Translation	2	0.3%
Modulation	1	0.1%
Adaptation	1	0.1%

Analysis of Techniques:

- **Established Equivalence** ensures culturally natural expressions (e.g., “Selamat pagi” → “Good morning”).
- **Borrowing** retains names or culturally significant terms (e.g., “Insya Allah”, “Bandung”).
- **Amplification** adds explanatory content for clarity.
- **Reduction** omits implicit expressions due to space/time constraints.
- **Literal Translation, Modulation, and Adaptation** are used sparingly for stylistic or cultural adjustment.

Table 2. Accuracy Assessment:

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Accurate	770	61.3%
Less Accurate	425	33.8%
Inaccurate	61	4.9%
TOTAL	1,256	100%

1. Accurate Translation

Examples of accurate translation demonstrate that meaning is well-preserved:

SL: "Aku rindu kamu."

TL: "I miss you."

2. Less Accurate Translation

Some translations are understandable but slightly shift meaning:

SL: "Gue nggak akan ganggu lo lagi."

TL: "I won't bother you anymore."

("Gue" and "lo" are casual/slang; formality shift occurs.)

3. Inaccurate Translation

Inaccurate translations fail to convey intended meaning:

SL: "Baperan amat sih."

TL: "You're too much."

("Baperan" is an emotional reaction term; meaning is lost.)

4. CONCLUSION

This study found that subtitle translation in *Dilan 1990* relies heavily on Established Equivalence and Borrowing, indicating a balance between natural TL expression and cultural retention. The high percentage of accuracy supports the conclusion that the subtitle translation is largely effective. Future research may explore subtitling in genres with greater complexity or multilingual dynamics.

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