

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a fundamental tool for communication, enabling individuals to express their thoughts, emotions, ideas, and information effectively. According to Sweet (1995, p. 98), language is the expression of ideas through sounds that are combined to form words, which in turn create sentences. This structured combination allows abstract ideas to be articulated clearly understood by others. Without language, conveying complex thoughts or emotions would be challenging. As a result, language serves not only as a medium of interaction but also as a bridge that connects people, cultures, and knowledge across generations.

Language plays a crucial role in communication, shaping how individuals express and interpret meaning. Linguistics, as the science of language, examines its various aspects, such as sounds, words, sentences, and meanings, and how they work together. Language is a natural skill that humans learn easily, but it's also a complex system made up of individual parts, with rules that control how these parts are put together (Akmajian et al., 2010, p. 481). Language is not just a random collection of words but a structured system that enables humans to communicate thoughts, emotions, and ideas. It is governed by rules that speakers follow, whether consciously or unconsciously, which allows them to produce and understand an infinite number of messages. In the study of linguistics, understanding how language works is crucial, and this includes exploring how meaning is generated through different linguistic components and how these components interact in various context. In translation, particularly in subtitling, understanding the structure and function of language help translators make informed choices about how to convey meaning from one language to another.

The variety of languages spoken worldwide reflect the complexity of

how humans' structure and interpret meaning. Richard and Rodgers (2001, p. 3) mention that English is spoken by many people and commonly learned as a foreign language in different countries. This indicates that English has become a global language and is considered one of the most popular languages in the world. Most people around the world use English because it functions as an international language. Munday (2016, p. 8) states that translation is the process of transferring a written text from a source language to a target language. To ensure accurate meaning in translation, translators must understand various translation techniques, as not everything in the source language can be directly translated into the target language. According to Zhonggang (2006, p. 54-55), The translation process includes all parts of the original text, such as language, culture, intentions, feelings, style, and time, and the translated text should be easy to read, smooth, and as similar as possible to the original. Therefore, it is crucial for translators to apply translation techniques carefully, ensuring that the meaning of the source text is preserved in the target text while balancing the loss and gain of meaning, tone, and style.

According to Bassnett (2002, p. 38), the concepts of loss and gain in translations are essential to understanding how meaning is transferred from one language to another. Loss occurs when certain elements of the source text, such as cultural nuances, idiomatic expressions, or specific references, cannot be directly translated into the target language. This leads to a loss of meaning or a change in how the message is understood. On the other hand, gain happens when the translator added new elements to make the message more understandable or culturally relevant in the target language. This can involve adding context, rephrasing expressions, or providing additional explanations to ensure clarity for the audience. In the context of subtitling for movies, translators must balance these factors. They need to preserve the original message while adjusting it to fit the limitations of subtitles, such as the time available for reading and the need for clarity, ensuring the translation is both accurate and effective. The process involves balancing the original meaning with necessary changes to make the message clear in the target language.

Streaming platforms have become one of the most popular ways people use to watch videos (Evens, Hendrickx & Conradie, 2023, p. 4). Studies on public

preferences indicate that young people tend to choose streaming platforms rather than traditional TV. These platforms help them feel connected to certain social groups and stay updated on trends like *Stranger Things* or *Marvel*, both online and offline. In movies, characters often speak in ways that go beyond straightforward or literal language, which makes the translation process more complex. This leads to the use of translation techniques such as loss and gain. In the process of translating audiovisual texts such as subtitles, certain adjustments are often made. These adjustments can result in loss or gain, where some elements from the source text are either omitted or added in the target text. For instance, during subtitle translation, some parts of the original sentence structure, wordplay, or expressions might be adjusted, shortened, or left out. This results in loss. On the other hand, the translated version might include added clarification or slight restructuring to maintain clarity or fluency in the target language, resulting in gain. These changes are not just meant to keep the original meaning, but also to apply the right translation techniques so that the text can still make sense and flow naturally in both languages.

According to Cintas and Remael (2020, p. 9-11), subtitles are text shown at the bottom of the screen that explains what the characters are saying or doing. There are two types of subtitles based on the language used which are intralingual and interlingual subtitles. Intralingual subtitles appear in the same language as the spoken dialogue, converting spoken words into written text. Meanwhile, interlingual subtitles provide a written translation of the characters' dialogue along with other verbal or audio information. These subtitles are commonly used in foreign films or shows to help viewers understand content that is presented in a language they do not speak.

Movies are a medium where dialogue often conveys emotions and ideas, sometimes involving subtle changes in meaning during translation. In this study, the focus is on analyzing how loss and gain occur in the subtitles of the *Uncharted* (2022), specifically from English (SL) to Indonesian language (TL). The aim is to identify how certain parts of the dialogue are either lost or added in the translation to make it clearer or more understandable for the target audience.

The film *Uncharted* (2022) was selected as the data source for this study due to its narrative content and diverse linguistic features, which present a wide range of translation challenges. As a family film that combines elements of fantasy, humor, and emotional depth, *Uncharted* (2022) features dialogues that are both expressive and contextually nuanced. Moreover, *Uncharted* (2022) offers numerous instances where translation strategies must be applied to bridge cultural and linguistic differences between the source language (English) and the target language (Indonesian). This is evident in various segments where meaning is either shortened or expanded to suit the comprehension and cultural context of the target audience.

Subtitles play an important role in helping audiences understand films presented in a foreign language. In subtitle translation, the translator must deliver the intended meaning accurately and naturally within strict limitations of time and space. Since subtitles appear only briefly on screen and must fit within a limited number of characters per line, translators are often required to decide which parts of the original dialogue to keep simplify or add so that the message remains clear and easy to read.

The topic of loss and gain is important to explore in this context because it shows how meaning can shift when moving from the source language to the target language. As explained by Bassnet (2002), loss refers to the omission of certain words expressions or nuances that are not included in the subtitle. Gain refers to the addition of information that is not explicitly stated in the source language but is added to help the audience better understand the context. These changes are not necessarily mistakes. They are often strategic decisions made by the translator, but they still need to be examined to understand how well the message is preserved.

By analyzing loss and gain, this study aims to explain how translation techniques help adapt film dialogue for Indonesian viewers. In the case of *Uncharted* (2022), many expressions are informal and context-dependent, which makes direct translation difficult. These expressions need to be adjusted so the meaning remains clear and appropriate for the target audience. This study provides a clearer understanding of how subtitle translation works within limited space and time, and how translators make choices to keep the meaning accurate while also

ensuring the subtitles are easy to read and match the flow of the film. It also shows how translation affects the overall viewing experience by helping the audience follow the story naturally in their own language.

Several previous studies have discussed loss and gain in the translation process. Putri (2018) examined the translation of *Big Nate* comic strips and explained that translators often remove or add certain parts, such as words, phrases, or clauses, to make the translation easier to understand and sound more natural for the Indonesian audience. Similarly, Wulandari (2020) studied loss and gain in the translation of Gayle Forman's novel *If I Stay*. This study found that gain occurred more frequently than loss, with the translator using techniques like reduction, amplification, linguistic compression, and linguistic amplification. Based on these studies, this study aims to analyze the occurrences of loss and gain in the subtitle translation of *Uncharted* (2022) and to identify the translation techniques used.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, there are two questions that need to be answered through this study, namely:

1. How are the meanings of loss and gain in translation found in the subtitle of the film *Uncharted* (2022)?
2. What kinds of translation techniques are used in the process of loss and gain in the film *Uncharted* (2022)?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

1. To find out how the meanings of loss and gain in translation are found in the subtitle of the film *Uncharted* (2022).
2. To identify the translation techniques used to produce loss and gain in the Indonesian translation of the film *Uncharted* (2022).

1.4 Significance of the Study

1. This study contributes to translation studies, particularly in the area of loss and gain in subtitle translation of movies. By identifying and analyzing cases of loss and gain in the subtitle translation of the film *Uncharted* (2022), this study deepens the understanding of how meaning can be reduced or added to suit the context, language, and space limitations in subtitles. It also serves as a reference for future study related to loss and gain and the application of Molina and Albir's techniques.
2. This study offers insight to readers and viewers by showing how subtitle translation can influence their understanding of dialogue, and character interactions. By examining the use of translation techniques, this study helps the audience become more aware of how certain meanings can be lost or expanded in the translation process.

1.5 Methodology of the Study

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method to identify and describe the translation techniques related to loss and gain found in the subtitles of the film *Uncharted* (2022). According to Creswell (2009, p. 1), the qualitative descriptive method involves a straightforward, yet comprehensive, approach to exploring and describing a phenomenon. The qualitative descriptive approach allows for a systematic analysis of how translation techniques are applied in subtitle where elements of the original dialogue are either reduced (loss) or expanded (gain) in the Indonesian subtitle.

The source of the data was taken from the English dialogues in the 2022 film *Uncharted* (2022) as the source language and the Indonesian subtitles as the target language. *Uncharted* (2022) is an action-adventure film directed by Ruben Fleischer, based on the popular video games series of the same name. The film was released in 2022 and has a duration of approximately 116 minutes. It tells the story of treasure hunter Nathan Drake as he embarks on a dangerous quest to find a legendary treasure while facing various obstacles and enemies. The film combines elements of action, adventure, and humor. The dialogues in *Uncharted* (2022) often involve detailed explanations, narratives, or descriptive language. This

characteristic common in action-adventure film presents specific challenges for subtitling. The need to condense lengthy dialogues to meet reading time and space constraints requires the application of translation techniques that can effectively shorten and simplify the original content while preserving its core meaning.

The data for this study is taken from the subtitles in the movie. The focus of the analysis is on identifying instances of loss and gain in the translation process. This study examines how the meaning of the original language is conveyed in the target language, paying particular attention to any information that is added or omitted during translation. Specifically, the study will utilize the translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002) to analyze how the translation techniques influence the accuracy and naturalness of the message in the target language. This will include exploring how certain details may be lost or gained in the translation, and how these changes affect the overall understanding of the dialogue. The data analyzed consists of utterances from the movie's main characters, namely Nate, Sam, Chloe, Sully, Santiago, and Braddock.

Data collection methods and techniques refer to the approaches and tools used to obtain relevant information for research purposes. In this study, the writer employed the observation method known as "*simak bebas libat cakap*" (non-participant observation), as described by Mahsun (2017, p. 267–270). This method involves observing language use without engaging in the communicative activity itself. The writer acted as a passive observer by watching the film *Uncharted* (2022) and collecting data from the English utterances and Indonesian subtitles. To support this method, the notetaking technique was applied, where relevant instances of loss and gain in the subtitle translation were recorded systematically using a data sheet. According to Mahsun, this technique allows researchers to document linguistic phenomena through structured observation without interfering in the language events being studied.

To analyze the collected data, the writer applied the extralingual equivalent method. According to Mahsun (2017, p. 118-120), the extralingual equivalent method is used when the meaning or function of language is understood through elements outside the language itself, such as social, cultural, or situational context. This method is particularly relevant for this study as the analysis focuses on the

changes in meaning that occur during the translation process, particularly the loss or gain of information. The meaning of certain expressions cannot be understood solely through grammar or structure, especially when they are influenced by cultural or situational factors. This method allows for a deeper understanding of how context plays a role in the translation, especially when certain details are added or omitted.

This study analyzes the English to Indonesian subtitles of the film *Uncharted* (2022). The analysis focuses on the translation techniques used to convey meaning from the source language to the target language. The writer analyzed the selected utterances by organizing them into a table with four columns. The first column showed the source language, the second column displayed the target language, the third column indicated whether the data involved loss or gain, and the fourth column indicated the translation technique used. This table allowed for a clear comparison of the source and target languages, enabling the writer to analyze how information was either omitted (loss) or added (gain) in the subtitles, along with which translation technique was used in each case. The writer then examined the translation process using the translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002). By examining the translation techniques used, the writer analyzed how the changes in meaning affected the accuracy and completeness of the subtitles, and how these changes contributed to the occurrence of loss or gain in the translation.

In summary, this study was initially conducted by:

1. The writer watched the film *Uncharted* (2022) on Netflix while observing the English dialogues and the Indonesian subtitles.
2. The writer identified utterances that showed signs of loss (reduction of information) or gain (addition of information) in the subtitles.
3. The writer selected the utterances and organized them into a table to allow easier comparison between the source and target languages that contain loss or gain, with the translation technique used for each instance as the final data for analysis.

4. After that, the writer analyzed the collected data using the translation techniques by Molina and Albir (2002), aiming to identify which techniques were used in loss and gain.

1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study

This study focuses on examining the translation techniques related to loss and gain found in the subtitles of the film *Uncharted* (2022), with the original English dialogue used as the source language and the Indonesian subtitle as the target language. The analysis is centered on utterances from main characters characters that contain elements of loss and gain. This study aims to identify and describe the translation techniques used when parts of the original dialogue are reduced or expanded in the subtitle. This study uses the translation techniques by Molina and Albir to identify the techniques applied in the subtitle where loss and gain occur.

However, this study has several limitations. First, it only analyzes the subtitles of the film *Uncharted* (2022) from Netflix and does not include other versions or adaptations of the film. Second, the analysis is limited to the text itself. This study focuses only on how loss and gain appear in the subtitles and identifying the translation techniques are used when loss and gain occur in the subtitles.

1.7 Status of the Study

There have been several studies that explore the concept of loss and gain in translation, each approaching it from different angles and text types. Among those, some studies have also addressed this phenomenon in a way that relates closely to the present study. The first is a study titled "*Loss and Gain in Translation of Culture Specific Items in Ahmad Tohari's Lintang Kemukus*" by Tiwiyanti and Retnomurti (2017) which focuses on how culture specific items are translated and identifies where loss and gain occur in the novel's translation. The result shows that loss is more prevalent than gain although the translator has enough knowledge on the source text culture.

The second is *"Loss and Gain in Translation Process in Big Nate Comic Strips Books Into Indonesian"* by Utamayasa, Pastika & Sukarini (2018) which examines the translation of humor and cultural references in comic strips, particularly the balance between retaining original meaning and adapting to a new audience. The result shows that the translator sometimes removed or added parts of the sentences, such as words, phrases, or clauses, to make the translation easier to understand and sound more natural in the target language.

The third study *"Loss and Gain in the Bilingual Handbook Tanjung Emas Sebagai Central Point Port"* by Sholikin (2013) analyzes how technical and cultural terms are translated in a bilingual tourism handbook. The result of this study shows that there are 18 patterns of loss and gain found in the bilingual handbook, with 7 categorized as loss and 11 as gain. The translator applied loss in order to make the target language more acceptable and easier to read. On the other hand, gain was used to help fully express the meaning of the original text in the translation.

The fourth is *"Translation Techniques of Loss and Gain in the Translation of Novel If I Stay"* by Sari (2020) which discusses the forms of loss and gain found in the translation of Gayle Forman's novel entitled *If I Stay* and identifies the translation techniques that are used in translating them. The result shows that there are 120 forms of loss and gain. This includes 43 forms of loss and 77 forms of gain. In detail, there are 12 forms of linguistic compression, 31 forms of reduction, 24 forms of amplification, and 53 forms of linguistic amplification.

The fifth is a study titled *"Loss and Gain in English Subtitle Translation of Tilik Movie's Culture Specific Items"* by Firdausi and Setiawan (2022) which discusses the cultural loss and gain in translating culture specific items from Javanese into English subtitles. The result shows that cultural loss and gain often happen in the translation process, and translators use several strategies such as reduction, addition, generalization, compensation, and deletion to handle loss and gain.

Based on the previous studies that had been explained above, there are some similarities between this study and the previous ones, particularly in terms of the subject matter which is loss and gain. Although these previous studies offer valuable insights into the application of loss and gain in various written forms

including novels, comics, handbooks, and local film, this study centers on the English subtitles as the source language and Indonesian as the target language in the film *Uncharted* (2022). Subtitling presents its own unique challenges such as spatial limitations and time constraints which directly impact how meaning is transferred across languages. This study aims to identify loss and gain within the film's subtitles while examining the specific translation techniques used based on Molina and Albir's theory.

1.8 Organization of the Study

1. Chapter I – Introduction

This chapter introduces the study topic of loss and gain in the film *Uncharted* (2022). It includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, purposes of the study, significances of the study, methodology of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and status of the study.

2. Chapter II – Review of Related Literature

This chapter presents the theories used in the study, focusing on the concept of loss and gain by Susan Bassnett and translation techniques by Molina and Albir.

3. Chapter III – Finding and Discussions

This chapter discusses the findings from the selected utterances in the film *Uncharted* (2022). It analyzes the loss and gain that have been found in the utterances and explains what translation techniques were used to deliver them into the target language.

4. Chapter IV – Conclusion

This chapter presents the conclusion of the study based on the findings and discussion. It also offers suggestions for future study, especially for studies that focus on loss and gain in translation.