

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

In the modern era, literature is not only understood as written works such as poetry, prose, drama, and essays, but can also appear in other forms, such as films and song lyrics. Literature is not only valued as a source of universal truths, but also as a medium that reflects human experiences, emotions, cultural values, and social realities (Khan, 2021). One form of work that can be studied as literature is song lyrics because they contain themes, language style, emotions, and certain messages. Song lyrics can be considered literary works because they combine lyrics and melody to deliver meanings and messages either directly or indirectly (Santika et al., 2023). In musical films, song lyrics do not only function as entertainment, but also help build the atmosphere, describe the characters, and strengthen the storyline. Therefore, film soundtrack lyrics can become an object of linguistic and literary study, especially when they contain the use of figurative language.

Music is one of the most popular forms of entertainment enjoyed by people around the world. Many songs are written in various foreign languages, such as English, Korean, Japanese, and others, and are widely listened to by audiences from diverse linguistic backgrounds. However, language differences often make it difficult for listeners to fully understand the meaning conveyed in song lyrics. Therefore, translation plays an important role in helping audiences understand the message and providing access to the meaning conveyed in songs written in foreign languages. In modern literary studies, analysis is not limited to printed literary works, but may also include audiovisual media such as films and song lyrics. Song lyrics, including movie soundtracks, can be analyzed as literary texts because they contain figurative language, imagery, and expressive meanings. Therefore, the analysis of personification in soundtrack lyrics is relevant in literary and translation studies (Klarer, 2004; Fata & Aprilya, 2021; Sari, 2021). This development shows that film soundtrack lyrics can be analyzed not only as musical elements, but also

as meaningful texts that contain language style and figurative expressions. The process of translating song lyrics involves more than replacing words from the source language with words in the target language. The translator also needs to consider meaning, context, figurative expressions, and emotional effects so that the message of the lyrics can be properly conveyed.

This becomes more challenging when the lyrics contain personification because the translator has to preserve the human-like qualities given to non-human entities. Therefore, translation techniques are needed to examine how personification expressions are transferred from English into Indonesian. Molina and Albir (2002) define translation techniques as procedures used to analyze and describe how translation equivalence works in relation to the source text and the target text. Through these techniques, the researcher can identify whether the translator applies literal translation, modulation, adaptation, or other techniques in translating personification expressions.

Figurative language in the soundtrack lyrics of the *Aladdin* film creates magical, emotional, and imaginative effects. In the soundtrack lyrics of the *Aladdin* film, figurative language refers to words or expressions that are not used with their basic or literal meaning, but with a more imaginative meaning to create a special effect (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026). In literary works, figurative language is used to express and emphasize human feelings, emotions, and experiences, and it helps readers or listeners imagine the writer's intended meaning (Tambunsaribu et al., 2024). In song lyrics, figurative language can make the lyrics more meaningful, expressive, and aesthetically interesting (Siagian & Englishtina, 2022). There are various types of figurative language commonly found in literary works and song lyrics, such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, metonymy, and personification. Each type serves a different purpose; for instance, a simile compares two things using “like” or “as,” while hyperbole uses exaggeration for emphasis. Among these various categories, personification is one of the figurative expressions that can make literary texts more expressive and imaginative. According to Abrams (1999) as cited in Syafitri and Marlinton (2018), personification is a figurative expression that gives human characteristics, actions, or qualities to non-human things. Based on this

defined, the writer classifies the personified elements according to the kinds of non-human things that receive human characteristics. The classification includes natural phenomena, abstract concepts, inanimate objects, and animals or non-human creatures. This classification is used to make the analysis more systematic and can be described as if they are able to think, feel, speak, act, or have intentions like human beings.

The goal of this research is to identify the translation techniques applied to personification expressions in the selected soundtrack lyrics of the *Aladdin* film. In this study, the English soundtrack lyrics as the source language and the Indonesian translation as the target language are used as the primary data. *Aladdin* is a musical fantasy film that uses songs to support the storyline, describe the characters, and build the magical atmosphere of the film. The selected songs in this study are “Speechless,” “A Whole New World,” “Arabian Nights,” “Friend Like Me,” “One Jump Ahead,” and “Prince Ali.” After observing the English lyrics and their Indonesian translation, several personification expressions were found in the selected soundtracks. These expressions personification contains figurative meaning, its translation needs to be analyzed carefully because the target text should transfer not only the literal meaning, but also the figurative and emotional effects of the source text.

Molina and Albir’s (2002) theory is used in this study because it provides a clear framework for analyzing translation techniques from the source language into the target language. Their theory helps the writer to identify how personification expressions are translated, whether through literal translation, modulation, adaptation, or other techniques. Therefore, this theory is relevant for analyzing the translation of personification expressions in the *Aladdin* film soundtrack lyrics.

1.2. Statement of the problem

This study tries to answer the following questions:

1. What categories of personified elements based on Abrams definition of personification are found in the selected soundtrack lyrics of the *Aladdin* film?

2. What translation techniques are used to translate the personification in the *Aladdin* film soundtracks lyrics based on Molina and Albir theory?

1.3. Objective of the Study

This study tries to answer the questions below:

1. To identify and classify the personified elements found in the selected soundtrack lyrics of the *Aladdin* film based on Abrams (1999) definition of personification.
2. To identify the translation techniques applied to personification expressions found in the song lyrics of the *Aladdin* film soundtrack based on Molina and Albir's (2002) theory.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are expected to provide a bilingual educational translation program because they pertain to:

1. Future academics

This study can act as a stepping stone or a comparative study for those who wish to analyze other cla of figurative language or different movie soundtracks.

2. Student at Universitas Kristen Indonesia, especially the Faculty of Letters and Languages

For Students it is this research can serve as a reference, for English Literature students who are interested in conducting stylistic or literary analysis on song lyrics.

3. The readers

This study is expected to enrich the existing body of knowledge regarding figurative language, specifically personification. It aims to provide a deeper understanding of how Abrams theory can be applied to analyze modern popular culture, such as film soundtracks.

1.5. Methodology of the Study

A descriptive qualitative methodology was implemented in this investigation. Qualitative descriptive research is method that is frequently employed to provide a detailed explanation of the setting, process, or occurrence

under investigation in order to describe social phenomena Yuliani (2018). This approach is appropriate for the current investigation due to the fact that the data is presented in the form of song lyrics, phrases, and words, necessitating interpretation rather than statistical measurement. The writer was able to describe the categories of personification expressions and the translation techniques applied to those expressions in the selected song lyrics of the Aladdin film soundtrack through this method. Furthermore, Yuliani (2018) elucidates that qualitative data analysis entails the reduction of data, the presentation of data, and the formulation of conclusions. Consequently, the data in this study were condensed by selectively selecting lyrics that contained personification expressions, which were then presented in the form of classification and explication. The conclusions were drawn based on the categories of personification and the translation techniques that were identified in the data.

The writer employed a descriptive qualitative approach to identify and describe the data in this study, as the objective was to determine the translation techniques that were employed to convey personification expressions in the soundtrack lyrics of the Aladdin film. This method was appropriate because the data were in the form of words, phrases, and expressions that necessitated interpretation based on their context and figurative meaning.

The data for this research were obtained from the official Disney platform, specifically from the Indonesian subtitles and song lyrics featured in the Aladdin film. The target language (TL) data were obtained from the Indonesian subtitle translation supplied in the film, while the source language (SL) data were derived from the English song lyrics. Based on Molina and Albir's theory, the writer selected the lyrics that contained personification expressions and compared them to their Indonesian translations in order to identify the translation techniques. The selected soundtracks used as the data source were "Arabian Nights," "One Jump Ahead," "Speechless," "Friend Like Me," "Prince Ali," and "A Whole New World." These song were chosen because they contain figurative expressions, especially personification, which are relevant to the focus of this study. The data consisted of

words, phrases, clauses, or lines in the lyrics that contain personification expressions.

Based on Abrams (1999) concept, the writer identified personification expressions as a form of figurative language in which human qualities are attributed to non-human entities. Then, the writer compared the personification expressions found in the source language with their Indonesian translation as the target language (TL). The expressions were classified based on the entities that receive human-like qualities, actions, or characteristics, including abstract concepts, inanimate objects. After that, the writer identify the translation techniques used to translate those expressions by applying Molina and Albir's (2002) theory of translation techniques. This analysis was conducted to understand how the meaning and stylistic effect of personification were transferred from the source language into the target language.

Technique of Data Collection

The data were collected through the following steps:

1. Watching the film

The data were obtained from the *Aladdin* film accessed through Disney+ <https://www.apps.disneyplus.com/> which was used as the official source of the movie. The source language data were taken from the English soundtrack lyrics, while the target language data were taken from the Indonesian subtitle displayed during the musical scenes. This phase aimed to comprehend the movie's content or message, helping the writer selection of the subtitle containing the translation technique.

2. Collecting the Data

The personification expressions found in the soundtrack lyrics were collected by selecting data from English lyrics and Indonesian subtitles of the *Aladdin* film accessed through Disney+. The selected data were then categorized based on the definition of personification proposed by Abrams (1999) as cited in Nainggolan et al. (2022),

3. Analyzing the Data

The data were described by explaining the categories of personification found in the English soundtrack lyrics and the translation techniques used in

the Indonesian subtitles. The translation techniques were analyzed based on Molina and Albir's (2002) theory.

1.6. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The writer takes study using movies especially soundtrack lyrics of the *Aladdin* film. In this soundtracks contain various language phenomena that can be analyzed, such as figurative language, metaphor, imagery, symbolism, idiomatic expressions, and translation techniques. However, this study is limited to the analysis of personification expressions and the translation techniques used to translate them into Indonesian. This study focuses on personification because it is a categories of figurative language that attributes human qualities, actions, or characteristics to non-human entities, as proposed by Abrams (1999). The writer identifies the personification expressions found in the English soundtrack lyrics and compares them with their Indonesian translations.

Then, the translation techniques are analyzed by applying the theory of translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002). The data of this study are taken from the English soundtrack lyrics and Indonesian translations of the *Aladdin* film. The selected soundtracks are "Arabian Nights," "One Jump Ahead," "Speechless," "Friend Like Me," "Prince Ali," and "A Whole New World." These songs are selected because they contain personification expressions that are relevant to the focus of the research. The data consist of words, phrases, clauses, or lines that contain personification expressions in the source language and their translations in the target language.

1.7. Status of the Study

Lots research has been done on translation techniques in translating personification expressions, including:

1. An essay from 2021 titled *The Metaphorical Translation's Analysis in Soundtrack Lyrics "The Disney Aladdin 2019 Movie"* by Kartika (2021). The researchers used Newmark's theory to classify the types of metaphors and Larson's theory to analyze the strategies used in translating metaphors. The study found that the most dominant type of metaphor was standard

metaphor. It also found that the most frequently used translation strategy was replacing the metaphor with another metaphor that belongs to the target language. However, there are differences between their research and the writer's research. Their research focused on metaphor translation, while the writer's research focuses on personification expressions. Their research used Newmark's and Larson's theories, while the writer's research uses Abrams' theory to identify personification and Molina and Albir's theory to analyze translation techniques. The similarity of both researches is that both use the soundtrack lyrics of the *Aladdin* film and both discuss translation from English into Indonesian.

2. The writer also found titled *An Analysis of Figurative Languages Used in Disney Songs' Lyrics by Naomi Scott and John Legend Featuring Ariana Grande* By Ramadhani et al. (2024) This study discussed figurative language in Disney song lyrics. The researchers analyzed three songs, namely "Speechless," "A Whole New World," and "Beauty and The Beast." They found five types of figurative language in the songs, namely metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, and paradox. The study found 18 data of figurative language in total. However, there are differences between their research and the writer's research. Their research focused on several types of figurative language in Disney songs, while the writer's research focuses specifically on personification expressions in the selected soundtrack lyrics of the *Aladdin* film. Their research only identified and explained figurative language, while the writer's research analyzes the translation techniques used to translate personification expressions from English into Indonesian. The similarity of both researches is that both discuss figurative language in Disney song lyrics and both include personification as one of the important aspects.
3. The writer found with titled *Analysis of Figurative Language and Translation Strategies in Picture Me Gone* by Warminingsih and Syamsurrijal (2025). This study discussed figurative language and translation strategies found in Meg Rosoff's novel *Picture Me Gone* and its

Indonesian translation. Their research used a novel as the object of analysis, while the writer's research uses selected soundtrack lyrics from the *Aladdin* film. Their research analyzed several types of figurative language, while the writer's research focuses specifically on personification expressions. Their research used Newmark's translation theory, while the writer's research uses Abrams' theory of personification and Molina and Albir's theory of translation techniques. The similarity of both researches is that both discuss figurative language, personification, and translation from English into Indonesian.

Based on the three previous studies, the writer's research is different because it focuses specifically on personification expressions and translation techniques in the selected soundtrack lyrics of the *Aladdin* film. Kartika et al. discussed metaphor translation, Ramadhani et al. discussed figurative language in Disney songs, while Warminingsih and Syamsurrijal discussed figurative language and translation strategies in a novel. Therefore, this research uses Abrams' theory to identify personification and Molina and Albir's theory to analyze the translation techniques.

1.8. Organization of the Study

Chapter I - Introduction.

This chapter provides the background of the study, statements of the problem, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, the methodology of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, the status of the study, and the organization of the study.

Chapter II - Review of Related Literature.

This chapter contains the theories that underlie this research. It contains definitions of translation, techniques of translation, figurative language, personification, concept of personification, song lyric.

Chapter III - Findings and Discussion.

This chapter contains the answers to the research problems by identifying

the personification expressions found in the selected soundtrack lyrics of the *Aladdin* film and analyzing the translation techniques used in translating those expressions into Indonesian. The data are taken from the source language and target language, which will be explained in this chapter.

Chapter IV - Conclusions and Suggestions.

This chapter will consist of the conclusion and suggestions of the research. It summarizes the findings related to personification expressions and translation techniques, and provides suggestions for future researchers, students, readers, and translators.

