

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Translation is defined as the replacement of textual material in one language (Source Language, henceforth SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (Target Language, henceforth TL) (Catford, 1965). Translation became an essential way for people to foster international understanding because it allows them to share stories and experiences as well as data and information on a global scale. Moreover, languages interact continuously, and the translator faces the difficult job of conveying the cultural differences from the source language in addition to accurately translating its precise meaning. As a result, this one-way process goes from the Source Language (SL) to the Target Language (TL), require a thorough understanding of linguistic and cultural aspects. Translating becomes a complex process that involves more than just changing words into another language. However, the complexities of translation present serious difficulties, particularly when some jargons in the Source Language (SL) are difficult to translate accurately into the Target Language (TL).

Translating movies presents a unique set of challenges, primarily because it requires more than just a straightforward conversion of language. A variety of cultural factors come into play, each of which has a significant impact on the translation process. Translating movies from one language to another can be very difficult, especially when it comes to keeping the meaning, tone, and humor the same. This is especially true for comedy films, which often use wordplay, sarcasm, or jokes that only make sense in the original language. For example, a joke that is funny in one language might not be funny at all when translated directly into another language. Sarcasm can also be hard to translate because it often depends on the way something is said, not just the words. If the translator doesn't find a good way to show that sarcasm in the new language, the line may sound serious instead of funny or witty. (Garcia et al., 2022) Translating movies from one language to another can be very difficult, especially when it comes to keeping the meaning, tone, and humor

the same. This is especially true for comedy films, which often use wordplay, sarcasm, or jokes that only make sense in the original language. For example, a joke that is funny in one language might not be funny at all when translated directly into another language. Sarcasm can also be hard to translate because it often depends on the way something is said, not just the words. If the translator doesn't find a good way to show that sarcasm in the new language, the line may sound serious instead of funny or clever. (Garcia et al., 2022) These factors include the cultural references, idiomatic expressions, humor, and social norms embedded within the original content. Translators must not only be fluent in both the source and target languages but also deeply understand the cultural contexts of both to convey the intended meaning accurately. This task becomes even more complex when the source material includes humor, sarcasm, or cynicism, which are often rooted in specific cultural nuances and may not have direct equivalents in the target language. The translator must then decide how to adapt these elements—whether to maintain the original tone and risk losing the audience's understanding, or to modify the content to make it more relatable to the target audience. The delicate balance between staying true to the original material and making it accessible to a new audience is at the heart of the translation process in film, making it a task that requires both linguistic skill and cultural insight.

Difficulties in translating a movie are mainly due to the cultural differences, specifically the jargons, blasphemy, pseudonyms, and gestures that are found within the movie (Ajazi Kristina, 2014). Jargon, which is often specific to a particular profession, community, or cultural group. These specialized terms can be difficult to translate accurately, as they may not have direct equivalents in the target language or may require a deep understanding of the culture to be properly conveyed. Blasphemy presents another layer of complexity, as it involves expressions that may be considered offensive or taboo in the source culture. Translating such content requires careful consideration, as the translator must navigate the fine line between preserving the original intent and respecting the sensitivities of the target audience. Pseudonyms and gestures add further complications. Pseudonyms, which often carry specific connotations or cultural significance, can lose their meaning or impact when translated literally. Translators

must find ways to convey the underlying meaning or significance of these pseudonyms while adapting them to fit the target culture. Similarly, gestures, which can vary widely between cultures, may not translate directly and can lead to misunderstandings if not adapted appropriately. Overall, these cultural elements: jargon, blasphemy, pseudonyms, and gestures—make the process of translating a movie a highly nuanced and challenging endeavor, requiring not only linguistic expertise but also a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures.

Concerning humor, the impacts of cultural diversity are particularly pronounced, making it one of the most challenging elements to translate. Comedic aspects in films are deeply context-dependent, often relying on cultural references, wordplay, or social norms that may not have direct counterparts in other languages or cultures. This context-dependency means that humor is intricately tied to the specific cultural environment in which it was created, and translating it requires more than just linguistic knowledge—it demands a keen understanding of the cultural nuances and subtleties that shape the humor in the original content. Without this thorough understanding, there's a high risk that the humor could be mistranslated or lost entirely, leading to a version of the film that fails to resonate with the target audience in the way the original did. The translator must carefully consider not just the words, but the underlying cultural elements that make the humor effective, and find ways to adapt these elements so that they work within the context of the target culture. This is especially apparent in English-language movies with a lot of sarcastic remarks in the dialogues, where viewers who don't speak the language commonly require subtitles to understand the conversation happening.

Unfortunately, mistakes in translation can have a significant impact on the effectiveness of the original content, particularly when it comes to conveying cynicism and sarcasm in subtitles. Translating a novel, poem, or short story involves much more than just changing words from one language into another. It requires the translator to capture the author's feelings, ideas, and cultural meanings while still making the text sound natural in the new language. There are many difficulties that translators encounter during the process of translating, but as studies shown, the hardest elements to translate are those that belong to cultural aspects. This includes word plays, idioms, slangs, phrasal expressions and phonetical aspects.

(Anataichuk et al., 2023) These forms of expression involve humor, sarcasm and cynicism. They rely heavily on tone, timing, and cultural context, making them especially vulnerable to misinterpretation or dilution in translation. When not handled with care, the sharpness or wit intended by the original creators can become flat, losing its intended punchline or even being misunderstood entirely. The risk of losing the essence of these comedic devices underscores the importance of a nuanced and culturally aware approach to translation, especially in the context of subtitling. As a result of this, viewers might discover that they are missing out on the mockery that was intended for the movie, emphasizing how difficult it is to have a flawless translation that accurately conveys the variety of both cultural and linguistic details. Even with a great translation, there is no guarantee that the diverse aspects of a movie will be accurately translated, but with the correct approach of translation, it is hoped that the punchline in a movie can be delivered well.

The 2015 film *Ant-Man* is an exceptional movie among the numerous popular English-language movies that had been aired in the Indonesian cinemas. It is not only considered as one of the funniest movies that have ever appeared on the big screen, but it also successfully combines humor and action. Even with many comical traits, *Ant-Man* maintains the thrilling action scenes, which makes for an entertaining movie that will make the viewers laugh and feel excited at the same time. The movie, which was directed by Peyton Reed, takes on the uncommon superhero narrative, providing viewers with an amazing universe where interesting superhero story mixes with the antics of size-shifting. This movie is chosen by the researcher as the source of data due to the movie's dialogues that often display elements of cynicism and sarcasm explicitly. This will be highly relevant for a study about translation method on cynicism and sarcasm. The main character, Scott Lang, is portrayed as an ex-convict who becomes a hero by accident. He often used sarcastic remarks and cynical humor to cope with his circumstances.

In addition, *Ant-Man* received positive critical and audience reviews. This supports its selection as a good research material. According to Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an 83% *Tomatometer* score based on 338 reviews; *Metacritic* reports a 64/100 rating, indicating generally favourable reviews. These reviews are checked as of 12 October 2025. The film's unique way to blend various kinds of humor

provides an ideal context to explore how cynicism and sarcasm are translated across languages.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

There are two problems that are examined in this research:

1. What are cynicism and sarcasm that are found in the movie *Ant-Man* (2015)?
2. What kind of translation method is used to translate cynicism and sarcasm in the movie *Ant-Man* (2015)?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

There are two objectives from this research that answer the questions, which are:

1. To find out what cynicism and sarcasm utterances that are found in the movie *Ant-Man* (2015)
2. To analyse the translation methods that are used to translate the cynicism and sarcasm in the movie *Ant-Man* (2015)

1.4 Significance of the Study

With this research, it is hoped that it's be beneficial in the future

1. Theoretically
To provide new information and share new knowledge so translators can improve their ability to convey cynicism and sarcasm despite the differences in culture. To give a contribution of a reference for other researchers in further study. From this research, the reader is able to know the methods used to convey cynicism and sarcasm with different cultures.
2. Practically
To offer significant practical benefits by studying these forms of communication, readers can develop a deeper awareness of how language functions beyond its literal meanings. Recognizing cynicism and sarcasm in daily life can enhance social awareness, improve communication skills, and help avoid misunderstandings.

1.5 Methodology of the Study

Based on the objectives of the research on finding the translation methods that are used to convey the comedic discourse and finding ways that translation method choices could influence the conveyance of cynicism and sarcasm to viewers in the movie *Ant-Man* (2015), the researcher is using descriptive qualitative method whereas the researcher explains the data found during the research. In qualitative research, the goal of data collection is to offer support for the experience under investigation (Polkinghorne, 1998). The data comes in the form of transcript or subtitle from the movie *Ant-Man* (2015) both in English as the source language and Indonesian as the target language.

1. Data Collection

To collect data from the data source, the researcher first watched the movie *Ant-Man* (2015) to understand the plot and characters. Alongside watching the movie, the researcher did a note-taking on important things found during the movie. Not only note-taking and watching the movie, the script was read alongside to distinguish which line contained cynicism or sarcasm which became the data.

2. Data Display

The data that had been categorized were shown in a table of two; cynicism and sarcasm. After putting the found data in display, the researcher also showed the translation methods that are used to translate the data from English to Indonesian. In addition, data validation was conducted to validate that the initial data used in this research truly belonged to the categories of cynicism or sarcasm.

3. Data Validation

To ensure the accuracy and reliability of these findings, a data validation process was conducted. This was to verify that each selected datum truly represented cynicism and sarcasm rather than general humor. Each datum was examined carefully in terms of context, tone and the character intention. Then they will be compared with theoretical definitions and previous studies related to cynicism and sarcasm.

4. Data Analysis

The data source for this research was the movie titled *Ant-Man* (2015). The researcher used the original English script and the Indonesian subtitle provided by the official Disney with Disney Hotstar as the platform. The focus of the data were the dialogues that had hints of cynicism and sarcasm. After the data had been analysed, they were put in a table and was explained in detail.

1.6 Scope of Limitation

This research is specifically focused on the cynical and sarcastic dialogues found in the movie *Ant-Man* (2015) and how these elements are translated from English (Source Language) to Indonesian (Target Language). The study aims to identify the various translation methods used to convey the nuances of cynicism and sarcasm. By focusing on *Ant-Man*, a film known for its witty and sharp dialogue, the research provides insights into the challenges of translating cynicism and sarcasm that are deeply embedded in cultural and linguistic contexts. The findings aim to contribute to the broader field of translation studies by highlighting the importance of careful method selection when translating complex humor, and how these methods influence the overall experience of the target audience.

This research is specifically focused to the field of translation studies and does not extend to a detailed linguistic analysis. The focus is placed on how sarcasm and cynicism are conveyed and translated from English (Source Language) to Indonesian (Target Language) rather than on their grammatical or linguistic structure, hence this research does not discuss linguistic theories in depth but rather examines the translation methods applied to cynical and sarcastic expressions. Furthermore, the data used in this research are restricted to words or phrases that contain cynicism and sarcasm found in the *Ant-Man* (2015) movie, other types of humor or non-sarcastic dialogue are excluded to maintain the consistency of this research focus.

1.7 Status of the Study

The research about cynicism, sarcasm, and translation methods especially in a movie had been done by several researcher before. An article titled “An Analysis of Sarcasm in Marvel’s Movie: Venom” by Laela Putriana Melawati (2022) which focused on identifying and analyzing the forms and functions of sarcasm used by the characters in the film. There’s also a study titled “The Analysis of Sarcasm in Wednesday Netflix Series” by Sakila Debora Saragih (2024) that focused on the same key aspect as Melawati’s study, which is to identify and analyze the forms and functions of sarcasm. However, this research extends the analysis to include both cynicism and sarcasm as forms of expressive languages and also explores how they are translated from the original language to Indonesian. Moreover, instead of classifying sarcastic expressions, this research applies a translation-based perspective, examining the translation methods used to maintain the same meaning, tone, and cultural nuances of cynicism and sarcasm in the translated dialogues through subtitles. Differing it from the previous two studies.

An article about cynicism titled “Watching House of Cards: connecting perceived realism and cynicism” by Ioana Alexandra Manoliu (2019) that is focused in analyzing how political TV series increases cynicism. A study about cynicism titled “Satire and Cynicism in Monty Python Films and Sketches” by Štěpán Broukal (2010) focusing on satire and cynicism as humour in Monty Python films. Both of these studies approach cynicism and satire from their psychological, sociological and literacy perspectives, focusing more on the cultural impact. The present research is conducted within the field of translation studies, emphasizing how cynicism in the Ant-Man dialogues is translated. Specifically, this research examines the translation methods used to keep the tone, meaning and cultural nuances of cynical and sarcastic expressions rather than analyzing their social implications.

A journal article about translation method titled “Translation Method of English into Indonesian Used in Movie Scripts and Their Application in Translation Teaching” by Haryanti et al.,—(2020) focuses on identifying and categorizing translation methods applied in translating English movie scripts into Indonesian, as well as discussing their implications for translation teaching. However, this study

mainly emphasizes general translation methods and their educational use without examining specific expression such as cynicism or sarcasm. In contrast, the present research focuses on how cynicism and sarcasm as language expressions are translated in a movie. Rather than classifying translation methods in general, this research explores how those methods are employed to maintain the same tone and cultural nuances in the translation.

A journal titled “The Translation Methods Used in the Subtitled Dialogues in Maleficent Movie” by Nurhandini, et al., (2023) that discuss about translation methods that are used in the dialogues and describe the quality of the translation. Another study about translation methods is titled “Translation Methods and Procedures Found in the Harry Potter: the Chamber of Secrets Movie Subtitle” by Clarence Usmany (2022). These studies focus on assessing how accurately and naturally the subtitles represent the original meaning from the source language. However, this journal also does not specifically analyze particular language expression which may require a different kind of approach. The present research limits the analysis to dialogues that contain cynical and sarcastic expressions in the film Ant-Man (2015) and finds out how these expressions are translated through different translation methods.

Although there is a wealth of research on cynicism, sarcasm, and translation methods individually, the studies mentioned here are particularly influential in inspiring this research because they also use movies as their data source. Despite the existing body of work, this research maintains its originality by uniquely combining the analysis of both cynicism and sarcasm while exploring the translation methods applied to them. This approach offers a fresh perspective that has not been extensively covered in previous studies.

1.8 Organization of the Study

Chapter I of this research is introduction. In this chapter, background of the study, statements of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, methodology of the study, scope and limitation of the study, status of the study, and organization of the research are present.

Chapter II of this research is review of related literature. In this chapter, the theories that will be supporting the research will be present. It will contain the definition of translation, translation strategies, and song as a literary work.

Chapter III of this research is findings and discussion. In this chapter, the answers to the research problems including the research findings, research findings integrated into established knowledge, theories, and explanations of research results will present.

Chapter IV of this research is conclusion and suggestion. In this chapter, there will be a discussion of the research and suggestions to make good translation along with what to do with the research will present.

