

Original Article

An Analysis of Text Type and Meaning Equivalence in the Translation of One Direction's Song Lyric: The Story of My Life

¹ANGELINE STEFANY MANURUNG, ²THESSALONICA ROIDA EXAUDY SIPAHUTAR, ³COLYEN HUTABARAT, ⁴HERMAN HERMAN, ⁵YANTI KRISTINA SINAGA

^{1,2,3,4,5}Department of English Education, Universitas HKBP Nommensen Pematangsiantar, Indonesia.

ABSTRACT: *The study title “An Analysis of Text Type and Meaning Equivalence in the Translation of One Direction's Song Lyric : The Story Of My Life” eximen the intricate process of transvering emotional of semantic depth across linguistic boundaries. In the contemporary globalize world, song represent a vital form of artistic communication where translation serves as a bridge for listeners to access intended messages and emotional expressions. However, translating lyrics as a complex undertaking that demands not only linguistic accuracy but also cultural and emotional adaptation to prevent the translated version from appearing unnatural or “flat”. The primary objective this research is to categorize the text type of the song lyrics and to evaluate the degree of meaning equivalence between the original English lyrics and the Indonesian translation. The theoretical framework is encored in Reiss's text type theory (1977) and Nida & Taber's Equivalence theory (1969).*

KEYWORDS: Translation, Meaning Equivalence, Text Type, Song Lyrics, Story Of My Life.

1. INTRODUCTION

Translation is such an important figure in transferring meaning from one language to another, especially in literary and musical works like song lyrics. Songs are containing about emotions, messages, and cultural values through language. One direction's song “story of my life” is a popular song and the lyric contain expressive meanings and specific text types that gave change when translated in to another language. Translating song lyrics requires careful attention to both the text type and the equivalence is maintained or altered in translation. Through this analysis, the study seeks to understand the challenges of translation and the strategies use to preserve the original message.

Translation plays a crucial role in conveying meaning from one language to another, particularly in literary and musical works like song lyrics (Batubara et al., 2023). Songs often express emotions, messages, and cultural values through language. For example, even though songs such as One Direction's “Story of My Life” are successful, its lyrics hold expressive value and text types that can shift when spoken in another language. Therefore, the lyrics of songs such as these should consider the text types that are present and how equivalence is achieved. The text discusses translation difficulties and translator efforts to convey the original meaning.

Language is how humans send thoughts, emotions, ideas, and experiences. This represents how humans create and get messages using speech or writing (Herman & Rajagukguk, 2019). Listening and reading skills engage written texts, like song lyrics. Listening skills help listeners make meaning from within the sounds, while reading skills help users make meaning of written symbols. Reading becomes more complicated in cases of when the text is in one language and is to be read in another. Translating moves meaning from a source language into a target language. Language differences cause inexact meaning equivalents in other languages and different translations.

Translating means figuring out how to best say within the target language, with clarity and accuracy, what the original text means in effect. Song lyrics differ from other texts. Therefore, song lyrics cause difficulties. The second mini-study uses the One Direction song “Story of My Life” this band is British-Irish. The personal and emotional content of the song made it a prime subject for examining equivalence of style and meaning. Being a popular song, it is easily available in translation in many languages.

The core issue here is the difficulty of maintaining consistent meaning when translating song lyrics. Understanding this helps reveal how translation strategy's function and where meanings might change. By analyzing the text types and equivalences in translations of this song, the research aims to deepen our insight into translation practices for song lyrics.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. DEFINITION OF TRANSLATION

Translation, it is known to be one of the most complex processes in linguistic and translology area strongly relates with function transfer meaning from different languages (Baker 1992), has been widely studied. According to Nida (1964), translation is reproducing the closest natural equivalence of source language message in target language, first with regard to meaning and second for style. It embodies a definition of translation in terms whereby meaning is paramount, whilst form comes next.

Also, in a more closely related perspective Newmark (1988) postulates that translation is an art whose purpose it is to replace written communication of one language with equivalent message which was orally performed from another language into the other languages like Jakobson's perspectives ([7]). Translation is no longer just the shift of languages as Newmark points out this considering cultural and contextual aspects (Saputra et al., 2022; Sinambela et al. This perspective is supported by numerous journal publications that argue cinematic translation must consider communicative purpose and audiences in determining equivalence (Hatim & Mason, 1990).

The above definitions show that translation involves more than simple one-to-one-word replacements and is a meaning-oriented activity. This approach to translating song lyrics is especially important since the meaning of a lyric usually has nuances or artistic weight that are lost in literal translation, resulting in a translation failing its original intent.

2.2. TEXT TYPE THEORY BY KATHARINA REISS

In her 1977 text type theory, Katharina Reiss classified texts according to their communicative purpose (details of which can be found in the information above), placing them into three main categories: informative, expressive and operative. Informative texts, made to present the information itself; expressive texts directed towards highlighting artistic and aesthetic representation; operative (also called imperatives) intended to modify any action or attitude in terms of the reader.

Expressive texts are not only noted for their emotional dimension (Reiss 1971) and artistic/aesthetic functions. Such expressive pieces often reflect the author's personal feelings, contemplation of his own faculties and passions. This expressive aspect is especially pronounced when it comes to song lyrics, since they are meant to elicit emotions instead of describing facts. As a result, the language in more artistic writing is often metaphoric or symbolic; that way, the lyricist can express emotions somewhat indirectly. This characteristic is the reason why song lyrics are sometimes defined as expressive texts from a Reissian perspective.

Furthermore, identifying the type of texts is important for translation analysis since it influences a translator's method. In an expressive text the translator's expected attention is on tone and flow. As a result, maintaining meaning and emotional impact takes precedence over keeping the formal architecture intact. This perspective emphasizes the importance of flexible translation strategies in rendering song lyrics, as a simple literal approach may not convey the intended affective meaning well.

Reiss argues that the nature of expressive texts emphasizes form, style and emotional congruence to a degree which makes them especially challenging for translators. Multiple academic papers agree with this idea arguing that translators of expressive texts have to maintain the emotional and artistic aspects of an original work (Munday, 2016). Song lyrics are generally considered to be expressive texts because of the way in which they convey private emotions and artistic expression.

During the process of transferring expressive texts such as song lyrics, it is often more important to preserve stylistic elements and emotional meanings than grammatical correctness. This theoretical framework is related to the present study because it helps identifying Story of My Life text type and understanding the complexities that occur while translating its lyrics.

2.3. MEANING EQUIVALENCE THEORY BY NIDA & TABER

The concept of equivalence is a core idea in translation studies. Excerpt From Eugene Nida and Charles R. Taber (1982) Formal Equivalence vs Dynamic equivalence; indifference to domain modelling If you remember your translation theory, formal equivalence focuses on the linguistic form and textual makeup of the source language, while dynamic equivalence aims to reproduce a similar effect in target-language recipients as created by the corresponding source text. Translated expressive texts such as song lyrics often require translators to change figurative language, specifically metaphors, in order for translators reach dynamic equivalence. These changes are possible by making small adjustments to the form of a text while keeping its meaning and emotional impact intact.

Many scholars in translation argue that dynamic equivalence is more suitable for the translations of expressive work, such as song lyrics (Venuti 2000). This point of view results from assuming that the passion and meaning behind what is expressed in the lyrics take dominion over needing to keep every detail with respect to syntax or grammar. For example, studies on the translation of song lyrics demonstrate that a prescriptive adherence to formal equivalence can leave translations clumsy and inaccurate (Susam-Sarajeva 2008).

Meaning equivalence, as described by Nida and Taber (2009), captures meaning rather than the surface structure. In creative texts such as song lyrics, achieving equivalence often requires the use of dynamic equivalence. This technique allows translators to rephrase grammatical structures, choose different words and change phrases to get ahold of a natural translation in the language it is working on. This strategy is very important if you are working with idiomatic speech, because literal translations may not be interpretable or culturally relevant.

The concept of meaning equivalence in song translation is also closely associated with reader-response theory. A successful translation is expected to produce in the audience of a foreign culture an equivalent emotional response as that felt by American audiences with regard to his work. And so, changes in structure often referred to as shifts are acceptable so long the emotional content and communicative intent remains unchanged. This idea reinforces the conviction that dynamic equivalence is a technique for translating expressive texts, especially those pertaining to song lyrics.

Therefore, judging meaning equivalence in song translation relies on whether translated lyrics do indeed deliver the same message and sentiment to a similarly accordingly target audience. Such concept is pivotal in my analysis of the translation process, especially considering how much this song relies on emotional expression and personal narrative.

2.4. MEANING EQUIVALENCE IN EXPRESSIVE TEXT TRANSLATION

The concept of meaning equivalence is important in translation especially with literary forms such as song lyrics. Unlike informative texts which are mainly based on factual correctness, expressive text puts more driving force to express feelings emotions and artistic reflecting (Herlina & Yusuf, 2020). This means that equivalence in such texts does not need to correspond with the original text linguistic form. Instead, the translator should focus on generating an equivalent emotional response from its respective audience.

A common agreement by Nida and Taber (1969) describes that one reason why dynamic equivalence is best applied to quality of translating expressive texts, especially in inevitable flexibility form language without changing the meaning. Dynamic equivalence emphasizes the effect on readers as opposed to grammatical rules. For non-mimetic poetry, especially of the song lyric variety, this is often a necessary method; literal translations can lead to clunky or unidiomatic language that fails to capture the emotional depth present in any given piece.

Song lyricists frequently employ figurative language methods, such as metaphors and similes, to convey emotional meaning. Such literary devices are without direct equivalents in the target language. Thus, translators may have to adapt or simplify these figurative elements for comprehension while striving not to diminish the emotional impact. Such modifications, although changing the original lexicon of language are permissible as long as they retain utmost fidelity to meaning and emotion.

A number of researchers argue that emotional resonance should be prioritized over surface-level meaning when translating expressive texts (Munday, 2016). This perspective further supports the reason for using dynamic equivalence in song translation, as it allows a translator to imitate and reproduce the exact feeling of reading through an initial text such that the target audience experiences what was originally intended on their behalf. Thus, slight modifications in wording or structure should not be perceived as failures of translation but rather intended maneuvers to maintain meaning equivalent.

2.5. DEFINITION OF SONG AND SONG LYRICS

A song can be seen as an artistic verbal expression in which the components of language are combined with different arrangement structures to communicate emotions, ideas and personal experiences (Gorlée, 2005). According to Low (2016) song lyrics resemble poetry more than conventional prose because they often employ figurative language, rhyme and emotion. The fact that they are poetic distinguishes song lyrics from the other text forms usually studied in translation studies.

Many studies investigating song translation argue that the lyrics serve as not just linguistic entities, but also emotional narratives (Franzon, 2008; Low, 2016). The lyrics is usually made up of personal stories, memories and emotional struggles that require careful analysis during the translation. As a result, when translating song lyrics one needs to take into account not just the words themselves but also what they mean in terms of emotion.

With this analysis in mind, the song “Story of My Life” from British-Irish boy band One Direction is a story about self-discovery and personal growth. The narrative quality of the song makes it well suited for analysis in terms of text type and equivalence.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

This study uses a qualitative research method because it aims to understand the meaning, context, and translation process from English to Indonesian of the song “Story of My Life” by One Direction. This study further explains the data and reveals the

meaning of the text/lyrics of the song, thus providing better and deeper insight into the research topic in the translation and interpretation course.

3.2. DATA SOURCE

The data sources used in this study consist of two texts:

1. The original English lyrics of the song “Story of My Life” by One Direction.

The lyrics of the song “Story of My Life” by One Direction were written by all members of the band (Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Harry Styles, Liam Payne, and Louis Tomlinson) along with Julian Bunetta, Jamie Scott, and John Ryan, and released in October 2013 as a single from the album *Midnight Memories*. The song became one of their biggest hits and showcased a more serious style with personal lyrics.

Original Lyrics:

Written in these walls are
the stories that I can't explain,
I leave my heart open
but it stays right here empty for days

She told me in the morning
she don't feel the same about us in her bones,
It seems to me that when I die
these words will be written on my stone.

And I'll be gone gone tonight
The ground beneath my feet is open wide
The way that I been holdin' on too tight
With nothing in between

The story of my life I take her home
I drive all night to keep her warm
and time...
Is frozen (the story of, the story of)

The story of my life I give her hope
I spend her love until she's broke inside
The story of my life (the story of, the story of)

Written on these walls are
the colours that I can't change
Leave my heart open
but it stays right here in its cage

I know that in the morning now
I'll see us in the light upon a hill
Although I am broken my heart is untamed still

And I'll be gone gone tonight
The fire beneath my feet is burning bright
The way that I been holdin' on too tight
With nothing in between

The story of my life I take her home
I drive all night to keep her warm
and time...
Is frozen (the story of, the story of)

The story of my life I give her hope
I spend her love until she's broke inside
The story of my life (the story of, the story of)

And I been waiting for this time to come around
But baby running after you
is like chasing the clouds

The story of my life I take her home
I drive all night to keep her warm
and time...
Is frozen (the story of, the story of)

The story of my life I give her hope (give her hope)
I spend her love until she's broke inside (until she's broke inside)
The story of my life (the story of, the story of)
The story of my life
The story of my life (the story of, the story of)

The story of my life

2. The Indonesian translation of the song's lyrics
The lyrics of the song "Story of My Life" by One Direction, which have been translated into Indonesian, were taken from a website on the internet that can be accessed by the public.

Source:

https://lirik.kapanlagi.com/artis/one-direction/terjemahan-story-of-my-life/#goog_rewarded

Indonesian Lyrics :

Tertulis di dinding ini
berbagai kisah yang tak bisa kujelaskan,
Kubiarkan hatiku terbuka
tapi tetap saja hati ini kosong berhari-hari

Dia berkata padaku di suatu pagi
dia tak lagi merasa sama di antara kita,
Sepertinya nanti saat kumati
kata-kata itu akan tertulis di nisanmu.

Dan aku akan pergi malam ini
Tanah yang kupijak terbuka lebar
Peganganku terlalu erat
tak ada apapun di antaranya

Kisah hidupku, kubawa ia pulang
Aku mengemudi sepanjang malam untuk menjaganya tetap hangat
dan waktu...
Membeku (kisah, kisah)

Kisah hidupku, ku beri ia harapan
Ku habiskan seluruh cintanya hingga ia tak bersisa
Kisah hidupku (kisah, kisah)

Tertulis di dinding ini
warna yang tak bisa kuubah
Kubiarkan hatiku terbuka
tapi tetap saja terpenjara

Kutahu bahwa di pagi ini
Kita akan bermandikan cahaya di sebuah bukit
Meski hatiku hancur, tapi hatiku masih lunak

Dan aku akan pergi malam ini
Api yang kupijak makin berkobar

Peganganku terlalu erat
tak ada apapun di antaranya

Kisah hidupku, kubawa ia pulang
Ku mengemudi sepanjang malam agar ia tetap hangat
dan waktu...
Membeku (kisah, kisah)

Kisah hidupku, ku beri ia harapan
Kuserap seluruh cintanya hingga ia tak bersisa
Kisah hidupku (kisah, kisah)

Dan aku telah menunggu datangnya waktu ini
Tapi sayang, menjejarmu
bagai mengejar awan

Kisah hidupku, kubawa ia pulang
Ku mengemudi sepanjang malam agar ia tetap hangat
dan waktu...
Membeku (kisah, kisah)

Kisah hidupku, ku beri ia harapan (beri ia harapan)
Kuserap seluruh cintanya hingga ia tak bersisa (hingga ia tak bersisa)
Kisah hidupku (kisah, kisah)
Kisah hidupku
Kisah hidupku (kisah, kisah)

Kisah hidupku

The English lyrics serve as the source language (SL), while the Indonesian lyrics serve as the target language (TL).

3.3. DATA

The data used in this study includes selected lines and phrases from One Direction's song "Story of My Life." The gathered data were selected according to their relevance with regard to the theme we analysed, which is based on text types analysis and meaning equivalence between song lyrics. The lyrics analysed were sections of text types or had some real meaning.

3.4. DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUE

Data was collected through text/lyric analysis. The researchers followed several steps:

1. Carefully read the original English lyrics of One Direction's song "Story of My Life."
2. Read the Indonesian translation of the lyrics obtained from websites/the internet.
3. Compare the original English lyrics with the Indonesian translation.
4. Identify lines and phrases that represent the type of text and share similarities in meaning.
5. Select relevant data and record them for further analysis.

3.5. DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUE

The data analysis in this study was conducted through several stages:

1. Classifying song lyrics based on text type using text type theory proposed by translation experts, one of which is the text type theory by Reiss (1977).
2. Comparing the meaning of the source language (SL) and target language (TL) to identify similarities in meaning.
3. Analyzing similarities based on translation theory, then analyzing equivalence of meaning based on Nida & Taber's Theory (1969).
4. Interpreting the findings to determine whether the translated lyrics retain the original meaning.

3.6. RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

The primary instrument of this study was the researchers themselves, as is commonly used in qualitative research. The researchers analyze the data based on relevant theories relevant to the research topic, namely the analysis of text types and meaning equivalence for interpreting song lyric translations.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

This section presents the core of the research, where the collected data is processed through the theoretical lenses of Reiss (1977) and Nida & Taber (1969). The analysis evaluates the text type and measures the degree of equivalence in the translation of "Story of My Life".

The data analysis is in the table on the next page.

TABLE 1 Translation Equivalence Analysis of Selected English Song Lyrics into Indonesian

No.	Source Language (SL)	Target Language (TL)	Text Type	Meaning Equivalence	Explanation
1.	Written in these walls are the stories that I can't explain	Tertulis di dinding ini berbagai kisah yang tak bisa kujelaskan	Expressive Text	Dynamic Equivalence	The lyrics employ metaphor to illustrate individual experiences that are difficult to articulate. The translation into Indonesian preserves the metaphor and communicates the equivalent emotional essence, demonstrating dynamic equivalence.
2.	She told me in the morning she don't feel the same about us in her bones	Dia berkata padaku di suatu pagi dia tak lagi merasa sama di antara kita	Expressive Text	Dynamic Equivalence	The expression "in her bones" is not included in the translation, yet the emotional significance of feeling disconnected in a relationship is effectively communicated. As a result, dynamic equivalence is accomplished.
3.	These words will be written on my stone.	Kata-kata itu akan tertulis di nisanku	Expressive Text	Dynamic Equivalence	The phrase "my stone" transforms into "nisanku," which sounds more fluent in Indonesian. The association with death and memory continues to be unchanged.
4.	The story of my life I take her home	Kisah hidupku, kubawa ia pulang	Expressive Text	Formal and Dynamic Equivalence	The structure and meaning of the source lyric are closely maintained in the target language (TL). Both the message and emotional tone are preserved.
5.	I spend her love until she's broke inside	Ku habiskan seluruh cintanya hingga ia tak bersisa	Expressive Text	Dynamic Equivalence	Even though the phrasing varies, the interpretation effectively communicates the feelings of fatigue and dedication found in the original lyrics.
6.	But baby running after you is like chasing the clouds	Tapi sayang, mengejar kamu bagai mengejar awan	Expressive Text	Formal Equivalence	The comparison is translated literally and preserves both the format and significance of the original lyrics, showing a formal similarity.
7.	And I'll be gone tonight.	Dan aku akan pergi malam ini	Expressive Text	Formal Equivalence	The literal meaning and emotional message are directly transferred.
8.	The ground beneath my feet is open wide	Tanah yang kupijak terbuka lebar	Expressive Text	Formal Equivalence	The metaphor and structure are preserved, showing close equivalence.

9.	The way that I been holdin' on too tight	Peganganku terlalu erat	Expressive Text	Dynamic Equivalence	The phrase is made simpler in Indonesian, yet the emotional significance of connection remains intact. This illustrates dynamic equivalence.
10.	I drive all night to keep her warm	Aku mengemudi sepanjang malam untuk menjaganya tetap hangat	Expressive Text	Formal Equivalence	The action and meaning in the source lyric are translated directly into Indonesian. There is no significant change in structure or meaning, indicating formal equivalence.
11.	Although I am broken my heart, is broken, it is still untamed	Meski hatiku hancur, tapi hatiku masih lunak	Expressive Text	Dynamic Equivalence	This song lyric conveys a struggle of feelings and resilience. The rendition modifies the language to appear fluid and relatable while maintaining the emotional significance, reflecting a dynamic equivalence.
12.	but it stays right here in its cage	tapi tetap saja terperjara	Expressive Text	Dynamic Equivalence	The analogy of emotional restriction is made more straightforward in Indonesian. Nevertheless, the emotional significance remains distinctly expressed, demonstrating dynamic equivalence.
13.	I'll see us in the light upon a hill	Kita akan bermandikan cahaya di sebuah bukit	Expressive Text	Dynamic Equivalence	The translation modifies the imagery to appear more fluid in Indonesian. While the phrasing is altered, the optimistic emotional significance remains intact.
14.	With nothing in between	tak ada apapun di antaranya	Expressive Text	Formal Equivalence	The phrase is converted literally without any notable alteration in its meaning or arrangement. This demonstrates formal equivalence.

5. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

As a result of data analysis, the study found some major findings related to text type and semantic approximation in the Indonesian translation of the one-direction song "Story of My Life"

Beginning with the type of text, it should be noted that "the nature of the lyrics from Story of My Life is more poetic (expressive) as proposed by Reiss (1977). Unlike factual information or a persuasive argument, the song reasserts emotional expression, personal memories of each member and artistic language. You can see this expressive function well in the prevalence of metaphors, emotional phrases, as well as reflective narratives around life experiences and relationships. Since the lyrics are expressive texts, their goal is to get a personal feeling and story across, actually proving that emotional impact counts as an important part of the song.

Second, based on the level of semantic equivalence, such analysis shows that dynamic equivalence as proposed by Nida and Taber (1969) is more prevalent in Indonesian translations. Translators prefer to focus on transferring sense and emotional impact as opposed to retaining the literal linguistic form of the original language. There are many metaphorical expressions that do not need translation in order to be more natural and intelligible for the speakers of the Indonesian language.

As for the example, there are also figurative expressions which were not translated literally and directly but matched with idioms or collided with cultural propriety; these are acceptable to be uttered or expressed by Indonesian. The changes made in structure were only slight variations of the changes that took place and generally did not impact meaning for this author. Instead, they served to reinforce the song's emotional power. This implies that the meaning and emotional richness of the original lyrics were preserved in the Indonesian translation.

Results also suggest that in certain segments a combination of formal and dynamic equivalence was used. Here, the structure and meaning of source materials were maintained while achieving a natural sound in translation. That shows the translator struck a perfect balance between accuracy and readability.

In summary, this discussion reinforces the crucial role of text type in identifying a suitable translation strategy for that song. So, since "Story of My Life" is an expressive text, dynamic equivalence applies and works well. This backs up the argument that one has to be flexible when translating song lyrics and approach them more with an indirect translation focusing on emotional meaning rather than form or structure.

6. CONCLUSION

This mini-study it analyzes the text types and semantic equivalency of the One Direction song entitled "Story of My Life" in the Indonesian version. From the analysis and discussion, we can infer several conclusions.

First of all, "Story of My Life" is mainly classified as an expressive text based on Reiss's (1977) theory about the data types. The emphasis on emotive expression, autobiographical content and artistry suggests that the primary role of much pop music (including this song) is to convey writers'/performers' feelings rather than facts.

Secondly, the analysis of semantic equivalence indicates most (53%) Indonesian translations use dynamic equivalence by Nida and Taber (1969). The translator favors meaning and emotional complexity over a word-by-word literal rendering. While some of the linguistic forms are modified, by and large we overwhelmingly preserve the song's central idea and emotional tone.

The results of this mini-research analysis show that the lyrics of the song "Story Of My Life" are translated so that they have achieved their original sense and expressive function. The study clarifies the necessity of correlating text-type analysis and equivalence theory within translation studies, specifically in song lyrics translations. When and how do translators and translation students need to practice these concepts to produce accurate but natural and emotionally meaningful translations?

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