

ABSTRACT

All human beings use language and have culture. Language and culture cannot be separated; one influences the other. However, we all know that culture of one language is different from that of another language. Thus, if we learn a language, we should also learn the culture which is different from our culture. Because of the cultural differences, the choices of words, the tone and the spirit of languages will also vary according to their cultures.

Seeing those facts, the writer was interested in discussing the importance of learning culture in translation class. The writer limited the discussion on translation class, because in her opinion translation is always needed in the teaching learning process of a language. Moreover, it was easier to know the differences between cultures in a translation. In this study, the writer assumed that if the students did not consider the cultural differences, their translations would not conform to the original idea and might not be understood by the readers.

The writer carried out a research in order to know whether her assumption was correct or not. The data were collected by giving a translation test to semester eight and shopper students of English Department of IKIP Sanata Dharma. These students in the academic year of 1991/1992 were learning Translation III.

After analyzing the data, the writer found that the translation did not conform to the original idea if the students did not know the culture, especially the English culture. Their translation was influenced by their own culture-Indonesian culture. This was because they did not know that the English culture was different from the Indonesian culture. Thus, their choices of words often

were not appropriate. Furthermore, they did not consider the differences in the tone and the spirit of the language. This made their translations not convey the same message as the original. Even, sometimes their translations sounded funny and awkward.

From the research, the writer concluded that language learners should learn the target culture from the very beginning they learn a language. In addition, the writer gave suggestions to translate a text which has cultural value. There were three alternative ways : by using picture, giving an explanation in the translation and the combination of the two ways.

