

Strategies and Challenges in Translating Emotional Nuances: Appraisal Theory in Inside Out 2 Subtitles

Andita Putri Effendi

English Literature, Faculty of Languages and Arts, State University of Surabaya

E-mail: anditaputri.21006@mhs.unesa.ac.id

ABSTRAK. Penelitian ini mengkaji strategi penerjemahan yang digunakan untuk menyampaikan nuansa emosional dalam subtitle film animasi Inside Out 2. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan analisis isi kualitatif untuk meneliti bagaimana penerjemah menangani tugas kompleks dalam mempertahankan keaslian emosional lintas bahasa. Dengan menggunakan sampel segmen subtitle yang dipilih secara purposif, penelitian ini mengidentifikasi teknik penerjemahan dominan berdasarkan teori penerjemahan Molina & Albir, seperti adaptasi, amplifikasi, peminjaman, calque, kompensasi, deskripsi, penciptaan diskursif, generalisasi, terjemahan literal, amplifikasi linguistik, modulasi, partikularisasi, reduksi, substitusi, variasi, kompresi linguistik, penetapan ekivalensi, dan transposisi. Temuan penelitian mengungkap bahwa keseimbangan antara ketepatan linguistik dan relevansi budaya merupakan tantangan signifikan bagi penerjemah subtitle. Studi ini menekankan pentingnya penerapan teknik penerjemahan yang halus untuk mempertahankan efek emosional dialog asli. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa mencapai autentisitas emosional memerlukan keseimbangan yang cermat antara budaya bahasa sumber dan bahasa sasaran, dengan penerjemahan harfiah muncul sebagai pendekatan yang dominan. Penelitian ini selanjutnya menunjukkan bahwa emosi positif maupun negatif disampaikan melalui beragam metode yang bertujuan menjaga integritas psikologis dan budaya. Karya ini memajukan studi penerjemahan dengan menyoroti kompleksitas penerjemahan emosi dan menawarkan wawasan berharga bagi para penerjemah dan pendidik yang berspesialisasi dalam subtitle. Saran untuk penelitian selanjutnya menekankan perlunya investigasi yang lebih mendalam terhadap subtitle emosional di berbagai genre film.

Kata kunci: Emosi; Inside Out; Terjemahan Emosi.

Strategies and Challenges in Translating Emotional Nuances: Appraisal Theory in Inside Out 2 Subtitles

ABSTRACT. This study investigates the translation strategies employed to convey emotional nuances in the subtitles of the animated film Inside Out 2. The research adopts a qualitative content analysis approach to examine how translators handle the complex task of preserving emotional authenticity across languages. Using a purposively selected sample of subtitle segments, the study identifies predominant translation techniques by Molina & Albir theory of translation, such as adaptation, amplification, borrowing, calque, compensation, description, discursive creation, generalization, literal translation, linguistic amplification, modulation, particularization, reduction, substitution, variation, linguistic compression, establish equivalence and transposition. The findings reveal that the balance between linguistic accuracy and cultural relevance presents significant challenges for subtitle translators. The study emphasizes the significance of employing subtle translation techniques to retain the original dialogue's emotional effect. The results indicate that achieving emotional authenticity necessitates a careful balance between the cultures of the source and target languages, with literal translation emerging as the predominant approach. The research further demonstrates that both positive and negative emotions are conveyed through a variety of methods aimed at preserving psychological and cultural integrity. This work advances translation studies by shedding light on the complexities of translating emotions and offers valuable insights for translators and educators specializing in subtitling. Suggestions for future inquiry stress the need for deeper investigation into emotional subtitling across different film genres.

Keywords: Emotion; Emotion Translation; Inside Out.

INTRODUCTION

The translation of subtle emotional elements in audiovisual content has emerged as a vital subject within translation studies, especially concerning the subtitling of animated films, where emotional

portrayal is integral to narrative development. The sequel, Inside Out 2, presents an ideal case for investigating the transmission of intricate emotional material across different linguistic and cultural frameworks. Preserving the emotional authenticity of dialogue in subtitles not only ensures accurate

communication but also maintains the psychological and cultural integrity that influences audience reception (Wanodya et al., 2024). This research is theoretically framed by the translation strategies outlined by Molina & Albir (2002), which encompass a wide range of methods including adaptation, amplification, borrowing, calque, compensation, description, discursive creation, generalization, literal translation, linguistic amplification, modulation, particularization, reduction, substitution, variation, linguistic compression, establishing equivalence, and transposition. Additionally, Martin & Rose's framework (2005) was applied to identify and classify the emotional types expressed in individual utterances, offering a systematic approach to examining emotional content in subtitles. Together, these frameworks provide a comprehensive perspective for analyzing how translators manage the complex balance between staying true to the source text and ensuring cultural relevance that resonates with target viewers. Furthermore, the incorporation of emotional theory, as expressed in the subtitles, introduces an added layer of intricacy since emotions are usually deeply rooted in cultural contexts (Rojo, 2017).

This study is distinguished by its dual focus on translation methodologies and the preservation of emotional resonance in subtitles. It shows that while literal translation remains the predominant technique, various other methods are intentionally applied to effectively convey both positive and negative emotions. The findings contribute to translation theory by illuminating the careful equilibrium translators must achieve between the emotional cultures of the source and target texts, offering valuable recommendations for subtitles and educators. Furthermore, this research enriches cinematic translation studies by establishing a foundation for future investigations into emotional subtitling across diverse film genres.

Although previous research has explored subtitle translation, effectively capturing subtle emotional nuances remains a significant challenge, especially within multilingual and multicultural settings (Pym, 2014). Many earlier studies focus exclusively on either linguistic accuracy or cultural adaptation, without adequately addressing how these factors are integrated by translators to preserve emotional authenticity. This investigation addresses this gap by conducting a thorough qualitative content analysis of the subtitles of *Inside Out 2*, emphasizing the intricate connection between the linguistic form and the emotional content conveyed.

METHOD

This study applies a qualitative descriptive approach to investigate the subtle emotional nuances embedded in the subtitles of the animated film *Inside Out 2*. Taking the form of a qualitative descriptive inquiry, the research aims to gain a thorough understanding of the intricate translation techniques used within this specific subtitling context. The data for this study were mainly collected through documentation, which involved systematically gathering and thoroughly examining subtitle texts that express emotional content. This process was guided by established theoretical frameworks to ensure a sound analytical foundation. For a comprehensive and detailed analysis, the study employed content analysis extensively to meticulously code, categorize, and interpret the translation techniques. This approach provided valuable insights into how emotions are adapted both linguistically and culturally in the process of subtitle translation (Thompson, 2008). To ensure the validity of the data, the study incorporated data condensation and visualization techniques, which facilitated a clear and organized presentation of the observed translation phenomena. This approach supported a thorough thematic analysis that was closely aligned with the research objectives (Miles et al., 2020).

Expressing emotions accurately is one of the trickiest parts of translating movie subtitles, especially for animated films. Molina & Albir (2002) offer a framework of eighteen translation techniques that help us explore how meaning and tone are passed from one language to another. Because subtitles have strict limits on how much time and space subtitles can take up, these techniques focus not just on getting the words right, but also on preserving the cultural and emotional layers behind translation (Nugraha, 2023). Recent research has pointed out just how challenging it is to keep those delicate emotional nuances intact when translating subtitles (Aurilana et al., 2022). To better understand this emotional complexity, Plutchik's theory of emotions (1982) provides a helpful psychological foundation for grasping the depth of feeling that needs to come across in translation. In order to investigate how emotions are expressed and negotiated through subtitle utterances, this study makes use of Martin & Rose's appraisal theory (2005). Previous studies on translating movie subtitles from English to Indonesian show a propensity for literal translation in order to maintain the original emotional tone, supplemented by innovative techniques like modulation to account for cultural differences (Suryasa et al., 2019). Even with these realizations, there is still a significant lack of

information regarding emotional subtitling in animated movies such as *Inside Out 2*. By examining how different translation strategies convey both positive and negative emotions throughout the film's narrative, this study seeks to close this gap.

This study uses a qualitative method, which means it is more interested in how emotions are expressed and understood in their own context than in measuring data. It involves looking closely at a few examples of subtitles to figure out what they mean and what cultural differences are hidden in them, which can't be fully understood through numbers alone (Chiaro, 2008). The main focus is on understanding and getting a better understanding of the translation process, with depth and meaning taking precedence over statistical measurement. This method helps us understand better how language choices and cultural factors affect each other in subtitle translation (Lu, 2023).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents a detailed analysis and interpretation of the data collected throughout the study. Its main purpose is to provide well-founded, evidence-based responses to the research questions outlined in preceding chapters. Through a careful and thorough examination of the findings, the chapter demonstrates how the empirical evidence corroborates or contests existing theoretical frameworks and prior research. The discussion is broken down into sub-chapters that focus on specific themes, which makes it possible to look at each part of the study in more depth and detail. This structured format makes sure that the subject matter being studied is fully understood and analyzed.

The analysis of the data revealed a total of 23 distinct emotion words expressed within the subtitle content. To translate these emotional expressions, five different translation techniques were employed: literal translation, discursive creation, established equivalence, modulation, and transposition. For each of these techniques, representative examples have been identified and are presented to illustrate practical application in conveying emotional nuance in subtitle translation.

1. Preservation of Meaning and Emotion without Alteration

This section focuses on translation methods that seek to accurately convey the emotional nuances and wording of the original text without making any

changes. These techniques guarantee that the intended audience receives the original meaning and emotional tone in a direct and accurate manner. This category's translations exhibit a strong commitment to linguistic and emotional fidelity, closely maintaining the integrity of the original message. These methods prevent emotional cues from being reinterpreted or altered by sticking to exact wording or nearly equivalent expressions, producing subtitles that capture the emotions that the original dialogue or text intended. This approach is crucial in subtitling situations where any variation could lessen or skew the emotional effect that the original message intended. The analysis in this section will spotlight examples of such faithful reproduction, discussing the translation strategies applied and evaluating translation success in sustaining emotional consistency across languages.

Literal Translation

In these two examples, the translation keeps the original words and feelings exactly the same. This way, the emotion and meaning in the target language are just like in the source language, without any changes.

. (1)

ST: Anxiety: "I know change is **scary** but-but watch!"

TT: Cemas: "*Aku tahu perubahan itu menakutkan, tapi lihat sini!*"

(2)

ST: Mom's Disgust: "But she really does **stink**. Oh, it's bad."

TT: Jijik Ibu: "*Tapi dia memang bau. Parah!*"

In the presented examples, the translation technique employed is literal translation, characterized by a direct and faithful transfer of words from the source text (ST) to the target text (TT) without modification. The negative emotions expressed by the words "scary" (conveying fear) in the first example and "stink" (expressing disgust) in the second are preserved with full integrity in the translations. The Indonesian equivalents "*menakutkan*" and "*bau*" respectively retain the same emotional weight and meaning as their source counterparts. This technique ensures that the affective impact intended in the original dialogue is delivered consistently to the target audience, maintaining both semantic accuracy and the type of emotional response evoked.

2. Translation Techniques Involving Word Changes and Emotional Shifts

Translation methods that involve modifying the wording of the original text often result in subtle or marked changes to the emotional tone conveyed in the target language. Unlike literal translation, these approaches allow the translator greater flexibility to adapt expressions, phrases, or word choices, which can lead to shifts in how emotions are perceived by the target audience. These modifications frequently function as deliberate translation decisions made to better suit the target audience's expectations, idioms, or cultural norms. As a result, the emotional resonance could change—becoming more subtle, heightened, or softer than it was in the original. This approach improves the translation's relevance and fluency, but it may also introduce minute changes in the way emotions are expressed. This section explores these tactics and provides examples of how phrasing variations result in observable shifts in emotional tone. Such analysis demonstrates the intricate and dynamic nature of expressing emotions in literary translation or subtitling, highlighting the translator's vital role in striking a balance between the need for effective and culturally relevant communication and fidelity to the source.

Modulation

(3)

ST: Anxiety: "We are just **super jazzed** to be here."

TT: Cemas: "*Kami bangga sekali bisa berada disini!*"

(4)

ST: Disgust: "No one is totally **worthless.**"

TT: Jijik: "*Semua orang berharga*"

In the present examples, the translation technique employed involves altering the original wording, which leads to a shift in the emotional tone conveyed to the target audience. The positive emotion expressed by the phrase "super jazzed" in the source text, which ranges from thankfulness (as a third level of happiness) to a proud sentiment (classified here as a second level of happiness), is translated into "*bangga*," a word directly denoting pride and elevating the emotional tone compared to the source. This modification intensifies the sense of positive emotion by focusing on pride rather than the more informal enthusiasm of being "jazzed." Conversely, in the translation of the negative term "worthless," which conveys powerlessness tied to sadness, the target text substitutes "*berharga*," meaning "valuable" or "worthy," thereby shifting the negative emotion to an optimistic or hopeful positive feeling in the target language. This word change significantly transforms the emotional impact, changing the frame from despair to affirmation. Such translation strategies that modify the wording create noticeable emotional shifts and

offer a different emotional experience for the target audience, reflecting the translator's consideration of cultural context and audience reception in subtitling or text adaptation.

3. Structural Transformations that Maintain Emotional Equivalence

In translation, syntactic or formal changes entail altering the word order or sentence structure to adhere to the target language's grammatical and stylistic norms while meticulously maintaining the original emotional impact and intent. These modifications are frequently the result of disparities in the norms of the source and target languages. Despite these structural changes, translators make careful lexical and emphatic choices in order to preserve the main emotional message. With this method, even if the form of the expression differs, the target audience can still feel the same emotional impact as the source audience. These strategies demonstrate the delicate balance between formal adaptation and emotional fidelity that is essential to successful translation by prioritizing the emotional essence over strict syntactic duplication.

a. Discursive Creation

(5)

ST: Joy: "**JIMINY MOTHER-LOVIN TOASTER STRUDEL!!!**"

TT: Riang: "*Aku benar-benar kesal dan sebal!*"

The translation from Joy's exclamation "JIMINY MOTHER-LOVIN TOASTER STRUDEL!!!" to Riang's "*Aku benar-benar kesal dan sebal!*" exemplifies discursive creation. This technique modifies the original phrase to convey the underlying emotional meaning clearly in the target language. It involves word changes and emotional transfer by replacing a culturally specific idiom with a direct expression of frustration, ensuring the emotional impact is preserved for the target audience despite linguistic differences.

b. Establish Equivalence

(6)

ST: Anxiety: "**Don't worry** Riley."

TT: Cemas: "*Tenang saja, Riley!*"

In the example provided, the source text (ST) conveys a negative emotion through the word "worry," which expresses anxiety and concern. The target text (TT), however, employs the phrase "*Tenang saja*" ("Just calm down"), which, while differing in wording and sentence form from the ST, conveys the same emotional assurance and soothing intent to the audience. This translation illustrates a syntactic and formal change, where the imperative tone and direct use of "worry" in the ST are transformed into a reassuring phrase in the TT. Despite this structural

modification, the translation successfully maintains the emotional effect of calming and easing anxiety for the target audience. This demonstrates how altering sentence form and word choice can preserve the emotional message faithfully, highlighting the translator's skill in adapting structure without compromising emotional fidelity.

c. Transposition

(7)

ST: Anxiety: "Don't you just **hate** it when you go to do something"

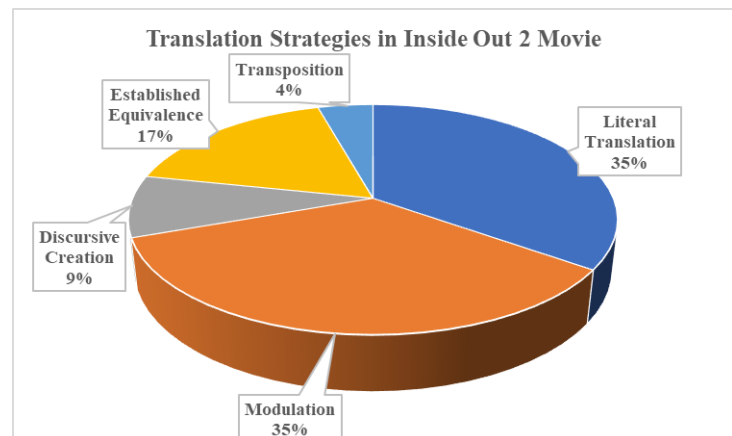
TT: *Cemas*: "Aku **kesal** kalau ingin berbuat sesuatu"

In the example provided, the source text (ST) conveys a negative emotion of anxiety through the word "hate," which in this context communicates a strong feeling of annoyance or frustration. The target text (TT) translates this into "*kesal*," a term closely related to feelings of annoyance, displeasure, or irritation within the broader category of anger. This lexical substitution reflects a change in word choice but preserves the emotional intensity and nature of the original expression. Additionally, the sentence structure changes from the interrogative form in the ST ("Don't you just hate it when you go to do something") to the declarative form in the TT ("*Aku kesal kalau ingin berbuat sesuatu*"), which modifies the stylistic presentation but does not diminish the emotional effect. The TT thus successfully delivers and maintains the same emotional tone experienced by the ST audience, demonstrating how syntactic and lexical adjustments can be employed in translation while preserving emotional equivalence for the target audience.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study highlights a range of translation techniques that affect lexical selections and syntactic constructions while carefully maintaining or modifying the emotional expressions that are being communicated. While intentional lexical changes can result in subtle to pronounced shifts in emotional tone, translating a text literally maintains the original emotional nuances while adapting it to cultural contexts and audience expectations. Furthermore, syntactic adaptations—such as rearranging sentences and changing the order of words—show how the emotional impact and intent can be preserved even when formal linguistic changes are made. In order to ensure that the emotional core is successfully conveyed across languages, these insights highlight the translator's critical role in striking a careful balance between staying true to the source material and attending to the target audience's communication needs.

Supporting Elements



REFERENCES

- Aurilana, G. I., Nababan, M. R., & Santosa, R. (2022). The Impact of Translation Techniques Toward Translation Quality of Javanese Swear Words in Subtitle Film Yowis Ben 2. *International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding*, 9(2), 111. <https://doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v9i2.3340>
- Chiaro, D. (2008). *Verbally Expressed Humor and Translation* (V. Raskin (ed.)).
- Lu, S. (2023). How existing literary translation fits into film adaptations: the subtitling of neologisms in Harry Potter from a multimodal perspective. *Visual Communication*, January. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14703572221141959>
- Martin, J. ., & Rose, D. (2005). Working With Discourse: Meaning Beyond the Clause. In *Studies in Second Language Acquisition* (Vol. 27, Issue 01). <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0272263105250052>
- Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldaña, J. (2020). Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook. In *SAGE Publications, Inc* (3rd ed., Vol. 3). SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Molina, L., & Albir, A. H. (2002). *Translation Techniques Revisited : A Dynamic and Functionalist Approach*. December 2002. <https://doi.org/10.7202/008033ar>
- Nugraha, D. S. (2023). Exploring the Linguistic Expressions of Anger in Indonesian Proverbs: Uncovering the Underlying Cognitive Metaphorical Mappings. *International Journal of Social Science and Education Research Studies*, 03(11), 2169–2183. <https://doi.org/10.55677/ijssers/v03i11y2023-01>
- Plutchik, R. (1980). *Emotion: a psychoevolutionary synthesis* (G. A. Middendorf (ed.)). New York :

- Harper & Row.
<https://archive.org/details/emotionpsychoevo000plut/page/n3/mode/2up>
- Pym, A. (2014). *Exploring Translation Theories*. August. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203869291>
- Rojo, A. (2017). The Role of Emotions. *The Handbook of Translation and Cognition*, 369–385.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119241485.ch20>
- Suryasa, W., Sudipa, I. N., Puspani, I. A. M., & Netra, I. M. (2019). Towards a change of emotion in translation of kṛṣṇa text. *Journal of Advanced Research in Dynamical and Control Systems*, 11(2 Special Issue), 1221–1231.
- Thompson, G. (2008). Appraising glances: Evaluating Martin's model of APPRAISAL. *Word*, 59(1–2), 169–187.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00437956.2008.11432585>
- Wanodya, A., Anggraeni, D., & Sigalingging, B. M. (2024). *Translation Method of Emotional Expression in Daniel Keyes' The Minds of Billy Milligan*. 24(2), 439–454.
<https://doi.org/10.24071/joll.v24i2.8017>