

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Al-Qur'an is the holy book of Muslims which has many benefits for mankind. Al-Qur'an was revealed as guidance for all mankind through the angel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad SAW. As a Messenger who is believed to receive the miracles of the Qur'an, Prophet Muhammad SAW became the first conveyer, practitioner, and interpreter of the Qur'an. Al-Qur'an is terminologically the Word of God that was revealed to Prophet Muhammad SAW as a guide for Muslims. Al-Qur'an was revealed gradually over approximately 25 years, in contrast to the previous books which were revealed all at once. The compilation of the Qur'an began during the leadership of the Prophet's companions, precisely when the Caliph Abu Bakr As Shiddiq lead. Then, Caliph Uthman bin Affan compiled a standard Al-Qur'an Mushaf consisting of 114 surahs with a total of 6,236 verses divided into 30 chapters.

All the surahs in the Qur'an that we read, certainly have their own merits, privileges, and advantages each extraordinary, including Surah Al-Mulk. Surah Al-Mulk means "dominion" and is the 67th surah in the Qur'an, consisting of 30 verses. This surah is at the beginning of chapter 29 and is classified as a Makkiyah. Based on the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, surah Al-Mulk has 3 virtues for its readers. First, it can provide intercession for its readers. Secondly, it can save its readers from grave punishment. Third, the reader will get a lot of benefits and goodness. The writer chooses Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Mulk as the object of research because he wants to reveal the reasons for choosing the words used by the translator to render them into English. Considering that Al-Qur'an is a literary work that has beautiful poetry, especially surah Al-Mulk which has the main content of monotheizing Allah SWT by describing the perfection of His creation. Thus, the translator needs to choose the right words, so that the contents of Surah Al-Mulk can be conveyed properly to the readers. In addition, the writer also makes this research as a platform for da'wah, considering that the





Qur'an is the only word of Allah SWT, especially surah Al-Mulk which contains the content of the oneness and majesty of Allah SWT, which can make us always remember Him.

Al-Qur'an was revealed using the Arabic language and its meaning from Allah SWT. Until now, the Al-Qur'an continues to preserve its authenticity and be written using Arabic. Al-Qur'an is the holy book of Islam written in Arabic, the structure of which is fixed, and does not change. The verses are neatly arranged and written, none of which is left behind from the revelation delivered by Gabriel to Rasulullah SAW. (Bakry, 1984). The Qur'an is a source of various knowledge in the world, this book is also believed to have beautiful language and many types of sentences, styles of language, and stories in each verse. Currently, Al-Qur'an has been widely translated into foreign languages such as Indonesian and English, so that everyone can understand and learn the messages contained in the Qur'an.

Translation is a craft consisting of the attempt to replace a written, message, and/or statement in one language with the same message and/or statement in another language (Newmark, 2001). The translation consists of translating the meaning of the source language into the receptor language (Larson, 1998). A translator must affect the reader in the same way as the original. He must be able to guarantee that what is conveyed to the reader is really what the original author intended. The most accurate translation is the translation that best reflects the original meaning of the source language without any distortion of meaning. Of course, this is not an easy problem, especially translating the Qur'an from Arabic into English. When reading the translation of each verse, we certainly hope to understand the full meaning according to the message contained therein. Therefore, a translator must be more careful in choosing words when translating the Qur'an, because in several languages, especially Indonesian and English, there is a lack of suitable words in appropriate circumstances. One example of similarity in meaning but different usage in Arabic, according to Prof. Dr. KH. Buya Syakur Yasin MA. In his lecture explained as follows:

In the Qur'an there is a word “بَشَرٌ” which is found in Surah Al-Hijr verse 33 and “إِنْسَانٌ” contained in the letter Al-Asr verse 2, the two words are translated into English with the same meaning, namely

“man”. However, the definition and usage are different in Arabic. Word “بَشَرٌ” which is contained in surah Al-Hijr verse 33, means human in physical form, which in this verse is shown in the meaning of the whole verse which reads (*Iblīs*) said : “*I am not one To prostrate myself to man, Whom Thou didst create From sounding clay, from mud Moulded into shape.*” in this verse it is explained that Iblis does not want to prostrate to a human, namely Prophet Adam AS. while word “إِنْسَانٌ” contained in the letter Al-Asr verse 2, means humans from a human perspective, this can be seen from the entire verse that reads “*Verily Man is in loss,*” in which this verse describes humans who are at a loss causing themselves to go astray. This shows that it is important for a translator to choose words that match the original meaning, making it easier for readers to understand the messages contained in the Qur'an.

Word choice is an important aspect of translation. Choosing the wrong word in the translation will result in an error in the message being conveyed to the reader (Hoed, 1995). The word choice in linguistics is called diction. Diction is the choice of words in a phrase, sentence, or paragraph that greatly affects the essence of the intent and meaning of a phrase, sentence, or paragraph. (Keraf, 2009). Diction and part of speech have a close relationship in language and literature. An author often uses a particular choice of part of speech to create a distinctive writing style. The choice of words in diction, including the use of certain parts of speech, can give literary works a uniqueness and different characteristics. Part of speech refers to the role or function of a word in a sentence, while diction refers to the choice of words used by the writer or speaker to communicate certain meanings and nuances. In a sentence, the choice of part of speech (eg verb, noun, adjective, etc.) can influence the meaning and nuance of the sentence. Proper diction, which includes choosing the right part of speech, can help communicate ideas clearly and effectively. Thus, the choice of part of speech in a sentence or text directly influences the way diction is used to achieve a certain effect. The combination of the two helps create a distinctive writing style, brings the desired nuance, and conveys the message in the most appropriate way.

Diction is included in semantics. Semantics is a branch of linguistics that has meaning in a language. Semantics can be interpreted as the science of meaning, which is one of the three levels of language analysis: phonology, grammar, and semantics (Chaer, 1994). The meaning of a word can be found in a





dictionary. With many meanings in the dictionary, a translator must choose the right word or definition to express an idea. However, when the text being translated is a language that is not allied with the source language or a foreign language, sometimes there are words that have polysemous characteristics. According to (Parera, 2004), an utterance in the lexical that has more than one meaning. Besides that, the meaning it has is still related to one another, this is called polysemy. Thus, a translator is expected to understand the nature of polysemy, because the meaning in an utterance is not only understood literally. But it is also understood from several factors including context, the text's background, and the writer's or communicator's condition when writing the text.

Diction is one of the important elements because the acceptability and accuracy words in literary works need to be considered (Passandaran, 2019). Translators must be careful in choosing words so that ideas and messages from the original meaning are conveyed properly. Word choice basically revolves around two main issues, namely the accuracy of word choice and suitability in using the word. According to (Keraf, 2009), the types of diction are as follows, (1) based on connotative and denotative meanings, (2) based on linguistic and non-linguistic contexts, and (3) based on lexical structure. In choosing words when translating the Qur'an, a translator must choose equivalent words that are in accordance with the demands of the context, so that the translation results are precise and acceptable. Sometimes one word in Arabic has dozens of meanings and for that, a translator must be careful in choosing the equivalent word. as example word "عليم" can mean knowing, knowledgeable, clever, etc. Another example of diction in translating the Qur'an is based on the denotative meaning, which is found in Surat al-Mulk verse 2 in the word "المَوْت" which is translated to its original meaning "death" and this word can also be found in the dictionary. In addition to denotative diction, connotative diction is also found in Surah al Mulk verse 1 in the word "بِيَدِهِ" which is interpreted as "His hand". This word is included in the connotative diction because it has a contextual meaning, when seen in the sentence "الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ" and translated "Whose hands Is Dominion", which means that all power is in the hands of Allah SWT. The word hand here does not have its

original meaning as "hand", but it means that Allah is the one who governs the entire universe.

Several researchers have carried out previous research that is relevant to the topic of this research. For example, the thesis written by Nurfitri Ayuni (2019) with the title *"An Analysis of Diction in Maya Angelou's Selected Poems"*. The similarities between the thesis and this research are that they both examine the types of diction used in a literary work and both use descriptive qualitative research methods. However, the difference with this research is in terms of the research object and the theory used. Other research that is relevant to the topic of this research is a International Journal was compiled by Maimunah Ritonga and Muhammad Yusuf (2020) with the title *"Diction Choice and Stylistic Editing in The Translation Of Rapunzel Texts: An Intralingual Translation Study"*. The similarities between the journal and this research are they both discuss the use of diction in translating literary works and both use descriptive qualitative research methods. However, the difference lies in the object studied, the journal focuses on the translation of the fairytale Rapunzel text, while this research focuses on the Translation of Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Mulk by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. Another research that is relevant to the topic of this research is a thesis by Siti Ainul Mardliyah (2018) with the title *"Translation Technique and its Acceptability of Islamic Terms in Negeri 5 Menara Novel"*. The similarity with this research thesis is that both use descriptive qualitative research methods and identify translation techniques. However, the difference is in the object studied.

Based on the background above, the writer gives the title of this thesis **“THE TRANSLATION OF DICTION IN AL-QUR’AN SURAH AL-MULK BY ABDULLAH YUSUF ALI”**.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

This study is an attempt to analyze the accuracy of diction translation in Al-Qur'an surah Al-Mulk by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. The study, thus deals with the following problems:





- 1.2.1 What kinds of diction about the greatness of Allah are used in surah Al-Mulk and its English translation?
- 1.2.2 What kinds of translation techniques are used in the diction about the greatness of Allah in surah Al-Mulk and its English translation?
- 1.2.3 How is the accuracy of the translation of diction about the greatness of Allah in surah Al-Mulk?

1.3 Purposes of the Research

The aim of writing this thesis is to analyze the translation of diction in Al-Qur'an surah Al-Mulk by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. Specifically, the study investigates (a) the kinds of diction about the greatness of Allah used in surah Al-Mulk and its English translation; (b) the kinds of translation techniques used in the English translation of surah Al-Mulk; (c) the accuracy of the translation. Meanwhile, it is hoped that the findings will be practically beneficial for the readers, especially those who learn English to understand the language theoretically and practically.

1.4 Benefits of the Research

The results of this study can be used as information material and reference for further research related to diction in translating literary works. In addition, it is also expected to be able to contribute scientific papers to the Department of English Literature at Unipdu in the field of linguistic studies, especially in semantics. Research on diction in translation is also expected to provide several benefits for translators, one of which is as a reference for improving the quality of translation and finding more appropriate ways of selecting relevant and contextual words so as to enhance the quality of translation. This research is also expected to increase the effectiveness of communication. Especially the effectiveness of communication between writers and readers, understanding ways to choose the right words, can maintain and avoid misunderstandings in communication.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation

In analyzing the translation of diction, the writer takes Al-Qur'an English Translation by Abdullah Yusuf Ali as the object. Al-Quran is the holy book of Muslims which consists of 144 surahs which are divided into 30 chapters. Along with the times, Al-Qur'an has been translated into various languages, one of which is the book by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. In his book entitled *The Holy Qur'an: Text, Translation and Commentary*, he translated the Qur'an into English and its commentary. This book is the most phenomenal work of Abdullah Yusuf Ali which was first published in 1934 (Ali, 1934).

To limit the scope of the discussion, the writer does not analyze all the surahs in the Qur'an, but only chooses 1 surah, namely Al-Mulk (Dominion) which consists of 30 verses and is located in chapter 29. Furthermore, this surah is taken for data because this surah contains the theme of monotheizing Allah SWT by describing the perfection of His creation, and the diction that is used as the research data is the diction about it. Besides that, this surah also has 3 virtues for its readers. First, it can provide intercession for its readers. secondly, it can save its readers from grave punishment. third, the reader will get a lot of benefits and goodness (Andre, 2022).

1.6 The Definition of Key Terms

- 1.6.1 Translation. reproduce messages from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). (Newmark, 2001).
- 1.6.2 Translation technique. A strategy for converting text from source language (SL) to target language (TL) with the aim of producing equivalent meanings that are appropriate to the context of communication. (Albir & Hurtado, 2002)
- 1.6.3 Translation accuracy. Translation accuracy is the ability of a translation to convey accurate meaning, in line with the original text, and maintain the integrity of the message and nuances present in the source language. (Newmark, 2001)



- 1.6.4 Diction. choice of words that are appropriate to express an idea. (Keraf, 2009).
- 1.6.5 Al-Qur'an surah Al-Mulk. The 67th surah in the Qur'an which has the meaning "Dominion", consists of 30 verses and is located in chapter 29. (Andre, 2022)

1.7 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction which covers six points, namely background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the research, the scope and limitation, the definition of key terms, and organization of the thesis. Then, chapter two talks of underlying theory. It will discuss diction which are based on some theories. Next, chapter three presents the research method. In this section the writer indicates the research design, the subject, the instruments, the procedure of data analysis, and data analysis technique. Further, chapter four is about data analysis. It will analyze the translation of diction about the greatness of Allah SWT in Al-Qur'an surah Al-Mulk by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. Finally, chapter five gives a conclusion. It shows the kinds of diction, the translation techniques used, and the accuracy of the translation in Al-Qur'an surah Al-Mulk by Abdullah Yusuf Ali.

