

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Translation is one of the simple and effective ways to understand another language easily. To understand messages from other texts accurately, a translator must have knowledge of both source and target languages. Therefore, a good understanding of the translation will help in doing a good translation of the text. Many books that have been translated into Indonesian are scattered everywhere, both in bookstores and book markets. Translators not only translate scientific books, technology, but also literary works. These literary books prove that translation in Indonesia is growing, and hopefully it will get better.

The novel “Front Desk” by Kelly Yang tells a story in the early 1990s, a ten-year-old girl named Mia fled from communist China with her parents. They left hoping to create a better life for themselves in America. Unfortunately, their expectations do not align with the realities of the immigrant experience. Mia met many immigrants who experienced exploitation and a lot of blacks that experienced sort of unjust treatment at some point in their lives. She herself also experienced racism and bullying against her race, culture, and traditions.

Incidents of racism, bullying, and exploitation of immigrants are common in almost all over the world. Recently there is a phenomenon of Black Lives Matter movement. It is an international movement of activists, starting with the African American community, active against violence and systemic racism against black people. The movement made national headlines and international

attention again in 2020 after the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. Buchanan et al. (2020) stated that “an estimated 15 million to 26 million people participated in the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests in the United States, making it one of the largest movements in the country's history”. The movement comprises many views and a broad array of demands but they center on criminal justice reform. The same thing happened not only to black people in the United States. The incident of police institutional brutality and racism also afflicts Papuans in Indonesia. The incident experienced by Obby Kogoya, a Papuan student who was dropped to the asphalt and continuously stepped on by the Indonesian police in Jogjakarta on July 15 2016, when he participated in a Papuan student demonstration which commemorated the undemocratic referendum in 1969 which resulted in the integration of the Papua region. to Indonesia. The acts and behavior of racism experienced by Papuans in Indonesia also occur in many fields of life and statehood. Such as the insulting racism of the Papuan people with monkeys that occurred in the case of the siege of Papuan students in their dormitory by the police and TNI on Jalan Kalasan, Surabaya, on August 16, 2019. Briantika (2020) stated that “there was a siege and acts of racism by the police and TNI on Papuan students in the dormitory they are based on accusations of vandalizing the red and white flag that was posted in front of the dormitory, but the accusation does not have clear evidence”. Cases of racism also recently occurred in Indonesian League 3. Where the coach of Belitong FC, Ardiles Rumbiak, and Player Rivaldo Wally were victims. They are native Papuans, who received racist insults, being called a “monkey” from the reserves and supporters of Persikota Tangerang. Kuntjoro (2020) stated that “racism in the world of football often appears in a match caused

by many factors such as the past history of a nation, ethnic ego, and the existence of economic disparities between the two regions”.

Apart from racial discrimination in the world, I have also experienced discrimination related to my race and appearance. I once walked in a supermarket, then saw the Quran being sold on one of the shelves. At that time, I was wearing casual clothes. I went to the shelf and looked at the Quran planning to buy it. Then a security guard came to me, he said, "sorry, this is the Quran the book of Muslims.". I am confused as to what he meant by that. Turns out he thought I was a Christian because of my slightly exposed appearance. Then he also said that I was a Chinese because my eyes looked slanted. Sunaryo et al. (2020) stated that “there are distinctions between original and non-original Indonesian citizens, which is evidence of the problem of legal irregularities that justifies racism in Indonesia. Its cause differences in the treatment of the State administrators to non-native Indonesian citizens of race and ethnic China in the social, cultural, religious, demographic and immigration fields”.

From these incidents, the writer realized that the level of racism and bullying around the world is very high. There is still a lot of bullying and racism against young children to adults. Therefore, the writer chooses this book for this final project because it is relevant to those kinds of things.

1.2 Project Objectives

Considering the above-stated background, the objective of this translation project is to provide an Indonesian translation of the book, so people who cannot speak English able to read the book. Nida (1964) stated that “He (the

translator) is not content to translate in such a way that the people are likely to understand; rather, he insists that the translation must be so clear that no one can possibly misunderstand". From the statement above, it can be concluded that translation is meant to help the readers who do not understand the source language to catch the message and to have the same impression. The need for translated books is becoming more widespread. The wider the development of translation in Indonesia, so that Indonesia's role is increasingly visible in the international world. Currently, translation is not only for scientific works, but also for literary works and others. Literary works are translated from foreign languages into Indonesian such as poetry, short stories, novels, biographies, comics, etc. These books can not only be enjoyed by people who have a certain educational background well but also by those who have a certain educational background.

Translating books that raise issues of racism and bullying can spread the awareness on how dangerous racism and bullying are to someone's life. Words are powerful, but actions are what truly make lasting change. Currently in Indonesia, there are many anti-racism activism movements, but this seems to be just a lip service. Until now, there are still many incidents of racism and bullying that occur in our country. Humans were created by God with different physical characteristics. This difference is not a mistake, but it is humans themselves who sometimes make these differences become a problem so that attitudes that discriminate between one another appear. Bullying is used by someone to bring down another person's mentality and make them feel inferior. Bullying has to do with racism. Although actually bullying has a different meaning from racism, bullying can encourage someone to commit racist acts against other people. Racism

also has a tendency to intimidate, because racist people will tend to put pressure on those they do not like.