



SEMANTIC ANALYSIS IN TRANSLATING CULTURAL ELEMENTS IN THE NOVEL "PACHINKO" BY MIN JIN LEE

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Abstract

Semantic analysis is a study that explores meaning in language, whether in the form of words, phrases, sentences, or entire texts. This academic work is presented to analyze the translation.. This research aims to analyze the translation of cultural elements in the novel "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee through a qualitative approach. The main source of data is the novel "Pachinko" itself, which contains representations of complex cultural elements. The data analysis technique used is Word Analysis, that is, Semantic Analysis can find words and phrases related to character changes, such as "identity," "citizenship," "discrimination," and "crisis," and then Idea Analysis, that is, Semantic Analysis can find ideas and concepts related to character changes, such as "generation," "immigration," and "downturn". Thus, this analysis can help understand how character changes are related to how the characters in the novel interact with their environment and how they face challenges. The cultural elements in this novel are analyzed using a Referential approach and it is found 45%, an Ideational approach 25%. Then the Behavioral approach 13%, and also a Pragmatic approach 17%.

Keywords: *cultural elements, implication, literary translation, min jin Lee, Novel pachinko*

INTRODUCTION

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of words, phrases, sentences and texts. This research aims to explore how the main experiential meanings of the characters in pachinko novels through language in everyday life (Ikram, DEN, & Hussain, Z. (2023). " Pachinko novels are a form of historical work that focuses on Koreans living in Japan during a period of political and economic turmoil in the 20th

century (Seok, JO, & Chung, JK (2022)Semantic translation is an important process in copying the meaning and nuances of the source text into the target text. Semantic translation is also called (Awalukita, M., & Afriliani, A. (2022). Namely " Translation by emphasizing the semantic method is carried out with the consideration that it must have readability which is good in the TT and also does not cause the translation to be lost.

Research on semantic translation in the novel "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee can explore several complex and unique aspects. The life experience of zainichi Koreans who are inseparable from discrimination and the inevitable identity crisis is highlighted by one of the Korean writers who lived and grew up in America, Min Jin Lee, in his popular novel: Pachinko (Trihtarani, FE, al Fasya, MMR, Yusticia, N., & Setyaningsih, N. (2019).

The novel "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee is the focus of research because this story follows the journey of a Korean family in Japan for several generations. "a period of occupation, change, migration, war and finding a home in a discriminatory country and society. Its characters struggle, facing language barriers, discrimination, racism, (family) conflict, and worldwide change, much of it influenced or caused by historical or political events" (Schulzki, A., & Slopek, C. (2022)

In the theme of semantic analysis and cultural elements of the novel Pachinko, several previous studies have been carried out. Research on Semantic Analysis and Cultural Elements in Films and Novels was researched by "Harliansyaf, Annisa Balqis (2023) with the title CULTURE IN THE FILM TARUNG SARUNG 2020 (SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF THE ROLAND BARTHES MODEL .

What these studies have in common is the use of semantic analysis and cultural elements in

the analysis of culture in various forms of media. The difference between these studies is the focus of the research, namely films, novels and webtoons. These studies show how semantic analysis can be used in cultural analysis in various contexts and media.

The aim of this research is to analyze the semantic translation in the novel "Pachinko" and the reasons underlying this analysis. The novel "Pachinko" is a literary work that contains elements of Japanese culture, "Japanese society's treatment of Korean society, especially by excluding them from society. However, this actually increased sensitivity regarding separatist movements and resistance to the Japanese empire, thus giving rise to a stigma in Japanese society towards zainichi who were considered to have rebellious tendencies so that Korean society's movements were strictly restricted and monitored. "Korean people are considered as those who are born as troublemakers, especially those who have high intelligence" (Trihtarani, FE, al Fasya, MMR, Yusticia, N., & Setyaningsih, N. (2019)

RESEARCH METHODS

This research will use a qualitative approach with a focus on analyzing the text of the novel "Pachinko" in the aspect of translating cultural elements. "Nasution's (1988) Qualitative Research Model looks at events as

a whole in their context and tries to obtain a holistic understanding (Abdussamad, HZ, & Sik, MS (2021)". This qualitative approach will also help understand how the novel "Pachinko" represents discrimination racial and identity crises experienced by Zainichi Koreans, as well as how the pachinko business has become a symbol of their success and limitations in Japanese society (Haryanto, S. (2022).

The data analysis technique is carried out by collecting data through literature

NO	Approach	Amount of data	Percentage
1	Referential Approach	45	45 %
2	Ideational Approach	25	25%
3	Behavioral Approach	13	13%
4	Pragmatic Approach	17	17%
	Total	100	100%

studies to understand the Korean and Japanese cultural context that underlies pachinko novels. Selecting text samples that contain complex cultural elements will be an important step in the analysis process. “four generations to explore the interstices of colonial Korea, Zainichi Korea (literally “Koreans in Japan”), and the Asian-American experience. Spearheaded by Asian American executive producers, writers, and filmmakers,

and featuring a mostly Japanese- and Korean-speaking Asian cast, it is hailed as the greatest multilingual drama” (Ogawa, ST (2023)

Semantic analysis will be carried out by comparing the original text with the Indonesian translation. Every cultural element such as traditions, values, or social norms that appears in the text will be analyzed in depth to understand its meaning in its original context and how it is translated into the target language .

DISCUSSION

After analyzing the data, several semantic analysis approaches were found that were used in the novel "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee which are displayed in the following table:

Table 1. Semantic Analysis Approach to the novel "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee.

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the semantic analysis approach that is most widely used in the Pachinko novel by Min Jin Lee is the referential analysis approach, namely 45 data with a percentage of 45%. This referential approach helps in identifying objects related to themes and motifs in novel. For example, the pachinko business which is the main focus in this novel,

as well as the unequal treatment received by the first to third generations of Korean zainichi, can be understood more deeply through a referential approach. Thus, the use of a referential approach in the analysis of the novel "Pachinko" provides deeper insight into the story and themes expressed in this novel while the ideational, behavioral, and pragmatic approaches are used for around 25%, 13%, and 17% of the total data, respectively -each. The use of this approach helps understand how the first to third generations of Korean zainichi interacted with Japanese society and how they faced the racial, legal, and social discrimination that Koreans, who have now become legal Japanese citizens, have continued to face for many years, in their daily life. " One of the main elements of the diaspora story is that diaspora people become immigrants because of war, apartheid and other reasons, leaving their homeland and moving to a foreign country. In addition to spatial changes, both psychological and cultural states of one or the other: dual identity does not make them both accepted or belonging to their homeland (Huang, L. (2022)

The results of data analysis are explained through the following discussion:

1. Referential Approach

According to Parera, (2010) referential meaning is the meaning that is related to the reference referred to by the word / lexem,

then Kridalaksana (in Suwandi 2008; 74) states that referential meaning is meaning that is very closely related to the outside world (objects or ideas that can be interpreted). explained by component analysis, the referential/correspondence approach theory refers to the triangle of meaning, so Orden and Richards state that reference and referent are expressed through symbols and language sounds.

Below is an example of a sentence that uses a referential analysis approach in the novel Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

1. **(BSu):** "Wow, this is the best batch of **pumpkin taffy** that Piggy ajumma has ever made! Yobo," he shouted, "come out here, you must have some of this! Really tasty!"

(Bsa): Wow, this is the most delicious **pumpkin taffy** that ajumma piggy has ever made! Yobo, " he shouted, come here, you have to eat a little of this! It's very delicious.

In the first sentence the word "**pumpkin taffy**" is translated as "**pumpkin taffy**" due to the reference to a specific object, namely the sentence still highlights the specific object, namely "pumpkin taffy" which is the main focus of the sentence.

“Pumpki taffy” is usually made using pumpkin obtained from certain areas in Korea, such as Ulleungdo and Sangju. Pumpkin taffy not only tells us about the food, but also reveals the deep connections between food, culture and geography

2. **BSu** : Yoseb sat down on a floor cushion in the front room and opened up one of his many **newspapers** . Printed columns of words about the war floated in front of his eyes

Bsa : Joseph sat on a floor cushion in the front room and opened one of **his newspapers** , columns of words about the war printed before his eyes.

In the first sentence, the word "**newspaper**" is translated as "**newspaper**" which is considered to use a referential approach because it describes the actions of Yosep's character related to newspapers and the information contained in them. Concrete objects (newspapers) and specific information (columns of words about war) become focus the reference in the context of the sentence.

2. ideational approach

According to Halliday 1985, the ideational analysis approach is an approach

that focuses on how language is used to present ideas, concepts and information in text. This approach explores how language is used as a communication tool to convey facts, events or ideas by providing precise and concrete details and representations.

Below is an example of a sentence that uses an ideational analysis approach in the novel Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

1. **BSu** : The police officer who was supervising questioned Hu, and Hu told him that this ceremony was idol **worshipping** and he wouldn't do it anymore.

BSa : The police officer on duty is interrogating. HU, and Hu said this ceremony was **idolatry** and he no longer wanted to do it

In the first sentence, the word "**worshipping**" translated as "**worship**" is considered to use an ideational approach because the main focus is on ideational meanings related to beliefs, religious rituals and worship practices. In this context, the translation of the word "worshipping" becomes "worship" emphasizes the ideational aspect of the activity itself, namely the act of worshiping or worshiping idols.

There is historical conflict between Korea and Japan and the experiences of the Zainichi

Korean (Korean-Japanese) people may also reflect conflicting cultural aspects, given the history of colonialism and the complex relationship between the two countries.

2. **SL: Shimamura-san** would never help anyone in prison. He thinks that Christians are rebels. The people who were in charge of the March 1 demonstration were Christians. All the Japanese know that.

BSa: Shimura-san will never help anyone in the tower. he considered Christians to be rebels, those responsible for the one march were Christians. Everyone in Japan knows that.

In the first sentence the word "**shimamura-san**" which is translated as "**shimamura-san**" is considered to use an ideational approach because in the case of translations of names that do not undergo changes in translation (remain the same), the use of an ideational approach can be associated with maintaining a unique identity and conceptual concept. contained in the name. The ideational approach ensures that the translation remains faithful to the original meaning and concept contained in the name "Shimamura-san".

3. behavioral approach

According to Skinner (1957), the behavioral analysis approach is an approach that emphasizes direct observation of observable behavior from individuals. Skinner developed the theory of behaviorism which emphasizes the importance of observing responses and the consequences of individual actions in shaping behavior.

Below is an example of a sentence that uses a behavioral analysis approach in the novel Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

1. **BSu** : Although Noa didn't complain about it, the kimchi odor affected him the most. Like all the other Korean children at the local school, Noa was **taunted** and pushed around.

Bsa : Even though Noa doesn't complain, she is the one most affected by the smell of kimchi, like all the Korean kids at the local school, Noa is "**taunted**" and bullied.

In the first sentence the word "**taunted**" is translated as "**taunted**" because the words that emphasize using a behavioral approach in this sentence are "taunted" (taunted) and "pushed around" (oppressed). These

two words refer to the physical and behavioral response to Noa who experiences bad treatment from fellow students at school. Zainichi Koreans in local schools often receive unfavorable treatment from ethnic Japanese students. For example, Noa, a Zainichi Korean, was treated with cruel and insulting words such as "Die, ugly Korean", "Stop collecting welfare. Koreans are ruining this country", and "You smell like garlic and garbage!!!". This shows the Japanese people's direct rejection of Zainichi Koreans in educational circles

2. **Bsu** : and the thoughts of Hansu, his biological father, **shamed him** . Koh Hansu didn't believe in anything but his own efforts—not God, not Jesus, not Buddha, and not the Emperor.

Bsa : and remembered Hansu, his biological father **made Noa embarrassed** . Koh Hansu believed in nothing but his own efforts – not God, not Jesus, not Buddha and not even the emperor.

In the first sentence the word "**shamed**" which translates to "**make Noa embarrassed**" also shows a Behavioral

approach analysis because it reflects the emotional response of Noa's character to certain situations or thoughts in the context of the narrative. The characters' emotions and behavior are understood and highlighted through the translation of the word, showing the psychological depth of the characters in the text .

4. pragmatic approach

According to Levinson (1983), the practical analysis approach is an approach that focuses on the use of language in the context of communication and the speaker's communicative goals. This approach considers aspects of intent, purpose, context and implicature in understanding the language used in communication interactions.

Below is an example of a sentence that uses an ideational analysis approach in the novel Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

1. **BSu** : "**Uncle**, can you hold Mozasu? My arms hurt." "Can you wait here just a little longer? I'll be right back, or I'll send your mother outside." "Umma said she'd give me a treat if I didn't pinch Mozasu and kept him still

Bsa : **Uncle** , can you carry Mozasu? My arm hurts. "You can wait here for a moment, I'll be back soon, or later

I'll tell your mother to come out.
Umma said she would give me candy
if I didn't pinch the mozasu and keep it
still.

In the first sentence the word "**uncle**" which is translated "**uncle**" or a calling tone, shows pragmatic analysis because the words "Uncle, can you hold Mozasu? My arms hurt" show pragmatic analysis because the focus is on language use in the speaker's communicative context, in this is Noa. In this situation, Noa uses language to ask for help clearly stating that his arm hurts and asks his uncle to carry Mozasu. This request reflects a communicative interaction aimed at obtaining a certain response or action from the interlocutor, namely his uncle. Through pragmatic analysis, we can understand the role and purpose of the conversation that describes Noa's physical and emotional situation as well as attempts to ask for help clearly and directly.

2. **BSu** : "As Noa **pondered** whether to visit the temple or not, he felt a mix of emotions."

Bsa : "When Noa **considered** whether to visit the shrine or not, he felt a mixture of emotions."

In the first sentence, the word "pondered" which means "consider" shows Noa's deep consideration or thought before deciding whether to visit the temple or not. The emotions Noa feels also reflect the complexity of decision making. The pragmatic approach highlights how the character (Noa) interacts with the environment and responds to complex situations in conversation. By exploring the implicature and communicative intent behind the words and situational context in the sentence, it can be said that the sentence uses a pragmatic analysis approach to understand the communicative interactions of characters and the emotional nuances involved. The pragmatic approach understands how people interact with complex environments and situations in conversation. In the sentence, Noa is considering whether to visit the temple or not, which shows that he is thinking deeply and feeling complex emotions. Thus, the pragmatic approach helps understand how Noa interacts with complex environments and situations in conversation, as well as how the emotions she feels influence her decisions.

Table 2, pachinko novel translation strategies

Translation strategy	Description
1. Levy (Borrowing)	<p>" BSu: "Pachinko machines are popular entertainment in Japan."</p> <p>BSa: "Pachinko machines are a popular pastime in Japan."</p> <p>In the example above, the word "pachinko" is not translated or converted into another word in the target language, because the word is already widely known and used in various languages as a specific term for Japanese gambling machines.</p>
2. Cultural Equivalent	<p>BSu: "The concept of han is deeply ingrained in Korean culture."</p> <p>BSa: "The concept of han is deeply embedded in Korean culture."</p> <p>In the example above, the term "han" which is a complex Korean cultural concept has no direct equivalent in the target language. Therefore, by using the "Cultural Match" strategy.</p>
3. Descriptive Equivalent and Componential Analysis (Descriptive Equivalent)	<p>BSu : "The term 'han' encompasses feelings of sorrow, regret, bitterness, and unspoken resentment in Korean culture."</p> <p>BSa: "'Han' encapsulates the unspoken feelings of sorrow, regret, bitterness and dissatisfaction in Korean culture."</p> <p>In the example above, the term "han" has a meaning and emotional complexity that is difficult to translate directly into the target language. Using the "Descriptive Equivalent and Componential Analysis" strategy, the translator explains in detail the meaning and emotional components of the concept of "han" so that target language readers can better understand the significance and nuances contained in the term.</p>

CONCLUSION

To translate cultural elements in the novel "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee, the most dominant translation strategy is "Cultural Equivalent". This strategy is important to ensure that complex or unique cultural concepts can be conveyed accurately in the target language, so that readers can understand the cultural context of the original text well.

Meanwhile, the translation strategy that is least used is "Pungutan" or "Borrowing". Although this strategy is useful for retaining original terms or phrases that do not have direct equivalents, the need to apply "Levi" in the novel "Pachinko" may be limited due to the complex cultural concepts contained in the text.

For future researchers who wish to examine cultural elements, it is recommended to combine the dominant translation strategy with an in-depth analysis of the cultural concept at hand. This can be done by expanding understanding regarding the cultural context, values, norms and concepts contained in the source text, as well as applying the "Cultural Equivalent" strategy to convey deep meaning in the target language. In this way, researchers can make a valuable contribution in understanding and interpreting cultural elements in literary works.

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