

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Nowadays, world communication has no boundary. Individuals in every part of the world are reachable by either telecommunication or any world famous express delivery. People can meet and exchange new ideas and information with each other. They study lives and the different life styles. They study different cultures and learn to adjust and get along. All these matters happen through information transfers and exchanges.

Despite all the progress in sending and receiving information, there is one barrier among the two parties which is their language. People tend to use their native language as to encode and decode all messages. Within their community, their use of native language is possible. As for cross-cultural communication, their own interpretation based on the use of their language tends to become unreliable. There are some factors involved in order to understand messages in cross-cultural communication.

Translation is a process in which translators use as for sending messages from one different culture to another. Their pieces of translation can be found in various fields such as magazines, study books, letters, leaflets, and novels.

A translation of novel should be easy to read; therefore, readers can have a better understanding of the source text. “The Five People You Meet in Heaven” is a novel by Mitch Albom, also the author of “Tuesdays with Morrie.” This novel has become famous and widespread among Mitch’s fans and his target audiences. Hence, the message in a translated text must be accurate and complete so that the readers will get the exact ideas as from reading the original. This study will analyze whether “คนห้าคนที่คุณพบบนสวรรค์”, the Thai version of “The Five People You Meet in Heaven”, is accurate and creates an equivalent effect.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1.2.1 Is the Translation Accurate?

The analysis of the original text, “The Five People You Meet in Heaven,” and the translated version, “คน 5 คนที่คุณพบบนสวรรค์,” is compared to see whether the

translation is accurate and whether it conveys completely the meaning of the source language into the target language.

1.2.2 Does the translation create an equivalent effect to the original?

In addition to the meaning, the readers also have to receive an understanding and experience the same feelings and responses after reading the translated version as if they are reading the original. The translated version is thus considered within these terms as well.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study consists of four main objectives as follows:

1.3.1 To study the principles of Translation Criticism.

This study aims to study the principle of translation criticism written by Newmark in his book, “A Textbook of Translation”. In considering whether the translated version is accurate and creates the equivalent effect, the principles used for guidance in how to analyze and make the analysis complete and standardized are explored.

1.3.2 To analyze whether the Thai version “คน 5 คนที่คุณพบบนสวรรค์” of “The Five People You Meet in Heaven” is accurate. The appropriate principles from translation criticism will be applied to the analysis of translation in this study. The Thai version will be analyzed in terms of its accuracy.

1.3.3 To point out whether the Thai version provides an equivalent effect. The translated version will be examined on whether it creates an equivalent effect.

1.4 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

1.4.1 “Translation” is the process of transferring the meaning of an utterance in one language to another language.

1.4.2 “Equivalent effect” refers to idiomatic translation conveying to the target language reader the original meaning by using the natural grammatical and lexical forms of the target language.

1.4.3 “Source Language (SL)” refers to the language used in a text that is translated.

1.4.4 “Target Language (TL)” refers to the language used to translate the SL into text.

1.4.5 “The original” refers to the text of the source language; in this case, the English novel “The Five People You Meet in Heaven”.

1.4.6 “The translated version” refers to the text that is translated and written in the TL; in this case, the Thai version “คน 5 คนที่คุณพบบนสวรรค์”.

1.4.7 “The Five People You Meet in Heaven” is a book written by author Mitch Albom (2004).

1.4.8 “คน 5 คนที่คุณพบบนสวรรค์” is the Thai version of “The Five People You Meet in Heaven”. It was translated by Wantana Wongchat in 2004 (วรรณนา วงษ์-ฉัตร, 2541).

1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The author, Mitch Albom, also wrote “Tuesdays with Morrie” which later was produced as a movie. The book has become famous and well-known among many readers who favor drama or movies based on the true stories. His next best written piece is “The Five People You Meet in Heaven”, its Thai version, “คน 5 คนที่คุณพบบนสวรรค์”, is analyzed as to whether it can make the readers understand the content and feel the author’s emotions as if they are reading the original. Both versions, English and Thai, have been read in this study. The translation analysis is based on the principles of translation criticism by Peter Newmark (1981, 1988).

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study intends to study the theory of translation criticism by Newmark and to analyze translation techniques and problems in the target language and to study the style of Thai language employed. The original book of “The Five People You Meet in Heaven” persuasively attracts the readers’ attention. The study will display the significance of its translated version and whether it could provide the target language reader the similar meaning, style and tone. In addition, this analysis would benefit people who are interested in translation since it provides accurate translation techniques and solutions to the problem. The result can also benefit students or those who are interested in translating English novels into Thai. If possible, the method used in this study may be applied to analyze other translated works for future researchers.

1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter one consists of an introduction of overall picture of the study. The statement of the problem identifies the question this research needs to find out. The objectives of the study are given to inform the reader the purposes of this study. In addition, the scope of the study lays out some limitations of the study. Definitions of terms explain a list of words or phrases in this research. Finally, the significance of the study states the benefit of this study. Chapter two presents the review of literature which is composed of translation theories and techniques. Chapter three describes the methodology employed-subjects, materials, procedures and data analysis of this study. Chapter four reports the results of the study, and chapter five provides the summary, discussions, conclusions and recommendations for further study.