

## Book Review 'Bahasa Cina Bahasa Melayu: Kebolehterjemahan Budaya'(Malay Version)

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Written by Goh Sang Seong, this book discusses the interpretation in the translation of cultural aspects from Chinese to Malay. A multitude of details (words, phrases, clauses and sentences) of multiculturalism from Shui Hu Zhuan or its translation Hikayat Pinggir Air (2001) is made into discussion data. The goal is to examine the interpretation of culture, and identifying cultural translation strategies. This discussion utilizes a set of theoretical composites. These theories are eclectically identified from translation theory, semantic theory and sociolinguistic theory. Discussions are conducted qualitatively by comparing methods, analyzing cultural details based on translation theories, semantic theory and sociolinguistic theory.

Comparisons are also made to examine cultural translation strategies. There is no major cultural subcategory in Chinese that is prominent and more translatable in Malay. Cultural aspects of Chinese-Malay translation are more incontrovertible because of the absence of cultural forms or functions in BC in the sociolinguistic language of the Malay language. This situation has resulted in various translation stages like over translation, less translation, wrong translation and empty translation. The cultural aspects of Chinese that exist in the sociolinguistic background of the Malay or who have a synonymity in the Malay language tend to be translatable. At the same time, there is no

one translation strategy that can be said to be more appropriate for addressing translation problems.

The cultural translation strategy in Chinese-Malay is diverse. Its use depends on the existence of the shape and function of the object in the target language. The form and function of cultural aspects in Chinese whose density exists in Bahasa Melayu tends to be addressed with literal translation and through the use of synonyms. On the other hand, the form and function of cultural aspects in Chinese that do not exist in the sociolinguistic background of the Malay language tend to be translated through explanatory strategies, functional matching, borrowing, additional words, loan terms, transliterations, footnotes and any combination of two (couplets) or three (triplet) strategies simultaneously. In addition to having certain impact on some of the translation theories, this discussion also shows that the translation of culture is actually dual-dimension rather than just the nature of linear activities. Hence, cultural translation generally requires the use of some of the translation theories relating to the transfer of information, as well as semantic and sociolinguistic analysis. This book will hopefully contribute to the development of translation science in Malaysia in particular and in the Asian region generally.

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