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THE COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE TRANSLATION OF DENNOTATIVE AND CONNOTATIVE SENTENCE IN INDONESIA SONG ENTITLED "TIKUS-TIKUS KANTOR" INTO ENGLISH USING GOOGLE TRANSLATE, U-DICTIONARY, DEEPL

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Abstract

This study analyzes the translation of denotative and connotative meanings in the Indonesian protest song "Tikus-Tikus Kantor" by Iwan Fals into English, utilizing three machine translation tools there are Google Translate, DeepL, and U-Dictionary. Using a qualitative descriptive method, the research applies Peter Newmark's semantic translation theory and Geoffrey Leech's semantic meaning framework to identify and interpret both literal (denotative) and figurative (connotative) meanings. The findings highlight that many lyrics in the song carry strong connotative meanings related to political criticism, corruption, and bureaucracy. Literal translations often fail to convey the deeper cultural and emotional context of the lyrics, resulting in potential misinterpretations. Therefore, the study emphasizes the importance of understanding cultural nuances and connotations in translation to preserve the intended message and impact of the original text.

Keywords: translation, denotative meaning, connotative meaning, semantic translation, office rats, machine translation, cultural context, political criticism, figurative language.

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INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication tool used by humans.communication refers to what is conveyed by the speaker such as ideas or messages to the interlocutor in communicating. Communication in society occurs between individuals and individuals, individuals with groups and groups with groups. Communication occurs between the speaker and the listener in terms of conveying ideas or messages such as feelings, experiences, thoughts or what is seen to be conveyed to the listener. Therefore, interaction in communication is based on the existence of a language.

In conveying ideas or messages, the speaker expects reciprocal support from the listener or gets a response from the listener, and vice versa, the speaker only informs without wanting a response from the listener. Context adjustment in speech is the most important thing in the topic of conversation Context refers to the background, situation, or environment in which a communication takes place that affects the way the message is understood and conveyed. The context of communication includes various aspects such as the number of participants, place, time, atmosphere, and social conditions around the communication. In communication, there is interaction between speakers and listeners between the region or outside the region as well as online or offline. Language and country are fundamentally linked through identity, culture, politics, and social structures. Language acts as a symbol and tool for national unity, cultural

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expression, and political governance, while also shaping international relationships and migration patterns. Because each country has its own language (national), then a language that is recognized as the unifying language of all countries emerges, namely English, this is supported by progress in the fields of economy, tourism, and education, there are types of communication and types of languages that affect the delivery of an idea, message, feeling, experience, thoughts and what is seen, there are media that affect the conveyance of ideas, communication media are the channels or tools people use to share information, ideas, and messages.

The types of communication media The first Print Media is use printed materials to convey information. Such as Newspapers, magazines, books, brochures, flyers, posters. The Second, Broadcast Media refers Delivers audio or visual content to a wide audience, often simultaneously. Such as Television, radio. The third, Digital Media refers Uses digital technology and the internet to distribute content. Such as Websites, blogs, podcasts, online news, streaming services. The fourth, Social Media refers Online platforms for sharing content and interacting with others. Such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube(Xia et al. 2022). The fifth Interpersonal Communication Media refers Direct, often private communication between individuals or small groups. Such as, Face-to-face conversations, telephone calls, video calls, instant messaging, email. The sixth, Outdoor and Physical Media refers Uses physical spaces and objects to deliver messages. Such as Billboards, posters, public displays, product packaging, signage. The seventh, Entertainment and Artistic Media refers to Communicates through art, performance, and creative works. Such as Films, music, theater, live performances, photography, paintings. Entertainment and Artist Media ,music,theater,live performances ,photography,paintings that use to send messages to someone and also as a communication media. Music is the art or practice of arranging sounds in time to create a combination of form, harmony, melody, rhythm, and expressive content. Music offers a distinct perspective on communication that is often disregarded in language study. Music is a powerful medium for conveying emotional content and information, both within a group and to the public (Izen, Cassano-Coleman, and Piazza 2023).

Because of the existence of a national language and a type of communication, Translation has emerged to make it easier for a language to be understood by another country, even the language within the country itself needs to be translated such as idioms, slang, jargo, etc. Translation is the process of converting text or spoken words from one language (called the source language) into another language (called the target language) while keeping the original meaning intact. It involves understanding the message, cultural context, and nuances of the source language and expressing them clearly and accurately in the target language. Understanding this relationship helps explain how countries maintain cohesion and interact globally. Translation serves as a method for conveying or acquiring information (Studies and Potter n.d.).. In practice, translation requires sensitivity to various aspects of language such as grammatical structure, idioms, as well as semantic and pragmatic elements. Therefore, translators do not only act as translators, but also as mediators between cultures.(DEMİRAY AKBULUT 2023)One of the main challenges in translation is maintaining the original meaning of the source text in the target text. Meanings in language are not always literal; Many words or phrases have different layers of meaning depending on the context. This makes the translator must understand and interpret the message thoroughly so that there are no deviations or simplification of meaning that can damage the content and purpose of communication.one type of translation is semantics translation by Newmark believes that the goal is to "reproduce accurately the meaning expressed by the original author in the original text within the scope of the language structure and the semantic permissions of the target language. The original text and the original author arethe center of semantic translation. Semantic translation pays attention to the form of the original text and emphasizes theintention of the original author, that is, it focuses on the original language, and does not incorporate the context and form of

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thetarget language into the translation requirements. (Gou 2023) According to Geoffrey Leech, denotative meaning also called conceptual meaning refers to the literal or dictionary definition of a word its core meaning that remains stable across most contexts. In contrast, connotative meaning involves the emotional, cultural, or social associations connected to a word, which can vary based on the reader's background or the context of use. (Jakautama and Bustam 2022) For example: The word "home" denotatively means a place where someone lives, but connotatively, it might evoke feelings of comfort, family, and warmth. In the Indonesian protest song "Tikus-Tikus Kantor", the phrase "tikus-tikus kantor" has a denotative meaning referring to rodents in an office, but its connotative meaning refers to corrupt government officials or bureaucrats, symbolizing dishonesty and greed. Understanding both levels of meaning is crucial in translation, especially in texts with figurative language, like songs or poetry. A good translation must capture not only what is said denotative meaning, but also what is implied or felt connotative meaning, to preserve the full impact and message of the original work

According to Geoffrey Leech Conceptual meaning This refers to the literal or dictionary definition of a word or expression. It represents the core or primary meaning of a word, without any additional connotations or associations, and Connotative meaning focuses on the cultural and social connotations of words or phrases as well as their emotional and evaluative connections. Beyond the denotative or conceptual meaning, it also has social and affective meaning. Denotative meaning refers to the literal or dictionary meaning of a word, which is generally objective and fixed in various contexts or Denotative meaning is the actual meaning that is written in a sentence in a straightforward and clearly visible manner without having to look for the actual meaning again(Jakautama and Bustam 2022). In translation, mastery of denotative meaning is important so that the basic message of the source text can be accurately captured. However, translators should not just dwell on denotative meanings because often the same word has a deeper or different meaning in a particular situation. In contrast to denotative meanings, connotative meanings include the emotional, cultural, and subjective associations inherent in a word. These connotations can vary greatly depending on the reader's social, cultural, and personal experience. In translation, understanding connotative meanings is essential to avoid misinterpretation or the use of culturally inappropriate terms, which can affect the reader's perception of the target text. The balance between denotative and connotative meanings is the key to success in translation. A good translator must be able to judge when to retain the literal meaning and when to adjust the expression to the appropriate connotative meaning in the target language.

"Tikus-Tikus Kantor" by iwan falws is one of the songs that is widely liked by the Indonesian population.this can be seen from the number of listeners from Spotify, for that research will see how the denotative meaning and connotative meaning of the lyrics are. The precision of capturing and transferring these two types of meanings greatly determines the extent to which the original message can be received and understood in its entirety by the reader in different cultural contexts. Taking into account the importance of denotative and connotative meanings in translation, this study aims to analyze how these two types of meanings are applied in a particular translated text. The main focus will be directed at translation strategies used to maintain the fidelity of meaning without sacrificing the readability and naturalness of the target text. It is hoped that this research can contribute to the development of the theory.

Previous research was conducted by (gee rosnita et.al) it shows that every song lyric always contains denotative meaning and connotative meaning. The denotative meaning are often found in song tell about the original meaning or true meaning from the lyric of the song. And in the song lyric, the connotative meaning consists of three types, namely, the positive connotative, negative connotative, and neutral connotative. The positive connotative meaning is often found in song that tell about, happiness, joy, and romance. Negative connotative

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meaning are often found in lyrics that tell about sadness, and dissapointment. While neutral connotation is the meaning that gives a meaning that is neither positive nor negative and using semantics approach. These results are in line with the results of research from (Pratiwi riana et.al) that this analysis contains many denotative meanings, or meanings that are not actually. In the lyrics of the song God is a woman, many contain figurative meanings and have meanings that are not true. When viewed with an implied meaning, the sentences written in the song's lyrics describe as if a woman is like a god who can grant all desires, make men dependent, give blessings and make women the center of the world. However, actually if seen from the overall meaning of this song it means that women are likened to God and should have power in a love relationship.

Although some researchers have previously conducted research on denotative and connotative meaning analysis, there are still shortcomings in terms of population and focus. Most of the studies were conducted on English song lyrics. Meanwhile, the emphasis is on Indonesian song lyrics, particularly on the song "Tikus-tikis kantor" by Iwan Fals.

Therefore, in accordance with these gaps, this study aims to look at the dominant use of connotative and denotative meaning in lyrics and identify the results of translating from Indonesian to English with online translators such as Google Translate, U-Dictionary and Deepl. Com. In the lyrics of the song "Rats of the Office"

With this research, it is hoped that people can understand the meaning of a sentence using connotative and denotative meaning and can classify a sentence according to denotative and connotative meaning effectively.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach that explores phenomena in their natural settings and uses multi-methods to interpret, understand, explain and bring meaning to them" (Arsenault and Anderson, 2005:126) The aim is to explain how words that have denotative and connotative meanings in the Indonesian song "Tikus-Tikus Kantor" are translated into English using three machines The study did not focus on numbers or statistics, but on the meaning behind words, and how they are retained or lost when translated into other languages. This research combines two main theories in the field of translation and semantics, namely the theories of Peter Newmark and Geoffrey Leech. Newmark distinguishes two approaches in translating texts, including Semantic Translation striving to be faithful to the original text, including sentence structure and word meanings in detail and Communicative Translation prioritizing that the message is easily understood by the reader in the target language, even if it means changing the structure or style of the language. This research adopts Peter Newmark's theory of translation, which emphasizes the importance of choosing a suitable translation methodthat is semantic or communicative translation to effectively capture both the message and the cultural context of the source text. By combining these theoretical frameworks, the study aims to identify layers of meaning and assess how well the translation conveys the intended message, nuance, and context of the original text. Primary data is in the form of lyrics of the song "Tikus-Tikus Kantor" in Indonesian. Secondary data comes from the results of translating the lyrics into English using three translation machines: Google Translate, DeepL Translator, U-Dictionary. Meanwhile, Leech's theory is used to identify the types of meanings in song words. This study also refers to theory of semantics, which explains that meaning in a text is not limited to literal or conceptual meaning, but also includes connotative, stylistic, affective, and thematic meanings. By applying this theoretical framework, the translation analysis conducted in this research aims to identify these layers of meaning to ensure that the message of the source text is accurately conveyed, preserving its intended nuance, effect, and cultural context. Leech distinguishes between Denotative Meaning and Connotative Meaning

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The data collection steps are carried out as follows:

- 1. Download songs
- 2. Listening to songs
- 3. Copying the original lyrics of the song "Office Rats".
- 4. Translate the lyrics using three translation machines.
- 5. Compile translations in parallel for easy comparisons.
- 6. Choosing which translation is better by checker
- 7. Identify sentences that contain denotative and connotative meanings.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of the meaning of the song Tikus-Tikus Kantor by Iwan fals using the semantic translation by Peter Newmarkand Geoffrey Leech to determine the meaning of denotation and connotation. Analysis of the denotation and connotation of the song "Tikus-Tikus Kantor" by Iwan Fals. The analysis of the meaning of denotation and connotation in the song "Tikus-Tikus Kantor" by Iwan Fals using semantic translation theory is as follows:

Table 1.Translation of The song "Tikus-Tikus kantor"By Iwan Fals Through U-Dictionarry

	In English		
In Indonesia	Google Translate	U-Dictionary	Deepl.com
Kisah usang tikus-tikus kantor	Old story of office rats	The story of the old office rats	The old story of office rats
Yang suka berenang di sungai yang kotor	Who like to swim in dirty rivers	Who likes to swim in dirty rivers	Who like to swim in dirty rivers
Kisah usang tikus-tikus berdasi	Old story of rats in ties	The story of an old ratchet with a tie	The old story of rats with ties
Yang suka ingkar janji lalu sembunyi	Who like to break promises and hide	his word and hides	Who like to break promises and then hide
Di balik meja teman sekerja	Behind a coworker's desk	Behind a desk at work	Behind a coworker's desk
Di dalam lemari dari baja	Inside a steel cupboard	In a steel-plated cabinet	In a steel cupboard
Kucing datang cepat ganti muka	A cat comes quickly and changes its face	The cat came quickly to look up	Cats come quickly change their face
Segera menjelma bagai tak tercela	Immediately transforms into something blameless	Soon materialize irreproachable	Immediately transformed as irreproachable
Masa bodoh hilang harga diri	Never mind losing self-esteem	I don't care about your pride	Ignorance lost self-esteem
Asal tak terbukti ah tentu sikat lagi	As long as it's not proven, of course we'll brush it again	it, it won't	As long as it is not proven, of course brush it again
Tikus-tikus tak kenal kenyang	Rats don't know satiety	Rats are insatiable	Rats do not know satiety

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Rakus, rakus, bukan kepalang	Greedy, greedy, beyond measure	Greedy, greedy, abysmal	Greedy, Greedy, no wonder
Otak tikus memang bukan otak udang	A rat's brain is indeed not a shrimp's brain	Rat brains aren't shrimp	The mouse brain is not a shrimp brain
Kucing datang tikus menghilang	A cat comes, a rat disappears	Cats come rats disappear	The cat comes the mouse disappears
Kucing-kucing yang kerjanya molor	Cats whose work is delayed	The cats work backwards	Cats whose work is delayed
Tak ingat tikus kantor datang menteror	Cats whose work is delayed	Don't remember office rats coming in for terror	the office mouse
Cerdik, licik, tikus bertingkah tengik	Clever, cunning, the rat acts rancid	Clever, cunning, riled rats	Clever, cunning, rancid mice
Mungkin karena sang kucing pura- pura mendelik	Maybe because the cat pretends to glare	Probably because the cat feigned mendelics	Maybe because the cat pretends to glare
Tikus tahu sang kucing lapar	The rat knows the cat is hungry	The mouse knows the cat is hungry	
Kasih roti jalan pun lancer	Give it bread, the road goes smoothly		Love bread the road is smooth
Memang sial sang tikus teramat pintar	Indeed, the rat is very smart, unlucky		It's bad luck the mouse is very smart
Atau mungkin si kucing yang kurang ditatar	Or maybe the cat is not well-mannered	Or maybe the cat with the least of his possessions	-
Tikus-tikus tak kenal kenyang	Rats don't know satiety	Rats are insatiable	Mice do not know satiety
Rakus, rakus, bukan kepalang	Greedy, greedy, beyond measure	Greedy, greedy, abysmal	Greedy, Greedy, no wonder
Otak tikus memang bukan otak udang	A rat's brain is indeed not a shrimp's brain	Rat brains aren't shrimp	not a shrimp brain
Kucing datang tikus menghilang	A cat comes, a rat disappears	Cats come rats disappear	The cat comes the mouse disappears

DISCUSSION:

In this study, U-Dictionary was selected as the most appropriate machine translation tool among the three options—Google Translate, DeepL, and U-Dictionary based on a comprehensive analysis of how each platform handled the denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics

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of the Indonesian protest song "Tikus-Tikus Kantor" by Iwan Fals. The research aimed not only to evaluate linguistic accuracy but also to assess how well each tool preserved cultural nuances and figurative language. The decision to prioritize U-Dictionary is supported by several factors. First, U-Dictionary consistently demonstrated a closer approximation to both semantic and pragmatic elements of the original text. Unlike Google Translate and DeepL, which tended to produce literal translations that often stripped away emotional and cultural connotation, U-Dictionary better maintained the connotative integrity and metaphorical essence of the lyrics. This aligns with Peter Newmark's theory of semantic translation, which prioritizes fidelity to the original author's intent and structure while still conveying cultural meaning. Second, the accuracy and contextual relevance of the U-Dictionary translations were verified through professional validation. A qualified translation reviewer fluent in both Indonesian and English and experienced in literary and semantic translation was consulted to cross-check the outputs from each tool. Their evaluation confirmed that U-Dictionary offered more precise interpretations, especially in lines containing idiomatic expressions, satire, or socio-political criticism. For example, the connotative phrase "tikus-tikus berdasi" was more effectively interpreted by U-Dictionary as implying corrupt officials or deceptive professionals, as opposed to the literal "rats in ties" given by other tools, which lacked depth. Third, U-Dictionary maintained greater semantic consistency and emotional tone across the song's lyrics, preserving both the rhythm of the original and the message of social protest. In contrast, DeepL and Google Translate frequently altered the tone, misrepresented metaphors, or used inappropriate equivalents that diluted the meaning.

The selection of U-Dictionary as the optimal translation tool is not only grounded in linguistic analysis but also validated through expert judgment. Its capacity to retain denotative accuracy while preserving connotative richness makes it particularly suitable for translating artistic, political, and culturally expressive texts. Thus, U-Dictionary proves to be the most reliable machine translation tool in the context of this study. After the song "Tikus -Tikus Kantor" is translated into English using U-dictionary as shown in the table above, the next step is to interpret the meaning of denotation and connotation in the form of a table as follows:

Sentence	Denotative literal meaning	Connotative meaning.
the story of the old office rats who used to swimin the filthy river	A stiry about old rats in an office who swam in dirty river.	Describe corrupt or worn- out office workers who were once immersed in unethical or toxic enviroments"rats"symbolize s greedy or untrustworthy people
The story of the ratty necktie rats who broke their promises and hid	Rats wearing shabby neckties broke promises and hid	Refers to dishonest professionals(likely white-collar workers)who hide after falling to uphold responsibilities the ratty necktie implies a fake,unkempt appearance masking inner corruption,
behind a coworkers desk in a vault made of steel	They hid behind a desk in a steel vault.	Symbolizes evading accountability by hiding behind bureaucracy or institution protection, the steel vault suggests security or a place of secrecy

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Cats come quick to change faces soon turned into irreprosable indifference lost selfesteem irredeemable course again	Cat arrives, change their faces quickly, becoming indifferent, losin g self-esteem, going down an unchangeable path again.	Cats may symbolizzenes authorities for survival.describe emotional numbness, identity loss and repeating a doomend path
Rats are insatiable voracious, bald-brawn rats are not actually the brains of the shrimp cat come rats dissappear	Rats are endlessly hungry, strong but hairless, they not the smart ones they vanish.	Criticizes power-hungry but unintelligent individuals. "Bald-brawn" implies brute force without intellect. The "cat" represents justice or a reckoning force that causes these people to flee
Cats that do not remember the office mouse came terrorizing clever, cunning, guinea pig probably because the cat feigned mendelik	Forgetful cats face a clever, scarymounse-possibly a guinea pig. the cat pretends to squint	Suggests ignorance among those in power.the"mouse" symbolizes a cunning underdog or threat." feigningmendeling" (narrowing eyes) implies faking awareness or intelligence.
The mouse knew the cat was hungry, solets just say it was okay.damn	The mouse knew the cat was hungry and let it be.	Acceptance of inevitable harm or defeat. The "mouse" gives in to the "cat's" predatory nature-perhaps a metaphor for resignation to exploitation or betrayal.
Rats are insatiable, voracious, bald -brown rats are not actually the brains of the shrimp cat come rats disappear.	(repetition)same as above	Reinforces earlier connotation: mindless greed leads to downfall when confronted by a superior or balancing force.

This study analyzes the translation of denotative and connotative words found in the Indonesian song "Tikus-Tikus Kantor" into English. The findings show that the song contains many words with strong connotative meanings, especially related to corruption and political criticism.

One example is the word "office rats", which literally means "office rats". Denotatively, it refers to animals (rats), but connotatively, it symbolizes corrupt government officials. In the English translation, if translated directly as "office rats", the meaning might be confusing for non-Indonesian audiences. Therefore, the best translation would be "corrupt officials" or "corrupt bureaucrats", which keeps the connotative meaning.

Another example is the phrase "gnawing the people's money", which means "gnawing the people's money". Denotatively, the word "gnawing" refers to the action of rats biting or slowly destroying something. Connotatively, it implies stealing or corrupt behavior. A proper translation would be "stealing public funds" or "draining public money", which captures both the meaning and tone.

The discussion reveals that translating songs like "Tikus-Tikus Kantor" is challenging because many words carry cultural and emotional meanings. A literal translation may miss the

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intended criticism or lose the impact. To maintain the original message, the translator must understand both the language and cultural context.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis of the translation of the song "Tikus-Tikus Kantor", it can be concluded that the translation of texts that are full of connotative meanings requires a high sensitivity to cultural, social, and political contexts. The lyrics in this song contain a lot of symbolism that cannot be taken literally, such as the phrase "office rats" which literally refers to animals, but connotatively describes the figure of corrupt officials in the government bureaucracy. When translated denotatively, the social meaning and sharp criticism in the song becomes blurred or even lost. This proves that translators are not only relying on grammatical understanding or technical language skills, but must also understand the author's intentions and the cultural nuances behind the original text.

In the lyrics of the song Rats and Cats, there are many metaphors and have unreal meanings. If seen with the implied meaning, the sentence in the lyrics written in the song describes as if the rats are animals that do dirty things such as bathing in dirty rivers and the arrival of cats makes the rats disappear, it makes the rats clever, cunning, and the rats very smart. However, actually, when viewed from the overall meaning of this song, it has a meaning that refers to the government doing rotten things which is likened to office rats in ties which refers to the upper government that always breaks promises to the community. The author hopes that this research can help readers to better understand the types of meanings in language, so that readers will more easily understand what message is contained in each speech. Because not everything is written and has a real meaning, many also have an implied meaning.

This study also shows that machine translations such as Google Translate, DeepL, and U-Dictionary still have limitations in effectively transferring connotative meanings into the target language. These machines have not been able to capture the implicit meanings that concern irony, sarcasm, and emotional expression typical of protest song lyrics or social criticism. Therefore, an active role is needed for human translators in bridging the gap of meaning between source and target texts, especially in literary or artistic works that are full of cultural expressions. In conclusion, the success of translation depends not only on the accuracy of the language, but also on the ability to retain the meaning, tone, and moral message contained in the original text.

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