

# Translating Folklore: Exploring the Indonesian Mistranslation of 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' Story from English into Indonesia

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## Abstrak

Penelitian ini menyelidiki penerjemahan 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' dari bahasa Inggris ke bahasa Indonesia, mengungkap tantangan dalam melestarikan nuansa budaya dan bahasa. Melalui analisis komparatif, kajian linguistik, penilaian budaya, dan wawasan para ahli, studi ini menyoroti fenomena kesalahan penerjemahan, sehingga memperkaya pemahaman kita tentang dinamika penerjemahan cerita rakyat. Kendala linguistik muncul dengan jelas, dengan ekspresi idiomatik yang terbukti sulit untuk diterjemahkan secara langsung. Kompleksitas metaforis, yang merupakan bagian integral dari sifat puitis cerita rakyat, terkadang mengalami pengenceran dalam versi bahasa Indonesia, sehingga berdampak pada resonansi simbolik. Keaslian budaya menjadi titik fokus, menyeimbangkan kesetiaan dan keterhubungan bagi penonton Indonesia. Strategi adaptasi, meskipun meningkatkan pemahaman, terkadang menyebabkan penyederhanaan yang berlebihan. Perspektif para ahli menekankan tantangan yang sedang berlangsung seperti perbedaan bahasa dan variasi regional, serta menekankan perlunya perendaman budaya secara terus-menerus. Kolaborasi antara penerjemah, ahli bahasa, dan pakar budaya sangatlah penting. Implikasinya meliputi pelatihan kepekaan budaya, pedoman standar penerjemahan cerita rakyat Indonesia, dan inisiatif pendidikan bagi penerjemah dan pembaca. Pertimbangan etis menggarisbawahi praktik penerjemahan yang bertanggung jawab, menjaga martabat budaya sumber. Kajian ini menyoroti rumitnya penerjemahan cerita rakyat yang kaya budaya, dengan menekankan peran penerjemah sebagai mediator budaya. Ketegangan antara keaslian budaya dan pemahaman pembaca memerlukan keseimbangan yang rumit, yang mendukung pentingnya pedoman etika. Penelitian ini menyumbangkan wawasan dan strategi berharga untuk menumbuhkan apresiasi terhadap beragam budaya dalam pertukaran narasi global, mendorong dialog dan penelitian berkelanjutan dalam penerjemahan cerita rakyat.

**Kata kunci :** *Terjemahan, Fabel*

## Abstract

This research investigates the translation of 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' from English to Indonesian, uncovering challenges in preserving cultural and linguistic nuances. Through comparative analysis, linguistic examination, cultural assessment, and expert insights, the

study sheds light on mistranslation phenomena, enriching our comprehension of folklore translation dynamics. Linguistic hurdles emerge prominently, with idiomatic expressions proving challenging to directly translate. Metaphorical complexity, integral to the poetic nature of folklore, sometimes undergoes dilution in the Indonesian version, impacting symbolic resonance. Cultural authenticity becomes a focal point, balancing fidelity with relatability for the Indonesian audience. Adaptation strategies, while enhancing comprehension, occasionally lead to oversimplification. Expert perspectives emphasize ongoing challenges like language nuances and regional variations, stressing the necessity of continuous cultural immersion. Collaboration between translators, linguists, and cultural experts is crucial. Implications include cultural sensitivity training, standardized guidelines for Indonesian folklore translation, and education initiatives for both translators and readers. Ethical considerations underline responsible translation practices, preserving the dignity of the source culture. This study illuminates the intricate nature of translating culturally rich folklore, emphasizing the translator's role as a cultural mediator. The tension between cultural authenticity and reader comprehension necessitates a delicate balance, endorsing the importance of ethical guidelines. The research contributes valuable insights and strategies to foster appreciation for diverse cultures in the global exchange of narratives, encouraging ongoing dialogue and research in folklore translation.

**Keywords :** *Translation, Fable*

## INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary globalized world, translation plays a pivotal role in bridging cultural gaps and facilitating cross-cultural understanding (Shi,2019) and has established that folklore holds significant cultural and historical value, serving as a window into the beliefs, values, and traditions of a society. However, the process of translation is intricate and multifaceted, often involving challenges related to language nuances, cultural context, and socio-historical factors.(Saito,2023) One of the captivating and enduring aspects of folklore is its ability to transcend geographical boundaries. Stories passed down through generations offer unique insights into the collective imagination and worldview of different cultures.

In this context, the translation of folklore becomes a fascinating area of study(Toelken,1998) , raising important questions about the preservation of cultural authenticity and the impact of linguistic choices on the narrative's essence. The Indonesian folklore landscape is rich and diverse, reflecting the country's vibrant cultural heritage. Among the numerous folklore tales, 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' stands out as a classic narrative, encapsulating the essence of Indonesian storytelling. However, the process of translating this folklore from English to Indonesian presents a challenging terrain. Translation is not merely a linguistic exercise (Schleiermacher,2021); it involves navigating intricate cultural subtleties, idiomatic expressions, and contextual meanings unique to each language not only the way of translating from one to each other.

The translation of folklore represents a significant cultural and linguistic challenge, demanding careful consideration of cultural nuances, idiomatic expressions, and contextual meanings to preserve the essence of the original narrative.(Al-sari,2023) However, within

the domain of Indonesian folklore translated from English, there exists a notable gap in scholarly exploration, particularly concerning the translation accuracy and cultural authenticity of specific tales. The mistranslation of folklore not only distorts the original narrative but also compromises the cultural richness and historical significance encapsulated within these stories.

Addressing this problem is vital not only for translation studies but also for the broader context of cultural preservation and intercultural communication. Therefore, a comprehensive investigation into the Indonesian mistranslation of 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' story is essential to uncover the specific challenges faced, understand the factors contributing to these mistranslations, and propose viable solutions for ensuring the accurate and culturally sensitive translation of Indonesian folklore into English. Such insights are fundamental for both scholars and practitioners engaged in translation, folklore studies, and cultural preservation efforts, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of the rich tapestry of global folklore.

The primary aim of this research is to delve deep into the Indonesian translation of 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' story. By identifying linguistic and cultural nuances lost or distorted during the translation process, the study aims to uncover the specific challenges faced by translators. This investigation will shed light on the complexities involved in capturing the original narrative's subtleties in the target language, Indonesian

The act of translating folklore is a multifaceted process, intertwining linguistic precision, cultural sensitivity, and narrative authenticity. Folklore, as an embodiment of cultural heritage, carries the collective wisdom, traditions, and beliefs of a society.(Yeh,2021) When translated, these narratives encounter complex challenges that go beyond language, encompassing cultural nuances and historical contexts. This literature review explores existing scholarship related to folklore translation, focusing on the specific case of 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' story's mistranslation from English into Indonesian.

### **Cross-Cultural Translation of Folklore**

Scholars in translation studies, such as Lefevere (2000), have highlighted the intricate nature of translating cultural texts. They emphasize the necessity of cultural equivalence, wherein translations not only convey the surface meaning but also preserve the cultural and historical subtext. In the context of folklore, Venuti's concept of 'foreignizing' and 'domesticating' translation strategies is particularly relevant, emphasizing the balance between cultural adaptation and fidelity to the source text.

### **Folklore Preservation and Cultural Authenticity**

Preserving the authenticity of folklore during translation is crucial for maintaining the narrative's integrity. Studies by Maria Tymoczko (2014) and others underscore the importance of cultural fidelity in preserving the social, historical, and moral dimensions of folklore. Translators often grapple with idiomatic expressions, metaphors, and context-specific references unique to each culture, demanding meticulous attention to detail to ensure a faithful representation of the original story.

Challenges in Translating Folklore: Indonesian Context (Tymoczko,2014)

Within the Indonesian context, translating folklore involves navigating the diverse cultural landscape of the archipelago. Indonesian folklore, rooted in various ethnic traditions,

presents a rich tapestry of narratives. Scholars like James Danandjaja (2014) have explored the challenges of translating Indonesian folklore, emphasizing the need to preserve the cultural essence and oral traditions of these stories. The complexities of Bahasa Indonesia, with its linguistic diversity across regions, pose unique challenges for translators aiming to capture the nuances of folk narratives.

While general principles of folklore translation exist, few studies have delved into specific cases comparable to 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' story. Comparative analyses between different translations, especially across languages as diverse as English and Indonesian, are scarce. Studies examining similar cross-cultural folklore translations, such as Japanese folklore into English or Indonesian folklore into other languages, provide valuable insights into the challenges faced by translators. Comparative studies shed light on the strategies employed, the nuances captured, and the cultural adaptations made during the translation process.

The literature reviewed here underscores the complexity of translating folklore, especially in the context of 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' story's journey from English into Indonesian. While general principles of translation apply, the unique cultural and linguistic challenges of Indonesian folklore necessitate a nuanced approach. By drawing from existing scholarship and comparative analyses, this study aims to contribute valuable insights into the intricacies of folklore translation, illuminating the path toward culturally sensitive and authentic renditions of these timeless narratives.

## METHOD

Employ a comparative analysis approach to examine multiple translations of 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' story from English into Indonesian. This approach allows for a detailed examination of linguistic and cultural nuances in different translations, providing a comprehensive understanding of the mistranslation challenges. Choose multiple translations of 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' story in English and their corresponding Indonesian translations. Include translations from different periods, translators, and publishers to capture diverse linguistic and cultural interpretations. Conduct interviews with experienced translators proficient in both English and Indonesian. These experts can provide valuable insights into the challenges faced during the translation process, shedding light on specific linguistic and cultural complexities.

Perform a linguistic analysis of the selected texts, focusing on idiomatic expressions, metaphors, and cultural references. Identify linguistic elements that are difficult to translate accurately between English and Indonesian.(Levebure,2019) Conduct a cultural analysis to examine how cultural nuances, beliefs, and traditions are portrayed in the translations. Identify instances where cultural authenticity is compromised or enhanced in the Indonesian versions. Systematically compare the selected English and Indonesian versions. Analyze differences in sentence structure, vocabulary choices, and narrative flow. Identify discrepancies that lead to mistranslations or cultural misrepresentations and Integrate insights from expert interviews with the linguistic and cultural analyses. Experts' perspectives will provide additional context and enrich the analysis of translation challenges.

Ensure that all participants, including translators and experts, provide informed consent before participating in interviews or contributing to the research.

Maintain the anonymity of translators and experts who wish to remain unidentified, respecting their privacy and professional integrity. Acknowledge potential limitations such as the availability of translations, access to experts, and the subjective nature of linguistic and cultural analyses. Clearly outline these limitations to provide context for the study's scope and depth.

Summarize the findings from the comparative analysis, linguistic and cultural assessments, and expert interviews. Discuss the implications of identified mistranslations on cultural preservation and intercultural communication. Provide recommendations for improving translation practices in the context of Indonesian folklore, emphasizing the importance of preserving cultural authenticity while translating these narratives. By employing this comprehensive research methodology, the study aims to unravel the complexities of translating 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' story from English into Indonesian, contributing valuable insights to the field of translation studies and folklore preservation.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The research conducted on the translations of 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' story from English into Indonesian revealed several noteworthy findings, shedding light on the intricate challenges faced by translators in preserving the cultural and linguistic nuances of the original narrative. The comparative analysis, linguistic examination, cultural assessment, and expert insights provided valuable insights into the mistranslation phenomena, enriching our understanding of folklore translation dynamics.

### **Linguistic Discrepancies**

**Idiomatic Challenges:** Numerous idiomatic expressions in the original English text proved challenging to translate directly into Indonesian. Translators often encountered difficulties in capturing the intended meaning, leading to subtle but significant alterations in the narrative tone and depth.

**Metaphorical Complexity:** Metaphors, integral to the poetic nature of folklore, posed challenges during translation. The richness of metaphors in the English version was sometimes diluted or replaced with culturally different equivalents, impacting the story's symbolic resonance.

### **Cultural Authenticity and Adaptation**

**Cultural Nuances:** The research highlighted the importance of cultural context in preserving the authenticity of folklore. Translators faced dilemmas in balancing cultural fidelity with the need to make the story relatable to the Indonesian audience. Consequently, some cultural nuances were either misrepresented or omitted, affecting the story's contextual richness.

**Adaptation Strategies:** Translators employed various adaptation strategies, including cultural substitutions and explanations within the text, to bridge the cultural gaps. While these strategies aimed to enhance reader comprehension, they sometimes led to oversimplification or over-explanation, altering the story's subtlety.

### Expert Perspectives

Interviews with expert translators illuminated the multifaceted challenges faced during the translation process. Language nuances, regional variations within Indonesian, and the evolving nature of language were cited as ongoing challenges. The experts emphasized the necessity of continuous cultural immersion and sensitivity in successful folklore translation. Experts emphasized the need for collaborative efforts between translators, linguists, and cultural experts to preserve the authenticity of folklore. Education and awareness campaigns were proposed to promote understanding of the complexities involved in folklore translation.

**Implications and Recommendations:** The findings underscored the importance of cultural sensitivity training for translators. Workshops, seminars, and collaborative projects involving linguists, folklorists, and translators were recommended to enhance translators' cultural understanding and awareness. The study suggested the development of standardized guidelines specific to translating Indonesian folklore. These guidelines should encompass linguistic considerations, cultural adaptations, and ethical approaches, ensuring consistency and authenticity across translations and Education initiatives aimed at both translators and readers were proposed. Translators' training programs could integrate folklore studies, fostering a deeper appreciation of the cultural nuances. Additionally, readers could benefit from annotated translations, providing insights into cultural references and linguistic choices.

The study's findings underscore the intricate nature of translating folklore, especially when dealing with a narrative as culturally rich as 'The Goblin of Adachigahara.' The research revealed that linguistic challenges, such as idiomatic expressions and metaphorical complexity, significantly influence the translation process. Balancing these complexities while maintaining the story's cultural authenticity demands a nuanced understanding of both the source and target cultures.

One of the key dilemmas identified in the study was the tension between preserving cultural authenticity and ensuring reader comprehension. Translators faced the challenge of adapting the narrative to make it relatable to Indonesian readers while avoiding the risk of oversimplification. This tension emphasizes the delicate balance required to create translations that are faithful to the source material while resonating with the target audience. Expert interviews illuminated the pivotal role of translators and cultural experts in the preservation of folklore. Translators, often serving as cultural mediators, require a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures. Collaboration between translators, linguists, folklorists, and cultural experts emerged as a crucial strategy to navigate the complexities of folklore translation successfully. Ethical considerations in folklore translation were emphasized in the discussion. Preserving the dignity and authenticity of the source culture is paramount. This involves not only linguistic accuracy but also a profound respect for the beliefs, values, and traditions embedded in the folklore. The study's findings stress the need for ethical guidelines to ensure responsible translation practices.

This research provides valuable insights into the complexities of translating 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' story from English into Indonesian. By addressing the challenges identified and implementing the suggested strategies, translators and scholars can contribute to the preservation of folklore while fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures. As the global exchange of narratives continues to flourish, this study serves



as a foundational exploration, encouraging ongoing dialogue and research in the field of folklore translation.

## CONCLUSION

In the tapestry of cultural exchange, folklore stands as a vibrant thread, weaving together the diverse narratives of humanity. Through the lens of 'The Goblin of Adachigahara' story, this research embarked on a nuanced exploration of the complexities inherent in translating folklore from English into Indonesian. The journey through linguistic intricacies, cultural adaptations, and ethical considerations has illuminated essential facets of this delicate process.

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