CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

Chapter I of this research proposal presents some topics. They are background of study, statement of problems, purpose of study, significance of study, scope and limitation, definition of key terms. Each section is presented as follow.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language helps people to express their excitement, pleasure, bitter feelings, surprise, or anger, so that it can be assured that language is a system of communication based upon words and the combination of words into sentences (Eifring and Theil, 2005). Nevertheless, Salehi (2012) believes that language, at the same time, entraps the knowledge and traditions of the time to remain available not only for the next generations of the same speaking community, but for other nations and ethnicities as well. He said that language which is learnt and used is viewed as a symbol of cultural reality.

Although some hypotheses insist on the irrelevancy of these two concepts, majority of the experts claim on the relationship between language and culture (Salehi, 2012). Brown (2000) states that there is a connection between language and culture by saying it is apparent that culture becomes highly important in the learning of a second language. A language is part of a culture, and a culture is part of a language; the two are intricately interwoven (Freimuth, 2006). Moreover, Fantini (1997) believes that communicative ability allows culture development through interaction and communication with other individuals. Language serves as the construct that aids
cultural development. Therefore, it cannot be denied that language and culture are both integral parts of human life, and their connections exist.

The fact is that not all people share the same language and culture causing interpretation or translation to be a very effective factor in communicating, exchanging cultures, ideas and knowledge. Many scholars rightly maintain that translating or interpreting is an intercultural communication act that requires bicultural competence to cope with culture specificities either religious, political or social (As-Safi, 2013). According to As-Safi (2013), translating and interpreting greatly diverge. A translator works with written texts, while an interpreter translates orally. Both of them take the message from the source language (SL) and convey it in the target language (TL). However, translating involves more than replacing a word with its equivalence in another language. Jones (2002) pointed out that a translator also must be aware of cultural references which should be explained to the readers.

Translation connects two different cultures by the conversion of linguistic system. The products of translation become medium that enables people to interact well with others although they have different cultural and linguistic backgrounds (Putrawan, 2011). Newmark (1988) also believes that translation has been instrumental in transmitting culture, sometimes unequal condition responsible for distorted and biased translations, ever since countries and language have been in contact with each other.

Problems may occur whenever it deals with two or more languages, and they causes problem to translators. Some translators mostly get difficulties in translating cultural identity because it has always been hard to convey national and historic terminologies. Robinson (2003) said translators commonly have major focus on cultural knowledge and cultural different. Hence, it can be found, in daily life, a
translator spending hours to find out the meaning of unfamiliar words related culture terminologies and to produce proper translated words that ease readers’ understanding.

When discussing culture and language, both of them cannot be separated since they have a strong relationship. In specific culture, there are words which may convey the identity and cultural background of native-speaking community called realia. The term realia (singular: reale) stem from Latin, meaning ‘real things’ that refer to the real world “outside languages” (Leppihalme as cited from Naukkarine, 2006).

Translating realia is challenging because the translator need to convey the flavor of local, national characteristics or historic color inherent to the realia by means of native language (Grigor’eva, 2011). Those realia should be explained because there are possibilities that readers have some misunderstanding about the content of the text, so the readers will not have the same perspective as the writer. Therefore, without readers realized, translator used some strategies in order to make cultural words become understandable and acceptable by the readers, although it is sometimes different from the original words.

In a novel, realia are translated in different ways. Translators usually want the readers understand the plot without becoming confused by uncommon words. For example, in Twilight by Stephenie Meyer, Nurlaily and Diawati (2013) found that in one chapter of the novel, the translator used more than one translation strategies. From twelve realia that were found, the translator used three different strategies, and the result was six of them used maintenance strategy which means that the translator kept the words as the way they are. Unfortunately, the limited numbers of realia which are analyzed make the conclusion unfaithful. Therefore, the researcher is motivated to conduct research in analyzing the typology of realia and their strategies into Bahasa
Indonesia. In addition, there is a need for more research on the cultural translation issues because there is a lack of research about translation of realia from English into Bahasa Indonesia or vice versa. This absence impacts on the understanding of cultural terminologies.

It is interesting to investigate realia appearing in novel and strategies used by translator to translate them. Considering the importance of this phenomenon, the researcher is interested in conducting a research on realia and their translation strategies. The researcher chooses Heather Webber’s novel *Truly, Madly* which has been translated into Bahasa Indonesia in 2012.

There are some considerations why researcher chooses *Truly, Madly* after reading it. Firstly, this novel, which talks about psychic abilities, contains many realia compared to other popular novels. Moreover, the settings of novel, which are Boston and Weymouth, Massachusetts, U.S.A., will show a lot of realia which are usually unfamiliar to readers, especially Indonesian readers, because they are in the two very distant countries across different world hemisphere. In addition, Cootey (2010) reviewed this novel and said *Truly, Madly* is a delightful and enjoyable novel because it has different plot lines and good command of language. *Romantic Times*, a genre of magazine specializing in romance novels, even stated in Webber’s official site that *Truly, Madly* is a great novel which has divine combination of paranormal romance, suspense and a fun story. Therefore, the researcher wants to find out types of realia in *Truly, Madly* and their strategies used by the translator to translate realia into Bahasa Indonesia.

1.2 Statement of Problems

1. What types of realia are found in Heather Webber’s novel *Truly, Madly*?
2. What strategies are used in translating realia into Bahasa Indonesia in Heather Webber’s novel *Truly, Madly*?

3. What strategies are frequently used in translating realia into Bahasa Indonesia in Heather Webber’s novel entitled *Truly, Madly*?

1.3 Purpose of Study

1. To investigate types of realia in Heather Webber’s novel *Truly, Madly*

2. To explain the strategies in translating realia used by the translator of Heather Webber’s novel *Truly, Madly*

3. To analyze frequently-applied strategies used by the translator of Heather Webber’s novel *Truly, Madly*

1.4 Significance of Study

It is expected that this study give some benefits to:

1. Students

   This research is expected to be helpful for the students of English Department, especially translation class students in increasing and developing their knowledge about the translation of realia. Furthermore, students are expected to be able to comprehend the strategies in translating realia.

2. Lecturers

   This research is expected to be useful for the lecturers as a source and empirical data in teaching translation about realia and their translation strategies.
3. Future researchers

This research can be used to stimulate other researchers to conduct further research related to this research in a more detailed discussion or from different points of view.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This research focuses on translation as a product, more specifically on words, related to realia in Heather Webber’s novel entitled *Truly, Madly*. The research is limited only to the types of realia in *Truly, Madly*, the strategies used in translating realia, and frequently-applied strategies used by the translator of Heather Webber’s novel *Truly, Madly*.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Translation is the act or process of transferring written texts from source language (SL) into target language (TL) correctly.

2. Realia are cultural-specific words or terminologies. It focuses on phenomena or categorical concepts which are specific in one country or culture. For example, *cafeteria* (English) is translated into *kafetaria* (Bahasa Indonesia).

3. Translation strategy is procedures that describe how some translation problems faced by the translator are solved.