



## An Analysis of Translation Method From Indonesian to English in the Song “Cintanya Aku” Covered By Emma Heeters

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### Abstract

*This study aims to analyze the translation techniques used in the English version of the Indonesian song "Cintanya Aku", performed by Dutch singer Emma Heesters. The primary objective is to identify the translation methods applied and examine their impact on preserving meaning, emotional tone, and cultural relevance in the target language. Utilizing a qualitative descriptive approach, the research is grounded in Peter Newmark's translation theory. The data consists of the original Indonesian lyrics (source language) and their English translation (target language), which are compared to categorize the applied methods, including literal, communicative, semantic, and free translation. The findings reveal a dominant use of communicative and literal translation, supported by elements of semantic and free translation. This strategy reflects a domestication approach, aiming to make the lyrics more accessible and emotionally resonant for English-speaking audiences. The implication is that the chosen translation techniques effectively maintain the song's emotional depth while facilitating cross-cultural understanding. Ultimately, the study highlights the importance of strategic translation choices in adapting music across languages and cultures.*

**Keywords:** Translation methods, songs translation, communicative translation, Emma Heseters, Newmark's theory, domestication.

### INTRODUCTION

In an increasingly globalized world, translation plays a vital role in bridging linguistic and cultural gaps, particularly in the transmission of music, literature, and media across borders. One compelling example of this dynamic is the adaptation of Indonesian songs into English by international artists. A notable case is Dutch singer Emma Heesters, renowned for her English covers of non-English songs. Her rendition of the Indonesian ballad "Cintanya Aku" presents a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of translation theory and musical performance.

While translation in literary texts has been extensively studied, the translation of song lyrics remains an underexplored area, especially when it involves cross-cultural adaptations that require not only linguistic accuracy but also the preservation of musicality, emotional tone, and cultural resonance. This gap underlines a key problem statement: how are translation techniques

applied to song lyrics in a way that balances fidelity to the original text with the creative demands of music and the expectations of a new audience?

This study investigates the translation techniques used in Emma Heesters' English version of "Cintanya Aku", aiming to identify the strategies employed to convey meaning, emotion, and poetic nuance. The research builds upon established translation frameworks, notably those proposed by Newmark (2012) such as literal, free, and semantic translation—and expanded by Ramadhan and Baharuddin (2021) with techniques like modulation, equivalence, and adaptation, which are particularly useful when translating culture-bound content like songs.

The novelty of this research lies in its specific focus on the translation of Indonesian songs into English in a musical context an area seldom addressed in depth while also employing a comparative, text-based analysis of both the source and target lyrics to reveal the translator's decision-making process within a performative setting.

## METHOD

This paper discusses the challenges and strategies in translating song lyrics, compares various translation approaches, and outlines a research design for analyzing the translation of a particular song. The text explores the complexities of translating song lyrics, highlighting the difficulties posed by non-semantic features such as rhyme, rhythm, and chant. It compares this with the translation of literary texts, emphasizing the need for approaches beyond literal word-for-word translation. The author introduces various translation strategies, categorizing them based on their emphasis on the source language or the target language. Finally, a research design is presented for analyzing the translation of Emma Heesters' song, "Cintanya Aku," into English and Indonesian. The core issue discussed is the inherent difficulty in accurately translating song lyrics while maintaining the musicality and intended meaning. While translation generally aims to convey the original message in another language, song lyrics present unique challenges due to their artistic and musical nature. Direct, word-for-word translation often results in unsingable texts and fails to capture the nuances of the original. Therefore, the author explores various translation strategies to address this challenge. The primary contribution of this paper lies in the detailed explanation and comparison of various translation methods. It categorizes the methods.

This method, based on its focus (source language vs. target language), provides a clear framework for understanding the choices translators make when dealing with song lyrics. The introduction of a research design for analyzing specific song translations adds a practical dimension to the theoretical discussion. The text employs a descriptive methodology, explaining and comparing various translation approaches: word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adapted translation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation. The research design focuses on a qualitative analysis of the English and Indonesian translations of Emma Heesters' song, "Cintanya Aku." The source and target language lyrics will be analyzed to evaluate the translation strategies used and their effectiveness in preserving meaning and musicality. The provided YouTube link will serve as a data source for this analysis. The analysis of the translation of "Cintanya Aku" could be expanded to include a comparative analysis of the various translation methods used in each version, examining their impact on the song's overall aesthetics and audience reception. Further research could investigate the cultural implications of translating songs and the translator's role in bridging cultural gaps. This research can contribute to a broader understanding of translation theory and practice, particularly in the context of artistic works such as songs.

Author's initial format. As stated by (Newmark, 1991) a rendering action relates to the intent of the author. This implies that while translating a message, we must take into account the author's intended readers and seek out words that will most effectively convey that message in the target language. Additionally, (Newmark, 2012) claims that translation is a creative endeavor where a translation into another language serves to substitute an equivalent written expression in one language. He asserted that we should provide a detailed explanation to ensure that the intended readers can understand and interpret the message in the same manner as the readers of the original text did. We must generate a target text that conveys a message similar to the source text.

### Research design

This study aims to analyze the translation of Emma Heesters' song "Cintanya Aku." This study employs the qualitative research method as its approach. The information is characterized by that. The information consists of the source language and the target language of the song lyrics "Cintanya Aku." The source language and target language are provided by the website.

Emma Heesters sang the translated English lyrics.

[https://youtu.be/6eIWBPRUMdQ?si=3aGYXyFu\\_bBmwDQI](https://youtu.be/6eIWBPRUMdQ?si=3aGYXyFu_bBmwDQI).

Tiara Andini & Arsy Widiyanto sang the translated Indonesia lyrics.

<https://youtu.be/eAa32W5F51Y?si=3HVrZLDrMcTJ6hXn>

### Technique of collecting data

The writer chose the latest song due to its memorable melodies, despite the existence of numerous songs with translated lyrics. The writer collected the source and target languages of the lyrics from a site that translated them instantly and after repeatedly listening to the song.

### Technique of analyzing data

After collecting the data, the researcher analyzes it. To be able analyze the translation method of English song lyrics, steps which are taken are :

1. Search the song lyrics fro English to Indonesian.
2. Write the SL following with TL every text.
3. Analyze the translation method that is used to translate the song lyrics.

### Data analysis

After reading the lyrics in both Indonesian and English, the researcher noted several source and target languages (SL and TL). The information was then examined using a variety of translation techniques, including word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation techniques.

## RESULT/S AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Data

No	Source Language	Target Language	Translation Method
1.	Right in front of you	Tepat di depanmu	Literal Translation
2.	I'm standing with so much joy	Aku berdiri dengan penuh sukacita	Communicative Translation
3.	My heart beats fast	Jantungku berdetak cepat	Literal Translation
4.	When I hold you	Saat aku memelukmu	Semantic Translation
5.	And when my hand touches your hand	Dan saat tanganku menyentuh tanganmu	Literal Translation
6.	I feel so.. lucky	Aku merasa... sangat beruntung	Communicative Translation
7.	Cause right now I'm feeling your love	Karena saat ini aku merasakan cintamu	Communicative Translation
8.	you're the most beautiful on earth	Kamulah yang tercantik di bumi	Communicative Translation
9.	I know it since the day we met	Aku tahu itu sejak hari kita bertemu	Literal Translation
10.	Promise me, my love	Janjilah padaku,cintaku	Literal Translation
11.	That you won't break	Bahwa kau tak akan	Communicative Translation

	my heart	menghancurkan hatiku	
12.	I've been hurt before	Aku pernah terluka sebelumnya	Literal Translation
13.	I want my new start	Aku ingin awalku yang baru	Literal Translation
14.	No I know you are not my first love	Aku tahu kau bukan cinta pertamaku	Semantic translation
15.	But I hope that from today	Tapi kuharap mulai hari ini	Communicative Translation
16.	We can say history stays history	Kita bisa berkata masa lalu biarlah jadi masa lalu	Communicative Translation
17.	And you will always love me	Dan kau akan selalu mencintaiku	Literal Translation
18.	What I feel with you	Apa yang kurasakan bersamamu	Literal Translation
19.	Is so much more than I once had	Jauh lebih besar dari yang pernah kumiliki	Semantic translation
20.	No one compares to what you are	Tak ada yang bisa dibandingkan dengan dirimu	Free Translation
21.	I know I knew it from the start	Aku tahu aku sudah tahu dari awal	Literal Translation
22.	Don't take another heart	Jangan ambil hati yang lain	Communicative Translation
23.	We can say history stays his	Kita bisa berkata masa lalu biarlah jadi masa lalu	Communicative Translation
24.	I want you to know that	Aku ingin kau tau bahwa	literal Translation
25.	My heart's always true tooo you	Hatiku selalu setia padamu	Communicative Translation
26.	Don't want nothing els	Aku tak menginginkan yang lain	Communicative Translation
27.	Because I know I just want your love	Karena aku tahu aku hanya menginginkan cintamu	Communicative Translation
28.	Use two	Kita berdua	Literal Translation
29.	Till eternity	Hingga selamanya	Semantic translation
30.	And you will always love me	Dan aku akan selalu mencintaiku	Literal Translation

## FINDING

### Types of translation method

Upon reviewing the data, the researcher compiled some lyrics from the song "Cintanya Aku" by Emma Heeters, identifying the types of translation methods employed by the translator in rendering the song lyrics "Cintanya Aku." Five methods are utilized in translation: word-for-word translation, literal translation, free translation, communicative translation, and semantic translation.

## DISCUSSION

The analysis of Emma Heesters rendition of *Cintanya Aku* originally performed by Tiara Andini and Arsy Widiyanto demonstrates a strong emphasis on clarity and cultural suitability in conveying meaning and emotional nuance from Indonesian to English. The translation utilizes a variety of techniques as classified by Molina and Albir (2002), including established equivalence, amplification, discursive creation, linguistic compression, compensation, linguistic enhancement,

adaptation, and alteration. Among these, established equivalence emerges as the most frequently employed technique.

Established equivalence refers to the use of commonly accepted expressions or terms in the target language to substitute words or phrases from the source language. This ensures that the intended message remains comprehensible, natural, and emotionally resonant for the target audience. Its dominance in the translation of *Cintanya Aku* highlights the translator's focus on maintaining the artistic subtleties and emotional tone of the original lyrics, while also adapting them to align with the linguistic and cultural expectations of English-speaking listeners.

This translation strategy reflects the communicative approach as described by Newmark (1988), which prioritizes the conveyance of intended meaning and emotional effect over literal fidelity. Moreover, the findings align with the domestication ideology (Venuti, 1995), where translators adapt the source text to better fit the cultural and linguistic norms of the target audience. The widespread use of established equivalence supports this orientation, as it serves to naturalize the translated content, making it more accessible and emotionally engaging for the target culture.

The results of this study also reinforce previous research findings, such as those by Mukminin (2024), which observed the predominance of general equivalence methods in translation. This consistency suggests that translators often prefer domestication-oriented techniques to enhance clarity and cultural alignment in lyrical translation.

Table 2. domestication-oriented techniques

Translation Technique	Frequency	Dominant Function
Dominant Function	Highest	Ensures clarity, preserves emotional tone and flow
Amplification	Moderate	Adds explanatory detail
Discursive Creation	Moderate	Reconstructs meaning creatively for cultural adaptation
Linguistic Compression	Lower	Condenses text for lyrical rhythm
Compensation	Lower	Balances meaning lost elsewhere
Linguistic Enhancement	Lower	Adds stylistic or emotional emphasis
Adaptation	Lower	Alters cultural elements for better reception
Alteration (Modulation)	Lower	Changes perspective or expression structure

### 1. Free translation

$$\frac{1}{30} \times 100\% = 0,03\%$$

### 2. Communicative translation

$$\frac{12}{30} \times 100\% = 0,4\%$$

### 3. Literal translation

$$\frac{13}{30} \times 100\% = 0,43\%$$

#### 4. Semantic translation

$$\frac{4}{30} \times 100\% = 0,13\%$$

Table 3. translation method with percentage calculation.

Translation Method	Total Number	Percentage (%)
Free translation	1	0,03%
Communicative translation	12	0,4%
Literal Translation	13	0,43%
Semantic Translation	4	0,13%
Total	30	100%

## CONCLUSION

This study analyzes translation techniques in the song "Cintanya Aku" based on Molina and Albir's (2002) classification, with the primary finding being that the communicative approach is the dominant strategy. The most frequently used technique is established equivalence, which facilitates understanding for English speakers through the use of familiar terms. Other techniques used include amplification, discursive creation, linguistic compression, compensation, linguistic expansion, adaptation, and modulation.

The main conclusion of this study indicates that these techniques align with Newmark's (1988) communicative approach and Venuti's (1995) domestication principle, which emphasizes the effective conveyance of meaning and emotion to the target audience. This study's contribution lies in strategically mapping translation techniques to maintain the cultural relevance and emotional power of song lyrics in the target language, thereby increasing their accessibility and impact for English-speaking listeners.

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