

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher explains several important parts that guide the whole study. These parts include the background of the study, which describes why the research is done; the research problems, which show the questions the study wants to answer; the objectives of the study, which state the goals of the research; the scope and limitation, which explain what the study focuses on; the significances of the study, which describe the benefits of the research. These sections help the reader understand the direction and purpose of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Translation plays an important role in bridging communication between people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, especially in audiovisual media such as films. In the context of globalization, subtitle translation has become increasingly important as it helps audiences understand foreign movies and enhances cross-cultural communication. Through subtitles, viewers are able to access not only the storyline but also the emotions and messages conveyed in the original language (Qi, 2024). However, subtitle translation is not a simple process because it is influenced by technical and contextual constraints. Subtitles must be presented within limited time and screen space, which requires translators to condense information while maintaining meaning. In addition, subtitles must deal with cultural differences and ensure that the translation remains clear and accessible for the audience. These limitations often lead to adjustments in sentence structure, which may affect how meaning is represented in the target language (Motiejūnienė & Danilavičienė, 2025).

Inaccurate subtitle translation may affect how audiences understand and interpret a film, as it can hinder comprehension and alter the way characters and their emotional expressions are perceived. As a result, differences in translation may lead to different interpretations of the intended meaning by the audience (Jiafei et al., 2025). Therefore, analyzing how meaning is transferred in subtitle translation is essential to ensure that the original message is effectively conveyed to the audience

(Saputra et al., 2022). In this context, the concept of equivalence is important because it helps explain whether the translated subtitle conveys a meaning that is sufficiently similar to the source text while remaining natural and understandable for the target audience. Nida (1964) theory of equivalence is relevant to this study because it emphasizes the transfer of meaning rather than the reproduction of form. This perspective is useful for subtitle translation, where translators often need to modify linguistic forms in order to produce a natural translation while still preserving the intended meaning of the original dialogue. A linguistic approach can be used to examine how meaning is represented and transferred in translation. One relevant approach is Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), introduced by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), which views language as a resource for making meaning in context (Omer & Ali, 2021).

SFG divides language into three metafunctions: the ideational, interpersonal, and textual metafunctions. The ideational metafunction deals with how people express their experiences of the world and their thoughts. It is represented through transitivity (Bakuuro, 2017). Transitivity is an important system that explains how experiences are represented through processes, participants, and circumstances. Among these elements, processes play a central role in expressing actions, thoughts, and feelings (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). For this reason, transitivity provides a useful framework for analyzing how experiential meaning is represented in the English dialogues of *Inside Out 2* and how it is transferred into the Indonesian subtitles. When transitivity structures are analyzed across languages, differences often occur due to variations in grammatical systems. These differences may lead to changes in how meaning is expressed in the target language. Such changes are closely related to translation shifts.

Catford, (1965) defines translation shift as a change that occurs when translating from a source language (SL) to a target language (TL), where the translated text does not maintain a direct “formal correspondence” with the original. These shifts are not intentional but occur naturally due to differences between language systems. In subtitle translation, these shifts may occur more frequently because translators need to adjust expressions to fit time and space limitations. As a result, changes in transitivity pattern may influence how experiences and

emotions are conveyed to the audience. For example, the clause “Starting to get backed up here” is translated into “*Mulai macet di sini.*” The source language uses a verbal expression “get backed up,” which refers to a process of becoming crowded or blocked. In the target language, this meaning is translated into the word “*macet,*” which functions as a more compact expression. This shows a shift from a phrase to a word (Ahmad et al., 2024). Although the grammatical form changes, the main meaning of the clause is still conveyed in the Indonesian subtitle. This example shows that subtitle translation may involve both structural adjustment and an effort to maintain equivalence of meaning. For that reason, the study of subtitle translation needs to consider not only the shifts that occur in the translation, but also whether the meaning represented through transitivity is still conveyed appropriately in the target language.

This issue has also attracted the attention of several previous researchers who have examined transitivity and translation from different perspectives. For instance, Sriyono (2021) examined the translation of transitivity in Indonesian tourism texts, Ulinnuha and Zarkasi (2025) focused on translation shifts in the Indonesian subtitles of *The Journey*, Nugraheni et al. (2025) analyzed translation procedures in the Indonesian subtitles of *Inside Out 2*, and Ketaren et al. (2025) investigated transitivity in the *Barbie* movie. These studies have contributed to the understanding of transitivity and translation in different contexts. However, they mainly focus on one aspect of translation and do not examine how transitivity, equivalence, and translation shifts work together in representing and transferring experiential meaning in subtitle translation. Therefore, further research that integrates these three perspectives is needed to provide a more comprehensive understanding of meaning transfer in subtitle translation.

To address this gap, this study examines the English-Indonesian subtitle translation of *Inside Out 2* (2024), an animated movie produced by Pixar. The film tells the story of Riley, a teenage girl who experiences new emotions such as Anxiety, Envy, and Embarrassment, as she navigates adolescence. The movie’s dialogues are rich in emotional experience, which makes it an interesting subject for analysing how transitivity is used to build meaning and how translation shifts affect that representation. At the same time, when these dialogues are translated into

Indonesian subtitles, the translator must ensure that the intended meaning remains understandable and natural for the target audience. This makes equivalence an important aspect to examine. In addition, differences between English and Indonesian, as well as the technical limitations of subtitle translation, may lead to various translation shifts in the realization of transitivity processes. Therefore, *Inside Out 2* is an appropriate object for a study that examines the types of transitivity processes found in the subtitle translation, how those processes are realized through formal and dynamic equivalence, and what translation shifts occur in the English-Indonesian subtitles. Through this approach, the study aims to show how experiential meaning is represented and transferred from the source language into the target language in subtitle translation.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the questions to be answered in this research are:

1. What types of transitivity processes are found and its equivalence in the English and Indonesian subtitles of 'Inside Out 2'?
2. What types of translation shifts occur in the English-Indonesian subtitles of Inside Out 2?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To identify and classify the types of transitivity processes found in the English-Indonesian translation of *Inside Out 2* and to examine how those processes are realized through formal and dynamic equivalence based on Halliday's transitivity framework and Nida's theory of equivalence.
2. To determine and categorize the translation shifts that occur in the translation of transitivity processes in the English-Indonesian subtitles of *Inside Out 2* based on Catford's translation shift theory.

1.4 Significance of The Study

Theoretically, this research provides a better understanding of how meaning expressed and transferred across languages through transitivity and translation. By combining Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar, Nida's theory of equivalence, and Catford's translation shift theory, this study shows how transitivity processes

are translated from English into Indonesian, how equivalence is maintained in the translation, and how linguistic shifts occur in the process. Therefore, the study is expected to enrich linguistic and translation studies, especially those related to transitivity, equivalence, and subtitle translation.

Practically, this study may provide useful insights for translators, especially subtitle translators, in understanding how meaning, emotion, and experience are conveyed through transitivity processes and how these can be translated naturally into the target language. The findings may also help translators become more aware of the shifts that occur during translation and of the importance of maintaining equivalence while working under subtitle constraints such as limited time and space. In addition, this study can serve as a reference for students of linguistics and translation studies who are interested in analyzing language functions, meaning transfer, and subtitle translation in films or texts.

Academically, this research serves as a useful resource for future researchers exploring the relationship between linguistic theory and translation practice. It is also encouraging further studies on transitivity, equivalence, and translation shifts in subtitle translation, as well as encourage broader research on how meaning is structured and transferred in multilingual audiovisual media, which are becoming more popular in language studies.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

This study focuses on analyzing the transitivity processes in the English and Indonesian subtitles of *Inside Out 2* (2024), as well as their equivalence and the translation shifts that occur in their translation. The data are taken from selected dialogues containing transitivity processes, including material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes. The study examines how these processes are realized in the English source text, how they are translated into Indonesian, and whether their meanings are equivalently conveyed in the target language.

The analysis applies Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) Systemic Functional Grammar to identify and classify transitivity processes, Nida's theory of equivalence to examine the equivalence of meaning in translation, and Catford's (1965) translation shift theory to analyze the shifts that occur in the translation of

transitivity processes. This study is limited to the analysis of transitivity processes, equivalence, and translation shifts, and does not discuss other linguistic aspects such as mood, modality, thematic structure, cohesion, or interpersonal meaning.

The limitation of this study lies in the scope of the data and the object of analysis, as it only uses selected dialogues from *Inside Out 2* (2024) and their Indonesian subtitle translation. Therefore, the findings cannot be generalized to all forms of translation or other film genres. Nevertheless, this study is expected to provide useful insights into how experiential meaning is represented, maintained, or changed in the English-Indonesian subtitle translation of the film.