

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Preserving local history is important for keeping cultural identity, especially in today's globalized world where big or dominant stories often replace local ones. In many places, the effort to protect cultural memory is started not by government institutions but by community groups that understand the value of local heritage. Jember, a regency in East Java, is an example where local communities work together to keep regional history alive as it faces the risk of being forgotten.

A clear example of a community initiative is the Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat. It was founded in 2015 by local youth in the Kalisat subdistrict as a self-managed, non-profit organization. The foundation works to collect, preserve, and share historical and cultural materials about the local area. Its main goal is to bring back historical stories that have been forgotten or ignored and make them known to the public in ways that are open and inclusive. Its programs include exhibitions like *Kalisat Tempo Doeloe*, archival photo displays, cultural markets, and educational workshops that involve both young people and older generations in learning about local history. This community has considerable attention to the search for historical sources, maintenance of historical archives, documentation, and publication, as well as the implementation of various kinds of artistic, cultural, and other social activities (Pratama et al., 2023).

In 2023, the foundation published a book titled *Batuan Berkisah* to promote local historical awareness. The book tells history by connecting local stories to physical features in the environment such as rocks and mounds. This method makes cultural values easier to see and understand. By combining folklore, oral history, and geographic elements, the book serves both educational and cultural purposes. It also functions as an alternative historical archive for the public. However, the book is only available in Indonesian, which limits its reach to educators, researchers, and international readers interested in local history. In this context, translation is not only about changing language but also about sharing knowledge with a wider audience.

The translated version of this book can serve as authentic educational material. It is not made specifically for formal school settings but can still be useful in informal education and cross-cultural learning. As stated by Sulaiman and Wilson (2018), translation acts as a cultural bridge that helps deliver local knowledge to global audiences. The book is also connected to Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat, a community that often joins international exhibitions. For this reason, the translation project supports both educational goals and the international sharing of local culture.

This final project is part of a collaborative initiative carried out by four college students, in which the writer was responsible for translating pages 66 to 91 of *Batuan Berkisah* from Indonesian into English. The selected section contains significant narratives that illustrate the spiritual, historical, and social dimensions of the Kalisat region. The translation of this portion contributes to the production of a complete English manuscript. The translation is considered necessary due to English being a global language that enables broader access to local knowledge, including the history, values, and cultural heritage embedded in the text.

A preliminary study was carried out by a team of four students and the writer to find a translation project that could help preserve local culture. The team met with Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat, the copyright holder of *Batuan Berkisah*, which manages cultural archives in Jember. During the meeting, the foundation stated their need for an English version of the book to reach a wider audience. This discussion highlighted several key reasons why translation was necessary.

First, using English as a global language allows more people to access the book. Readers from different countries, including scholars, tourists, and cultural enthusiasts, will be able to understand and appreciate the stories and values shared in *Batuan Berkisah*. Second, translating the book into English can support cross-cultural understanding and reduce negative stereotypes. It also helps build better cultural relationships. Third, without an English version, this local heritage remains unknown to people who do not speak Indonesian. This limits the promotion of local culture and reduces its impact on global communities in areas such as education, tourism, and the arts.

In response to these findings, the writer offered to help Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat by translating selected chapters of the book. This translation project is part of the writer's final assignment and also supports the foundation's effort to promote Jember's cultural heritage to a wider audience. This translation project answers the need shared by Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat, the partner organization that sees this work as important and urgent. Once finished, the foundation will have a complete English version book of *Batuan Berkisah*. The translated book will act as a cultural representative, helping the foundation introduce Indonesia, especially Jember, to the world and support efforts to protect and value its cultural heritage.

1.2 Objective

The objective of this final project is to translate the book entitled *Batuan Berkisah* page 66 to 91 from Indonesian into English.

1.3 Significances

Based on the above objective, the report and the product of this final project is expected to be useful for the following parties:

1.3.1 For Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat

The English-translated version of *Batuan Berkisah* book can be used to spread the history of Kalisat more widely, especially to international tourists.

1.3.2 For The Writer

The writer can improve the translation, analysis, and writing skills that the writer has developed while studying at the English Study Program through working on this final project. Besides, the writer will gain knowledge of Jember, especially Kalisat, from reading and translating a book entitled *Batuan Berkisah*.

1.3.3 For The Readers

This final project aims to provide all target readers with a deeper

understanding of Jember's history and cultural heritage. By reading the translated text, readers can appreciate the local wisdom and historical value, particularly those related to the Kalisat area.

1.3.4 For The Student English Study Program

This report may be used as a reference for students in the English Study Program at Politeknik Negeri Jember who will produce a similar type of project. Programs will support students who want to improve their translation skills and prepare for professional challenges in the field.