

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of the translation project and which it was conducted. It begins by explaining the background of the project, followed by the objectives and significance of translating *Merokat Kenangan* zine into English.

1.1 Background

Local history has an important role in shaping community identity because local history reflects stories that are close to the daily experiences of people in a region. However, only few people know about local history because of a lack of knowledge about it, starting from the fact that not much local history has been written or documented, the loss of some or all memories and items related to local history, to the absence of local history in the materials and history books studied in school, which further buries the existence of local history in general knowledge. Actually, history does not only focus on major events or influential figures that was usually written in the history books found in schools, but it also records the lived experiences of ordinary people, local traditions, and collective memories that shape everyday life. Bunari et al. (2023) emphasizes that history includes stories and experiences from various layers of society, making it an important source for understanding human life in a more complete and meaningful way. Therefore, studying and preserving historical narratives is crucial for maintaining cultural awareness and learning from past experiences.

Indonesia has a rich historical heritage that is deeply rooted in local communities. One region with significant historical value is Jember, which has various historical records documented in books, manuscripts, and community archives. One of the local initiatives that focus on cultural and historical preservation is Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat, located on JL. KH. Dewantara, Kalisat, Jember Regency. This foundation actively preserves local history and culture through archival work, exhibitions, public discussions, cultural performances, and community-based programs. Through its activities, the

foundation plays an important role in keeping Jember's historical memory alive and accessible for the local community.

One of the historical works archived by Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat is a zine entitled *Merokat Kenangan*, written by R. Z. Hakim. This zine presents historical narratives of Jember through collective memory, folklore, oral traditions, and cultural expressions. Instead of presenting history in a formal academic style, *Merokat Kenangan* offers a more personal and reflective approach, allowing readers to engage emotionally with the past. The zine highlights how history can be felt, remembered, and shared through stories, rituals, and community experiences. As such, it represents an important cultural document that reflects local identity and awareness of history.

However, despite its cultural and historical importance, *Merokat Kenangan* was previously available only in Indonesian, which limited the accessibility to foreigner visitors that interested in Indonesian local history, such as foreign researchers and students. Through this translation project, the zine has now been made available in English, making the historical and cultural content more accessible to a wider foreigner visitors. By overcoming this language barriers, the translation product helps introduce the local history of Kalisat to foreigner visitors and supports the preservation and dissemination of Indonesian cultural heritage. Translation, therefore, becomes a key process in overcoming this limitation. Catford (1965) defines translation as the replacement of textual material in one language with its equivalent in another language, aiming to convey meaning accurately across languages. Through translation, cultural and historical knowledge can reach a wider audience and contribute to cross-cultural understanding.

Considering English which is widely recognized as an international language, the writer took a practical approach by translating the local historical zine into English to significantly expand its global reach. Based on preliminary study through interview with the head of Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat, each year Yayasan Arsip Sudut Kalisat was visited by at least five visitors from various countries who come to conduct studies and research, as well as to participate in a series of activities organized by Yayasan Arsip Sudut Kalisat while it was found

that the foundation owned many historical manuscripts and zines written in Indonesian, yet English versions are still unavailable. As a result, foreign visitors were unable to read the available historical manuscripts and zines due to language barriers. Arising from this obstacle, the foundation had expressed a strong interest in having some of these materials translated into English to reach a wider audience and support academic needs. However, the foundation faced limitations in terms of human resources to carry out good translations.

In response to that need, the writer translated the zine entitled *Merokat Kenangan* into English. The source text, provided in PDF form, used as the primary material for translation. This project aimed to produce an English version that conveys not only the informative content but also the cultural nuances and narrative style of the original text. Furthermore, the translated zine was printed and archived at Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat. Through this project, the local history of Jember is expected to become more accessible to international readers, while also demonstrating the important role of translation in preserving and sharing community-based historical narratives.

1.2 Objective

The objective of this final project is translating the Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat's historical zine entitled *Merokat Kenangan* from Indonesian into English, which will help the foreign visitors reading the translation of this zine is like reading the original zine.

1.3 Significances

Based on the above objective this final project is expected to provide benefits to the following parties:

1.3.1 For the Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat

Translating the zine into English can strengthen the profile of Yayasan Studi Arsip Sudut Kalisat by demonstrating its dedication to making local history accessible beyond its internal community. Through this translation, readers from other countries can engage with and value the community's efforts. Such wider

access may help increase the community's visibility and acknowledgment at the international level.

1.3.2 For the readers

This translated zine is valuable resource for gaining more knowledge of local histories and cultures to support research and academic needs. It is also expected that the readers of the English version would have the opportunity to learn about the local stories that they will not encounter in the national history narrative with the similar nuances to reading the original zine.

1.3.3 For the writer

Translating historical zine entitled *Merokat Kenangan* can enhance the writer's writing and translation skills as well as increasing knowledge about local history and culture.

1.3.4 For students of the English Study Program

They are also expected to gain deeper understanding of the appropriate procedures for conducting translation, particularly when dealing with similar texts.