

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

A *Contextual Meaning* is when a specific word can change the meaning Depending on what context it would use while a literal meaning refers to the most basic or direct definition of the specific word phrase. For example, the word "bank" can have multiple meanings like a financial institution or the physical building of doing transaction or the act of depositing money. It is proved by *fiveable* (2025) which stated that Contextual meaning refers to the interpretation of a word, phrase, or sentence that is influenced by the surrounding context in which it is used. It emphasizes how meaning can shift based on situational factors, speaker intentions, and the relationship between participants in a conversation. Also, according to J.R. Firth's Contextual Theory of Meaning (1957), contextual meaning is the meaning of a word or expression as determined by its linguistic, situational, and cultural context rather than just its dictionary definition. Firth emphasized that words do not have fixed meanings in isolation—instead, their meaning comes from how they are used in different contexts. It means that contextual meaning is how a sentence can have a different meaning in what kind of context used in question in general.

The relationship between both translation and contextual / literal meaning is crucial because the meaning of the said words, phrases, sentences can change depending on what is the context of the certain situation. Because of many factors like context sensitivity in translation, cultural difference, creativity & computerized translation, many people have different meaning in a certain word of a phrase and we must make sure that everyone even in different languages all have the same understanding of the phrase. The problem between translation and contextual / literal meaning is that most of the directed translation does not have the same meaning as a contextual meaning for example the English word “*Can I go wash my hands?*” means that the

person wants to go to the toilet however if it is translated into another language like Indonesian for example “*Boleh saya cuci tangan?*” it means the person just want to wash his / her hands and just go to the sink (and not the toilet), but the contextual meaning of the person is the person is more than just want to wash his / her hands but doing more things he / she wants to do in the toilet or in Indonesian, we can say “*Boleh saya ke Toilet?*”.

Based on these problems and phenomena above. I am interested in doing this research because I would like to find out that translation part of contextual meaning by looking at the strategy and how the contextual meaning is translated. I wish to conduct this study because I found it is very interesting about the world of contextual meaning and how they can affect the translated language. It is important to conduct this study because the world have multiple languages and meanings and we must make sure that everyone must be on the same page of each situation even though people are using different languages but they used the same context. We must focus on the context. For example, the phrase “Cleaning the toilet” means that you are getting ready for the day in the bathroom however if it translated to a literal meaning, it means that you actually cleaning that whole toilet and not cleaning yourself.

## **1.2 Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the background of study above, the focus of this study is to see the translation strategy between English to Indonesian and of course based on its contextual meaning. This research also focusing on the novel “The Little Prince” by Katherine Woods and the Indonesian version is translated by Listina Srisanti. The contextual meaning of this research doesn’t refer to figurative language. It refers to the linguistic area but I don’t focus on the contextual meaning types deeply, I only focus on the general meaning of the contextual problem itself. Moreover, I focused on the translation method for the contextual meaning translated by the translator itself

### 1.3 Research Question

Considering the idea that has been presented in the background above, this research help answering these questions as follows:

1. What phrases or clauses are found in The Little Prince novel that contain contextual meaning?
2. What are the translation methods used in translating the phrases or clauses that contain contextual meaning in The Little Prince novel?

### 1.4 Objectives of the Research

As from the questions above, the objectives of the research might be stated as follows:

1. To find out phrases or clauses found in The Little Prince novel that contain contextual meaning.
2. To analyze the translation strategies used in translating the phrases or clauses that contain contextual meaning in The Little Prince novel.

