THE TRANSLATION STRATEGY OF EUPHEMISM
IN SYCAMORE ROW BY JOHN GRISHAM
(AN ENGLISH-INDONESIAN NOVEL)

A Thesis
Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty in Partial Fulfillment
of The Requirements for the Degree of Strata One

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ABSTRACT


In this research, the writer intended to know the translation strategy of understatement and overstatement as type of euphemism in English novel entitled Sycamore Row written by John Grisham into Indonesian version under title Di Bawah Pohon Sycamore translated by Lily Boyton. The writer used qualitative method by using translation strategy of euphemism and employed herself to collect data by reading the novel and its translation, marking the euphemistic expression, classifying into understatement and overstatement, selecting and analyzing them based on the theories of euphemism classification by Beatrice Warren and euphemism translation strategy by Peter Unseth. The result of this research revealed that there were ten euphemistic expressions were typed into understatement and five euphemistic expressions were typed into overstatement of euphemism. Three strategies were used by the translator; target language euphemism for six data, literal translation for five data, and plain language translation for four data. From the research finding, the writer concluded that the best strategy in translating euphemism is target language euphemism. However, all those strategies could deal with the translation result because it did not affect the original meaning. Thus, the translation result was successfully delivered by the translator of the target language by using those strategies.

Keywords: Translation, Strategy, Euphemism, Euphemistic Expression, Novel
APPROVEMENT

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2017
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The thesis has been defended before the Faculty of Letters and Humanities’ Examination Committee on 12th July 2017. It has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, 12th July 2017

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it does not contain material that previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, 12th July 2017

Dewi Elvia Muthiariny
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful

All the praises be to Allah SWT, the one and only God, for the blessings that have allowed the writer to finish this research. Peace and blessing are upon the greatest prophet Muhammad SAW, his family, companions, and his followers.

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Jakarta, 12th July 2017

The Writer
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Translation remains a vital part of communication. Nowadays, there are thousands of languages used in the world so it is not surprised for someone master in many languages in daily communication. Translation has a big role as a bridge between different languages. To make people get an understanding in multi-language communication is a translator’s job. One of the most prominent definitions of translation is stated by Newmark who defines translation as rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text.¹

Generally, in using language, speaker is able to use figurative language. Figurative language, according to Gorys Keraf, is a way to use language. Figurative language usage can be applied to make a certain effect. A man can see people’s character and ability by his/her way in using figurative language. It means that figurative language usage is one way to show his/her soul and personality of the speaker. He says that figurative language which is a deviance of ordinary construction that can be used to make a certain effect is a rhetorical figurative language.² One of them is Euphemism.

As stated by Allan and Burridge, Euphemisms are alternatives to dispreferred expressions, and are used in order to avoid possible loss of face. The dispreferred expression may be taboo, fearsome, distasteful, or for some

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other reasons have too many negative connotations to felicitously execute speaker’s communicative intention on a given occasion. For example, people prefer to say mental hospital which is euphemistically referring to a madhouse and dental plate or use the word denture that euphemistically referring to false teeth which are now popularized in everyday conversations.

Warren offers four devices or types of euphemism. There are words formation devices, phonemic modification, loan words, and semantic innovation. Word formation is type of euphemism that using some mechanism; compounding, derivation, blends, acronym, and onomatopoeia. The second type is a form of euphemism modified by its phonetic. Loan words device is euphemism form using foreign words. The last device is semantic innovation which has many sub-types and they are particularization, implication, metaphor, metonym, reversal, understatement, and overstatement.

Semantic innovation is quite difficult to recognize for the word or phrase of the euphemism is not refer to its literal meaning, especially understatement and overstatement. They are also quite common that can be found in literary works such as novel. Understatement or litotes and overstatement or hyperbole have been used regularly in everyday communications that make them quite undetectable.

Moreover, the use of euphemism varies with the gender, age, social status, and occupation, etc. of the social members and euphemism covers various aspects of social culture, including social conventions, traditional

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morality, religion, social values, and politics, etc. It is showed that language is as influenced by culture and is a vehicle of culture as it is euphemism.

Due to the diversity of cultures and social norms, translating cultural bound units, such as euphemisms, is in fact problematic. Nida and Taber said that translating consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.\(^4\)

Translators, as mediators between the source and the target languages, must be aware of the cultural differences. When cross-cultural communication occurs, cultural translation will be needed. In such communication, if participants are not aware of each other’s cultures, misinterpretation would take place. To avoid such misunderstandings and loss of face, translators are responsible for the effective and correct intercultural interactions. For examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Source Text</th>
<th>Target Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>He <em>passed away</em> yesterday morning.</td>
<td><em>Dia telah berpulang</em> pagi kemarin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>The probable love <em>affair</em> between the President and his National Security Advisor was no longer a complete secret.</td>
<td><em>Hubungan asmara antara Presiden dan Penasihat Keamanan Nasional-nya</em> bukan rahasia lagi.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the example number 1, Indonesian phrase *berpulang* is a euphemistic expression used as a replacement of *passed away* which

euphemistically refers to die. For the example number 2, the euphemistic expression *affair* is translated into *hubungan* which is also a euphemistic expression. This sentence refers to sexual interaction between the president and his advisor and the translator preferred to use euphemistic expression in the target language which the reader familiar to.

Therefore, the writer finds it is interesting to study euphemism that can be found in a fiction book entitled *Sycamore Row*, a legal thriller novel written by John Grisham. He is a known master author for legal thriller genre. In his book that will be used as an object, he puts racism and legal issues in which euphemistic expressions usually appear, especially the two type of euphemism which are understatement and overstatement. The novel is selected on the basis of its popularity and accessibility to the average reader.

*Sycamore Row*, translated into Indonesian under title *Di Bawah Pohon Sycamore*, is a second book of Jake Brigance series and published in 2013 by Doubleday which is also a publisher for notable authors such as Dan Brown and Stephen King. This book has 3.9 of 5 stars in Goodreads website and reviewed by The New York Times Book as a true literary event. In Indonesia, *Di Bawah Pohon Sycamore* has been selected as Editor’s Choice in Gramedia bookstore and published by PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama in 2015.

From the explanation above, analyzing euphemistic expression is an interesting to do for this research especially in a legal thriller novel, some of them are; to identify the understatement and overstatement of euphemism in *Sycamore Row* into Indonesian Language and its translation strategy.
B. Focus of the Research

Based on the background of the research above, the focus of this research is words or phrases of understatement and overstatement as type of euphemism in the source book *Sycamore Row* written by John Grisham and its translation under title *Di Bawah Pohon Sycamore* translated by Lily Mayanti Boyton along with its strategy that translator used.

C. Research Question

According to the explanation above, this research tries to find the answer of this research question below:

1. What strategy does the translator use to translate understatement and overstatement as type of euphemism in *Sycamore Row*?

2. How does the strategy deal with the translation result of the understatement and overstatement as type of euphemism in *Sycamore Row*?

D. Significance of the Research

This research is expected to be useful for the readers to get more understanding about euphemism in the novel *Sycamore Row* written by John Grisham. Moreover, this research is expected to help translation researchers to perform the analysis of text based on the study of various types in translation so the analysis and evaluation of the translation can be generated. Also, this is expected to be advantageous for the translator to analyze text more critically and able to choose the right strategy that thus able to produce a translation so
then suits the purpose of translation and accepted by the readers of target language.

E. Research Methodology

1. Objectives of the Research

Based on the research question above, the aims of this research are:

a. To identify the translation strategy used by the translator in translating understatement and overstatement as type of euphemism contained in the novel *Sycamore Row* written by John Grisham.

b. To describe the strategy that the translator used to deal with the translation result.

2. Method of the Research

This research is conducted as a qualitative study. Qualitative method is a research method which relies on verbal data and non-numerical in the same manner as the basic of analyze and creative problem solving of the research.\(^5\) The writer will describe the data and the results obtained from this research is a form of verbal data words or phrases containing in the novel *Sycamore Row* written by John Grisham.

3. Instrument of the Research

The writer acts as the instrument of the research to get data in the research by reading, marking, classifying, selecting, and analyzing the data of euphemistic expressions in the novel *Sycamore Row* written by John Grisham.

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4. Unit of Analysis

The analysis units of the research are *Sycamore Row* written by John Grisham and its translation under title *Di Bawah Pohon Sycamore* translated by Lily Mayanti Boyton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>English Version</th>
<th>Indonesian Version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Sycamore Row</td>
<td>Di Bawah Pohon Sycamore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author/Translator</td>
<td>John Grisham</td>
<td>Lily Mayanti Boyton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year of Publication</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Doubleday</td>
<td>PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Pages</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>640</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Data Sources

5. Technique of Data Collection and Analysis

The writer uses descriptive analysis technique which is supported by the relevant theories. To analyze the data, the researcher uses the following steps:

a. Reading the book and its translation;

b. Focusing on euphemistic expression and its translation;

c. Marking all understatement and overstatement of euphemistic expressions in English version and its translation then making notes about them in a piece of paper. One side of the paper consists of the source text and the other side for the translation;

d. Classifying the data based on the theory of euphemism classification;
e. Analyzing the data; both kinds of euphemistic expression, its translation strategy based on relevant theories, and whether the translation result affect the meaning or not;

f. Writing the report of the research.
CHAPTER II
THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Previous Research

There are some previous researches that is related to this research from theses and journals. The first is a thesis entitled The Translation of Euphemism in “The Sum of All Fears” written by Nadya Paramitha who graduated on 2007 from Universitas Negeri Jakarta. The aim of her research was to find out type of euphemism contained in the novel, the strategy used for its translation, and whether the translations affect the original meanings. The study concluded that from 182 data of the found euphemism, 12.09% of it were translated into non-euphemism forms, 81.87% into euphemism forms, and 6.04% of the data were not translated. Paramitha also found the strategies applied which are Indonesian euphemism, source language euphemism, naturalization, literal translation, plain language translation, deletion, and also subjective interpretation by the translator. From all findings, she found that 148 out of 182 euphemism translations had maintained the intended meanings of the English euphemism. The differences between Paramitha’s research and this research are on the object and the theory used for this research. Moreover, this research only used theory of translation strategy by one euphemist.

The second is a journal written by Sameerah Jabbar Anber and Muna Abdual Hussein Swear entitled Influence of Sociocultural Differences in Translating Euphemistic Expressions from English into Arabic in “A Grain of

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6 Nadya Paramitha, The Translation of Euphemism in “The Sum of All Fears” (Jakarta: Jakarta State University 2007).
This journal investigated the sociocultural differences in translating Euphemistic expressions from English into Arabic novel “A Grain of Wheat” to show the differences of these expressions usage by two translators from different cultures (Syrian and Iraqi cultures). This study adapted a qualitative approach and translation strategies to focus on the sociocultural differences in translating expressions as; death, sex, human body, bodily function. The results showed there were twenty four examples that indicated frequently using literal, omission, and replacement translation strategies in translating the four topics. However, it revealed that Syrian translation was apparently better delivered than the Iraqi translation. The differences of this research and Muna Swear’s are on the theory that is used, the object of the study, and the focus of this study which is only understatement and overstatement of euphemistic expression.

The third of the previous research that is related to this research is a journal published in Canada, Cross-Cultural Communication journal 2014 Volume 10 No. 5. The journal written by Ekrema Shehab, Abdul-Rahman Qadan, and Manar Hussein entitled Translating Contextualized Arabic Euphemisms into English: Socio-Cultural Perspective. The journal examined the role context plays in determining the translation strategies pursued by translators of Arabic euphemisms into English. The study derived evidence from 11 Arabic euphemistic expressions taken from five literary masterpieces written by the

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Egyptian novelist and Noble Prize winner Najib Mahfouz. The study revealed that the best translation strategy is to communicatively convey the intended meaning of the original euphemistic expression while at the same time keeping its euphemistic thrust. The research also revealed the influence of context that has a great impact upon the use of euphemism and the degree of this use. Unlike the journal that focused on the context such as social, sex, and death euphemism and its translation from Arabic into English, this research focuses on the word and phrases of euphemistic expression.

The last is a journal written by Mohammad Qasem Al-Hamad and Asma Mohammad Salmanand and published on 2013 in European Scientific Journal vol.9 No.2. The journal is entitled The Translatability of Euphemism in the Holy Quran. The purpose of the study was to examine the incongruities in translating Quranic euphemistic expressions into English in the works of Ali, Hilali and Khan, Pickthall, and Arberry. The study revealed that a number of 23 examples of euphemistic expressions cited from different surahs of the Holy Quran was an evident phenomenon in the Holy Quran and that the process of translating it into English was generally problematic for reasons such as linguistic and cultural diversity. Then researchers suggested more appropriate translations of these Quranic euphemisms considering the criteria of meaning and euphemism. The differences between the journal and this research that the writer conducts are in

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the object and the theories applied. The writer uses an English-Indonesian novel, while the journal used the Holy Quran as the object of the study.

B. The Theory of Translation

1. Definition of Translation

Translation now has been used as a tool to reproduce other language in the same meaning from the source language to target language. Many experts have been declared the meaning of translation on their own books. One of the most prominent definitions of translation was stated by Peter Newmark. He said that translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text.\(^{10}\)

Another theory was presented by Larson that it is an activity to translate the source language into the target language or the language of the recipient, which is start the first language form to the form of a second language using semantic structure\(^{11}\) while Catford defined translation as the replacement of textual material in one language by equivalent textual material in another language.\(^{12}\)

From the theories above, it can be concluded that translation is a bridge between different languages to make communication going well. Translation aims to reproduce various kinds of texts into another language without changing the original meaning of the source language. In other words, the translator’s goal

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\(^{10}\) Peter Newmark (1988), *op.cit.*, p.5.
should be to reproduce a text in the target language which communicates the same message as the source language but using the natural grammatical and lexical choices of the target language.

To do an effective translation, Larson stated, one must discover the meaning of the source language form and use the receptor language form which can express this meaning in a natural way". The translator as mediators between the source and the target language must be aware of the meaning and must know the right way to replace the source language so that the receptor of the target language will not realize that it is a translation form. As Hatim and Mason said, translation is another act of communication which attempts to relay, across cultural, and linguistics boundaries. Moreover, besides the original meaning of source text, translators must know cultural words and language system of both languages.

2. Process of Translation

The translation process, whether it is for translating or interpreting, can be described simply as decoding the meaning of the source text, and re-encoding the meaning in the target language. The concept of translation as offered by Nida and Taber is shown below as a diagram.

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The translation process stated by Nida and Taber had three stages: (1) Analysis, in this step, translator explore the meaning and the grammatical relationship of source language word or compound word; and, (2) Transfer, the transfer of the sense which is in the mind of translator from source language to target language; and (3) Restructuring, the sense that has been transferred is restructured in order to make the final message fully acceptable in the receptor language.

The same concept was offered by Larson. Larson stated that the process of translation had three steps; first, studying the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of the source language text; second, analyzing the source language text to determine the meaning; the last, reconstructuring the same meaning by using the lexicon and grammatical structure which are suitable in the receptor language and its cultural context.\textsuperscript{16}

In the process of translating, there are some principles that must be attained by translators. Duff summarized them as meaning, form, register, source language influence, style and clarity, and idioms.\textsuperscript{17} These principles keep hold on the most essential part in the process of translation which is the meaning.

\textsuperscript{16} Mildred Larson (1984), \textit{op.cit}. p.3-4.
conclusion, translation process involves two major phases: first, comprehension of the message in the source language, and second, reproducing the message in the target language.\textsuperscript{18}

C. The Theory of Euphemism

1. Definition of Euphemism

In doing communication, people are able to use figurative language. One of them that used in common is euphemism. Euphemism is a linguistic device came from the Greek euphemism which means speaking well. Etymologically, \textit{eu} means well or sounding good and \textit{pheme} means speech. Simply put, euphemism is a way of saying nice words. It is well-known that people in daily life normally used language to simplify and promote their ideas and viewpoints while communicating. However, due to the unacceptable impact of some expressions in direct communication, sometimes language can be complicated in terms of the meaning of some expressions which might be sound unpleasant in the target society.\textsuperscript{19}

Euphemisms are used to make words or speeches mild and polite. As Leech said euphemisms is the practice of referring to something offensive or delicate in terms that make it sound more pleasant or becoming that it really is.\textsuperscript{20}

According to Allan and Burridge, sweet talk or euphemisms are alternatives to dispreferred expressions, and are used to avoid possible loss of face. The

dispreferred expressions may be taboo, fearsome, distasteful, or for some other reason has too many negative connotations to felicitously execute speaker’s communicative intention on a given occasion.  

The term face or face-saving means self-respect in public environment. According to Brown and Levinson as cited in Hatim and Mason, face is the public self-image that everyone lays claim to, consisting to related aspects; (1) negative face, the basic claim to freedom of action and freedom from imposition, and (2) positive face, positive self-image and the desire that this self-image be appreciated and approved of. However, euphemism does not only perform a face-saving function which manifests in the use of words and expression to cover up distasteful reality. Euphemism also provides a safe ground for the speaker’s offensive intention. In addition, euphemism referring to such delicate topics as death and euthanasia seems to show a true concern and consideration for the feeling of those involved.

In this regard, euphemism can be defined as the use of mild and polite-sounding language to soften the potential face affront both to the speaker (for self-presentational purposes) and to the hearers (out of concern for their sensitivities). Moreover, Rawson stated that euphemism is common in used because people usually conceal the things they fear the most—death, the dead, the supernatural, cover up the facts of life—of sex and reproduction and excretion—which inevitably remind even the most refined people that they are made of clay,
or worse, and beloved by individuals and institutions (governments, especially) who are anxious to present only the handsomest possible images of themselves to the world.24

According to Linfoot-Ham (2005), euphemisms are of speakers’ interest for different reasons:

1. It helps us make sense of lots of word histories. For example, the English toilet from French toilettes ‘towels’ or the ancient Greek drakon ‘snake’ derived from present participle of derkomai ‘see clearly’ …etc.

2. It helps us to understand what concepts cause people psychological and social discomfort. In reality, people tend to use euphemistic expressions to replace those things that would cause fear or panic in mind. For example, people always desist themselves from direct mention of such words as “die, old, sick”; therefore, euphemism is quite abundant in this aspect of natural phenomenon.25

The need of euphemism arises as speakers or writers are concern about how public or readers see them. Euphemism usage is motivated by politeness as we do not want to embarrass other people by talking about unpleasant subjects in public. Huang stated that avoiding taboo is among the reasons why people use euphemism. He also said that the other reasons are; expressing politeness, disguising and showing elegance.26 Sometimes the usage of euphemistic

expressions is related to the social class and some people are more sensitive to
class division. For example the expression such as economy class used instead of
second class in order to avoid appearing apparently inferior.27

As social tools, euphemistic expressions are widely used in every level of
society to meet certain communicative needs, show respect, humility, and
politeness. These tools could make our speech more expressive and colorful since
they adapt speech to different situations.28 English speakers, for example, would
consider words such as disinformation and call of nature as more acceptable and
less offensive than their blunt counterparts lie and urge to urinate or defecate and
will therefore use them more frequently in their communication with other
members of the society.29 In Indonesian terms, the word pramuniaga is now well
used than penjaga toko and uang saku is used as replacement word for uang suap.

Euphemism usage depends on the situation and the hearer or reader. A
euphemism by one group might be offensive while by another group does not
because individual people have their own thought of euphemism words or phrase
based on their background and social system. Every time we decide to say
something, we must consider whether what we are going to say will damage,
maintain, or enhance our own face and equally, we must consider what the
utterance’s effect will be on others. Moreover, people must be polite in their
communication especially with people whom they do not know well to feel
accepted in that social group.

28 Sabine Alkire, Introducing euphemisms to language learners. The Internet TESL Journal
As Allan and Burridge explained that the strategies we employ in choosing the type and the tone of the euphemism depend on things such as the speaker’s attitudes and preferences, the speaker’s relationship with the listener and their relationship to the issue being euphemised, which is often culture bound. Here, language again proves capable of dealing with and reflecting culture perfectly, and euphemism is probably the best device to use in certain cultures when talking about such topics, as it is one of the language’s ornaments.

Nearly all of theories above stated that euphemism is an expression intended by the speaker or writer to be less offensive, disturbing, or troubling to the listener or reader than the word or phrase it replaces. For example, when a woman says she wants to *powder her nose*, it means that she needs to go to the restroom. She cannot say she needs to pee for it is inappropriate especially in a formal situation. The sentence ‘John *has departed*’ means more than as if he had just made the last train to somewhere. Also the word friends in a sentence ‘Sam and Janet are *friends*’ is sounds a lot better than they are illicit lovers.

Thus the aim of euphemism is to protect the speaker or writer and hearer or reader from possible effrontery and offence and in order to make communication going smoothly and without conflict. Although we can show politeness without using euphemism, in other words by choosing more formal vocabularies, euphemism helps to be polite in speech and behavior because some expressions have negative meanings and may show impoliteness.

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2. Classification of Euphemism

Many euphemists had offered classification of euphemism. Rawson categorized euphemistic expression to: 32

1. Foreign language,
2. Abbreviation,
3. Abstractions,
4. Indirection,
5. Understatement, and

Foreign language is permissible for speakers and writers of English to express almost any thought they wish, as long as the more risk parts of the discussion are rendered in another language, usually in French or Latin. For example of French, in the fields as women’s underwear is changed into brassiere, chemise, lingerie, and in the fields as love is changed to be affair, amour, and liaison. However French itself is a euphemistic prefix word for a variety of “wrong” or “sexy”. Another example in Latin is copulation, fellatio, masturbation, pudendum, and urination. Other than Latin and French, many foreign word used as euphemism comes from Dutch which is boss as master.

Rawson stated that bad words are not so bad when abbreviated, such as tarfu which is acronym of things are really fucked up and the various shortenings for offbeat sex such as ac/de and bdsm. Then abstractions are not objectionable as Rawson explained, for example it, problem drinking, a situation. This type of euphemism is similar to particularization in Warren’s theory. For indirection, Rawson put some example such as the behind, the bottom, and the rear from

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allusions *it’s-somewhere-back-there* as anatomical euphemisms that depend on indirection.

For understatement, he gave example such as *above critical* for situation that out of control, *active defense* is attack, and *close personal friend* is intimate relationship. And long words, according Rawson, is better for euphemism. This type of euphemism is similar to overstatement of euphemism by Warren. For example, *Middle Eastern dancer* which is better than ‘belly’ dancer and the word *prostitute* as replacement for whore.

![Diagram of Euphemism Classification](image)

Figure 3: The Classification of Euphemism

Warren in her book also offered classification of euphemism in four devices; the word formation devices, phonemic modification, loan words, and
semantic innovation. The first three devices are sub-category of formal innovation:

1) Word formation devices. As seen in figure 1, Warren gave five ways to form euphemisms using this mechanism. Examples of each of these are:

   a. Compounding. It is the combining of two individually innocuous words forms a euphemism for an otherwise unacceptable term. For instances; *hand job* which means masturbation.

   b. Derivation. It is the modification of a Latin term to form a printable modern English word. For instances; *fellatio* which means oral sex, *fellare* which is to suck, *sanguinary* which means bloody.

   c. Blends. Warren gave no example of what she meant by this term, or of how a blend is formed. In general, blends means two independent words combine to be one word as brunch from breakfast and lunch.

   d. Acronyms. For instances *snafu* which is acronym of *surpassing all previous fucks-up*, a military euphemism for a blunder event.

   e. Onomatopoeia. It is a euphemism forms by words of sound. For instances, using *bonk* as sexual intercourse which is the sound of *things* hitting together during the sexual act.

2) Phonemic modification. It is the form of a modified or altered offensive word. For example:

   a. Back slang, when the words are reversed to avoid explicit mention; *epar* for rape.

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b. Rhyming slang. For instances using *Bristols* for breasts, a shortened, and further euphemised, version of *Bristol cities* [titties] which becomes a "semi-concealing device".\(^{34}\)

c. Phonemic replacement which is one sound of the offensive term is replaced. Instances; *shoot* [shit], which Rawson terms "a euphemistic mispronunciation".\(^{35}\)

d. Abbreviation. *eff* as in "*eff off!*" which means [fuck (off)].

3) Loan words. It is as Rawson classification as foreign language.\(^{36}\) Instances:
- *lingerie* from French which euphemistic expression of underwear,
- *calaboose* for jail from Spanish *calabozo*.

4) The forth device is semantic innovation. In this case, as Warren stated that "novel sense for some established word or word combination is created."

Examples of Warren's seven sub-categories of semantic innovation are:

a. Particularisation, a general term is used which is required to be particularised within the context to make sense. For instances *
*satisfaction* for orgasm and *
*innocent* for being a virgin. Both of which require contextually based inference by the reader/listener to be comprehensible.

b. Implication. In this case, several steps are required to reach the intended meaning, e.g. *loose*, which implies *unattached*, which leads to the interpretation sexually easy/available. Warren warns against


possible misinterpretation of this type of euphemism, though it seems this could occur with many examples of 'semantic innovation'.

c. Metaphor. A multitude of colorful metaphorical euphemisms surround menstruation, centering on red, e.g. *the cavalry has come* which is a reference to the red coats of the British cavalry, *it's a red letter day* and *flying the red flag*.[37] Other metaphorical euphemisms is included *gloves, brown eyes* and *melons* for breasts and *riding* for sex, which is common to many languages, including English, Greek, and Middle Dutch.

d. Metonym. Otherwise called 'general-for-specific', this category includes the maximally general *it* for sex and the contextually dependent *thing* for male/female sexual organs, etc.

e. Reversal or 'irony'. Including *blessed* for damned and *enviable disease* for syphilis, both of which enable reference to something 'bad' by using the opposites.

f. Understatement or ‘litotes’. It is the conventional meaning of a word fits our favored contextual referent provided the degree to which some feature of meaning applies is boosted.

For examples, *sleep* for die, *deed* for act of murder or rape, and *not very bright* for thick or stupid fall into this category.

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[37] Allan Keith and Kate Burridge (1991), *op.cit.* p.82.
g. Overstatement or ‘hyperbole’. It is the conventional meaning of a word fits our favored contextual referent provided the degree to which some feature of meaning applies is attenuated. For instances are included fight to glory for death, visual engineer for window cleaner and Personal Assistant to the Secretary (Special Activities) who is a cook.

3. Understatement as Type of Euphemism

Understatement or ‘litotes’ is a figure language that makes something seem less important or bad than it really is. This type of euphemism makes word or phrase of euphemistic expression more polite and less offensive. Based on Warren, understatements are instances where the conventional meaning of a word fits the favored contextual referent provided that the degree to which some feature of meaning applies is made stronger.\(^{38}\)

According to Rawson, understatement reduces risk\(^{39}\) which is this type of euphemism is the substitution of a harsh or offensive word with an expression having less unpleasant associations. Also, Bertucelli Papi stated that understating is a way to invite politeness inferences.\(^{40}\) In other words, in the case of understatement, the undesirable feature is downgraded. Furthermore, understatement as figurative language is different to understatement as type of euphemistic expression. The main difference is that understatement as figurative

language can be used to sound ironical but euphemistic expression cannot.\textsuperscript{41} It means that euphemism as replacement of dispreferred expressions cannot be used as tools of sarcasms or expression that sounds ironical.

For example, an expression in financial difficulty, a bit of nuisance as replacement phrase for a chronic disease. Another example is spoken by B. Obama in his speech, ‘that was a nonstarter, and they threw him out’. The phrase a nonstarter is a euphemistic expression that means a loser. In Indonesian term, for example, tunasusila is a better word than pelacur.

\textbf{4. Overstatement as Type of Euphemism}

Overstatement or ‘hyperbole’ is a figure language that makes something seem more important and serious than it really is. It is an exaggeration, a tendency to increase the strength, importance, seriousness, etc. of a concept or a thing. According to Rawson, overstatements are instances of euphemism where the conventional meaning of a word fits the favored contextual referent provided that the degree to which some feature of meaning applies is weakened. That is to say, a desirable feature is upgraded. He stated the longer the euphemism is the better that this is partly because the tabooed Anglo-Saxon words tend to be short and partly because it almost always takes more words to evade an idea than to state it directly and honestly.\textsuperscript{42}

For instances as mentioned above, fight to glory used for death, visual engineer for window cleaner, categorical inaccuracy for lie, and \textit{Personal

\textsuperscript{41}Du Thi Trang Anh, \textit{A Study of Understatements in Editorials in English and Vietnamese Newspaper} (University of Danang, Vietnam 2010) p.34.
\textsuperscript{42}H. Rawson (1981), \textit{op.cit.} p.10.
Assistant to the Secretary (Special Activities) who is a cook. The last example illustrates a basic rule of bureaucracies: the longer the title, the lower the rank that presumably to upgrade the lower ranks in at least one inexpensive respect.\textsuperscript{43} Another example in Indonesian terms, perang urat saraf is an exaggerate word and translated to psychological war in English term, the word babu is replaced to be pembantu rumah tangga or asisten rumah tangga.

D. Translation of Euphemism

Whatever language we are translating, stated by Unseth, we frequently find ourselves wrestling with euphemisms, those words or phrases used by people of all cultures to refer politely to subjects they feel awkward mentioning openly in simple or direct terms (i.e., death, certain body parts, legal problems, sexual activity, bodily functions, and the supernatural).\textsuperscript{44}

Euphemism is undeniably a culture bound unit. In translating euphemistic expression, translator as a bridge of both languages must have put extra efforts. Nida believed in equal significance to linguistic and cultural differences in translation between the SL and the TL. Nida noted that for translators in cultural differences are more complicated than languages in structures differences.\textsuperscript{45}

Euphemisms are the cultural expressions; their renditions are unquestionably difficult to some translators. In this issue Allan and Burridge remarked “Sure, there are cultural differences with respect to the use of

\textsuperscript{43} Ibid. p.11.
\textsuperscript{44} Peter Unseth, Watch Your Language! Translating Euphemisms. American Translators association Chronicle 2006. p.35.
\textsuperscript{45} Eugene Nida, Toward a science of translating: with special reference to principles and procedures involved in Bible translating. (Brill Archive 1964) p.130.
euphemism and dysphemism, but they are differences in degree rather than differences in kind. Attitudes to bodily effluvia, body parts, to notion of social status and the like, to death, disease to dangerous animals, and to the supernatural, vary tremendously between cultures; but essentially these same parameters recur in every culture (and subculture) to motivate euphemism and dysphemism.\textsuperscript{46}

Each country has its geographical conditions, people’s habits, religious beliefs, and ideas that form its people’s unique culture. The differences between two or more cultures may cause one nation believes in some events and habits which are strongly odd or forbidden to another. According to Muna Swear, facing euphemistic expressions in SL, the translators may have sense of inability to convey the specific meanings to the TL. To convert texts from SL into TL, a good understanding of the culture is required, especially the target cultures. This process requires several studies and investigations on the SL and TL cultures. Thus, translators must be familiar with these cultures to distinguish the kind of the expression. Accordingly, there are two possibilities:\textsuperscript{47}

1. The euphemistic terms in the source language are not euphemistic terms in the target, so the translators have no problems and will render these expressions directly.

2. The euphemistic terms which are not euphemisms in the source language are euphemistic terms in the target and in this case there are some choices to convey.

\textsuperscript{46} Allan Keith and Kate Burridge (1991), \textit{op.cit.} p.8.
\textsuperscript{47} Sameerah Jabbar Anber and Muna Abdual Hussein Swear (2016), \textit{op.cit.} p.124.
Moreover, translator is not supposed to translate euphemistic expression literally but also they must pay attention of the situation, culture of both language, and the original meaning of the source language in order to make the translation acceptable in target language. According to Larson, in translating euphemisms, one should try to employ the equivalent of euphemistic expression in target language. Thus the translator must have known the culture of both languages well.48

E. Translation Strategy of Euphemism

Al Shawi listed two elements deserving translators’ consideration; first is stylistic factor and second is rhetoric factor.49 While translating euphemisms, translators should always bear in mind the stylistic differences in rendering the same euphemism into different writing styles. For example, there are many substitute word for die such as perish, expire, emit the last breathe, end one’s days, pass away, cross the Styx, return to the earth, slide into oblivion, shut down, diseased, to kick the bucket, to go to Nirvana, to pay the debt of nature, to join the choir invisible, etc. So, the stylistic factors for the translator’s consideration mainly concern the subtle difference between a word’s denotation and connotation, its stylistic color as well as its register. Then translator should try to employ the equivalent of euphemistic expression in the target language. However, it is not easy to find the same equivalent (meaning and form) in both source and

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target language. Therefore, the translator retained its implicature by avoiding formalistic equivalent.

Then she offered four strategies in translating euphemism. First, the translator should seek to find a parallel euphemism in the target language which more or less has the same euphemistic overtones of the original text. Second, if a parallel euphemism is not present in the target language, the translator should convey the intended meaning but still preserving the euphemistic thrust of the original. Third, the translator should try to convey the implied meaning without maintaining the euphemism of the original. In this case, translator can use the neutral terms. The last one is translator should be fully aware of this fact in order to decide on the track they follow in translating euphemisms across cultures.\textsuperscript{50}

Leppihalme agreed that when one wants to recognize and translate something rooted strongly in another nation's culture, he/she needs to have much knowledge other than what is seen explicitly, in fact, the understanding of an allusion is prevented by culture unless the receivers are biculturalized so this barrier should be removed.\textsuperscript{51} A euphemistic expression in source language might not be a euphemistic expression in target language. So it is the translator’s job to find out the best replacement in the target language without removing the original meaning.

Leppihalme offered strategy to translate allusion, a figure of speech through which some counterparts are compared on the basis of their aspects to

\textsuperscript{50} \textit{Ibid.} p.131.

history, mythology, literature, religious books, etc. that can be used to translate euphemism. There are:

(1) Standard translation usage,
(2) Use literal translation,
(3) Additional expression in the text,
(4) Footnotes or endnotes employed or translator’s notes and other explicit explanations that not supplied in the text but explicitly given as additional information,
(5) Replacement using a target language term,
(6) Reduction,
(7) Adaptation, which adapts the SL word first to the normal pronunciation then to the normal morphology of the TL,
(8) Retention, and the last is
(9) Omission.\footnote{Ibid. p.115.}

In his book, Leppihalme explained standard translation and literal translation usage is similar for they give minimum changes of the original meaning to the audience or target reader. Those strategies also similar as theory proposed by Unseth as well as translation by replacing using target language term. However, Unseth’s theory is more reliable for it is made for only euphemism translation rather than Leppihalme’s even though the strategy is more details.

Unseth suggested four possible tactics or strategy to handle euphemisms in translation:\footnote{Peter Unseth (2006), \textit{op.cit.} p.35.}

1) Translate the euphemism literally;

He stated that it is possible to use literal translation in translating euphemistic expression if the source and target languages have similar
euphemisms. Literal translation, according to Newmark, is a translation in which the source language grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest target language equivalence, but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context.

For example, a euphemistic expression ‘he has departed’ can be translated into ‘dia telah pergi’ which is also a euphemistic expression in Indonesian. Another example, a sentence ‘that man could have made me disappear one cold night outside o’Moscow’ which has euphemistic expression disappear translated into melenyapkan in the target language, ‘orang itu bisa melenyapkanku di suatu malam yang dingin di luar kota Moskow’. In this case, a literal translation into Indonesian is acceptable because Indonesian speakers will understand its connotation. Even though sometimes it might make the original meaning distorted.

2) Translate the original euphemism using a different euphemism that has a similar meaning in the target language;

When the meaning of the original euphemism will be lost if translated literally, translators can opt to substitute it with one that will be readily understood by the target audience. The form the euphemism takes in the target language may be radically different, but the meaning should be the same. Unseth noted that when adopting this strategy, it is important for the translator to substitute a euphemism that is appropriate to the original context. For example, ‘that jerk was banging one of his doctoral students’ which translated into ‘keparat ini main-main dengan salah
seorang mahasiswi doktoralnya. The word *bang* which is supposedly means ’(of a male) to copulate with’ and derived from the sound hitting translated to Indonesian euphemism as *main-main* which is euphemized from *berbuat serong*.

3) Translate the euphemism using plain language; or

The third way is translate the euphemism using plain language. In this way, translator must be aware of the source language author’s intentions and the audience’s condition while reading the words or phrase he/she writing for. In this strategy, Unseth preferred some euphemistic expression to be translated in polite ways using plain language without using euphemistic expression of target language. He believed nowadays plain language is often yesterday’s euphemism, such as bathroom or intercourse. However, this strategy must be made by understanding the original author’s attentions and the audience of target language first.

For example, ‘the probable love *affair* between the President and his National Security Advisor was no longer a complete secret’, the euphemistic expression *affair* is translated in plain language using *hubungan* in the target language which is to be, ‘*hubungan* asmara antara Presiden dan Penasihat Keamanan Nasional-nya bukan rahasia lagi’.

4) Translate the euphemism using a combination of two of the above.

Unseth stated if those strategies above cannot be used in a whole, the last strategy he suggested is a combination of two above. Literally translating the original euphemism might preserve some of the flavor of
the source text, but the meaning may not be clear to the target audience. Sometimes a translator will want to maintain the flavor of the original, but add a word or phrase to clarify the meaning for readers in the target language. In this way, the translation succeeds in transmitting the meaning clearly while maintaining a sense of the original context. Unseth gave some example by adding explanatory notes at the end of the passage such as a euphemistic expression labor movement in a dialogue of two men who worked at that. The translator or author then adds more explanation to the word.

Furthermore, Unseth explained some possible areas to watch out for in translating euphemisms. First is keeping euphemism obscure. It means that sometimes a euphemism is meant to be deliberately vague. For example, in J.R.R. Tolkien’s The Fellowship of the Ring, the wizard Gandalf falls into a great cressave in a cave and reported that he ‘has fallen into shadow’. The reader understands this as a report of his death, but it is actually what an author intended to make it vague that Gandalf in struggle with an evil being and eventually being mystically transformed. In this case, translator should not attempt to clarify the author’s original wording and finds the best equivalent to the words.

Second thing to be watched out is being deliberately offensive. There are times when a sentence or phrase is said plainly, even offensively in the source language, it should not be translated with a euphemism. To convey the context impact of the source language, some passages must be translated with equally strong language in the target language. Then the third is translators should be
aware in inserting euphemisms especially when translating archaic or historic language. The translator must gauge the impact of the original wording on modern-day audience. If leaving the original phrasing or wording will only get the audience distracted, the translator might decide that it is necessary to insert a euphemism so that the audience will get the point without becoming offended by the original word. Another option might be insert a note at the end of the passage to explain the reader that it was quite common to use such crude language during the time it was delivered.

The last problem area the translation must pay attention to is though sometimes translator might mistake something that is said in the source language for a different euphemism from their own language, translators must be aware of how each language uses euphemisms in order to readily identify them in the source text.
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Data Description

As the writer mentioned, this research is focused on analysis of the understatement and overstatement of euphemistic expression in the novel Sycamore Row written by John Grisham and its translation strategy used by the translator of the Indonesian version Lily Mayanti Boyton under title Di Bawah Pohon Sycamore. Thus, in data description, the writer tabulates the data of understatement and overstatement of euphemistic expression along with its translation strategy. The selected data is tabulated as follows.

Table 1:
The data of Understatement of Euphemistic Expression and its Translation Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Source Text</th>
<th>Target Text</th>
<th>Translation Strategy</th>
<th>The Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>... before using it in such dramatic fashion. (page 1)</td>
<td>... sebelum menggunakan dengan cara dramatis tersebut (page 11)</td>
<td>Literal Translation</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Seth was battling lung cancer (page 2)</td>
<td>Seth sedang berjuang melawan kanker paru-paru (page 13)</td>
<td>Literal Translation</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>I‘ve taken my own life (page 4)</td>
<td>Aku telah bunuh diri (page 15)</td>
<td>Plain Language</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>He had hired mature woman. (page 17)</td>
<td>Ia pernah mempekerjakan wanita yang lebih matang (page 33)</td>
<td>Target Language Euphemism</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Source Text</td>
<td>Target Text</td>
<td>Translation Strategy</td>
<td>The Meaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Their dear departed friend (page 42)</td>
<td>Teman tercinta mereka yang baru saja meninggal (page 69)</td>
<td>Plain Language</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>She’s just a housekeeper (page 44)</td>
<td>Dia hanya pembantu rumah tangga (page 72)</td>
<td>Target Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>“I heard them talkin’, Momma, and they’re gonna let me go.” (page 46)</td>
<td>“Tadi aku mendengar mereka bicara, Momma, dan mereka akan memecatiku.” (page 75)</td>
<td>Plain Language</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>“Then he was probably out of his mind,” (page 52)</td>
<td>“Kalau begitu mungkin pikirannya sedang tidak jernih.” (page 83)</td>
<td>Target Language</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>As long as every word is written by the deceased, and signed and dated, it’s a real will. (page 60)</td>
<td>Asalkan setiap kata ditulis oleh almarhum, ditandatangani dan diberi tanggal, itu surat wasiat yang sah. (page 94)</td>
<td>Target Language Euphemism</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Couldn’t’ve been thinking clearly (page 116)</td>
<td>Pikirannya tidak mungkin jernih (page 172)</td>
<td>Plain Language</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2
The data of Overstatement of Euphemistic Expression and its Translation Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Source Text</th>
<th>Target Text</th>
<th>Translation Strategy</th>
<th>The Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Dell was an old tart with the quickest tongue in town. (page 12)</td>
<td>Dell adalah wanita tua dengan lidah paling cepat di kota. (page 26)</td>
<td>Literal Translation</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td>Translation Type</td>
<td>Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Her radar as always on high alert</strong></td>
<td><strong>Radarnya selalu waspada</strong></td>
<td>Literal Translation</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(page 13)</td>
<td>(page 28)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Harry Rex <strong>extracted blood</strong></td>
<td>Harry Rex membuat orang marah</td>
<td>Target Language Euphemism</td>
<td>Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(page 38)</td>
<td>(page 63)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>For a long, hard fight together</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pertarungan sengit dan panjang bersama-sama</strong></td>
<td>Literal Translation</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(page 58)</td>
<td>(page 91)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>He fired the old secretary and appointed Julina as his “<strong>executive assistant</strong>”.</td>
<td>Seth memecat sekretarisnya yang sudah tua dan menunjuk Julina sebagai “<strong>asisten eksekutif</strong>”-nya.</td>
<td>Literal Translation</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(page 280)</td>
<td>(page 397)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Data Analysis

From the tabulated data above, the writer analyses the understatement and overstatement of euphemistic expression that had been found then compares them with its translation and finds out the translation strategy that the translator used by using relevant theories. The data analysis will be divided into two parts; the first is the explanation of understatement of euphemistic expression and the second part is overstatement of euphemistic expression.

1. Understatement of Euphemistic Expression

Datum 1

SL : ... before using it in such dramatic fashion.
TL : ... sebelum menggunakan dengan cara dramatis tersebut.

The data above is typed into understatement of euphemistic expression because the author used dramatic fashion to soften the tragic event that Seth went through. The context of the background data above described how Seth committed a suicide. It was described that Seth was taken his own life on Sunday afternoon and the report said his employee, Calvin, had seen him cut the fifty-foot length a week before the tragic day. In the day he was found, Seth wore his finest suit and reserved for his own funeral a long time before. Moreover, Seth had attended 11 am worship service at a nearby church and had a little chat with his colleagues who later testified they did not seem any strange act form him.
Furthermore, according to Cambridge dictionary, *dramatic* (adj) means “very sudden or noticeable, or full of action and excitement”. It can be judged from the information of the story that the word *dramatic* is the replacement for the tragic event that Seth hanged his body using the rope he had cut on his own. The softened and attractive word was used by the author as people fear of death circumstances and to make the reader comfortable while reading the story.

The data above shows the translation strategy used is literal translation because the translator substituted this euphemistic expression to *dramatis* which has a connotation of the source text, *dramatic*. According to KBBI, *dramatis* (n) means “bersifat drama yaitu cerita atau kisah terutama yang melibatkan konflik atau emosi serta mengharukan atau mengesankan”. As Leppihalme explained that literal translation usage gives minimum changes of the original meaning to the audience or target reader. So it can be concluded that the translation result turned out to be fine because it does not change the meaning and the author’s intention and also the reader will find it comfortable while reading the target text.

Datum 2

SL : Seth was battling lung cancer.
TL : Seth sedang berjuang melawan kanker paru-paru.

The data above is typed into understatement of euphemistic expression because as Rawson said understatement reduces risk which is used as the substitution of a harsh or offensive word with an expression having less unpleasant associations. The word was battling is euphemized by underestimating the meaning from dying as it is narrated by the author that Seth is a patient of lung cancer in the final stadium that often collapsed and need to take medication regularly. The author used the word was battling to make it sounds less harsh and polite for the reader as the story tells the reader that Seth later ends up in taking his own life.

Furthermore, in English dictionary, Cambridge, was battling or battle (v) is “to fight or to try hard to achieve something in a difficult situation”. The word is translated to euphemistic expression in the target language which is berjuang that has connotation to was battling. According to KBBI, berjuang (v) is “berusaha sekuat tenaga terhadap sesuatu; berusaha penuh dengan kesukaran dan bahaya”.

The data above shows that the translation strategy used by the author is literal translation because the word was battling is preserved in the translation without any change grammatically. As Newmark stated that this translation strategy is a translation in which the source
language grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest target language equivalence. The translator needs to keep the euphemism of the original expression so this literal translation gives the reader the sense that Seth *was battling* or *berjuang* with his might in lung cancer as it is in source text. So in writer’s opinion, the translation result is successful as the translator succeeds in substituting the euphemistic expression to the target language without changing the original intention of the source text.

**Datum 3**

SL: *I’ve taken my own life.*

TL: Aku *telah bunuh diri.*

The context of the background data above is Calvin the laborer found Seth hung himself and a note in the kitchen in which Seth wrote *I’ve taken my own life.* The word *have taken* or *take* (v), according to dictionary, means “to do or perform or used with many nouns to make a verb phrase that is equal in meaning to the related verb”. It can be seen from the context that Seth did something to his own life which is in other words; he murdered himself by hanging his own body to the tree near his house.

Thus, the data above is typed into understatement of euphemistic expression because this euphemistic expression is used by the author to replace the negative word *murder* and make it less harsh to the reader or the other character in the novel that he left behind. As
Shehab stated, in English culture and others, euphemism is employed to refer death because people find it difficult to express the idea of death directly to themselves or to others.\textsuperscript{55}

In this case, the translator used plain language strategy in translating this euphemistic expression because the translation result turned out not to be a euphemistic expression in the target language. As Unseth believes that plain language is often yesterday’s euphemism.\textsuperscript{56} Though the phrase \textit{aku telah bunuh diri} in the target text sounds harsh and disturbing as the word is related to death circumstances, the translator aims to maintain the original or author’s intention and is in sure the reader of the target language understands by the translated word. Hence, the translation result turned out to be fine and the meaning did not change.

\textit{Datum 4}

SL. : He had hired \textbf{mature woman}.

TL. : Ia pernah mempekerjakan \textbf{wanita yang lebih matang}.

The data above is typed into understatement of euphemistic expression because the author concealed the real intention by using the word \textit{mature}. The word \textit{mature} (adj), in the dictionary, means “like an adult”. The author narrated that Jake the lawyer had hired mature women to negate any physical temptation but as a rule, they had been

\textsuperscript{55} Ekrema Shehab (2014), \textit{op.cit.} p.194.

\textsuperscript{56} Peter Unseth (2006), \textit{op.cit.} p.35.
bossy, maternal, menopausal, and etc. Thus the author used the word *mature* to make it less offensive because the woman is older than Jake and to save Jake’s face as a public lawyer to the reader. In this case, this euphemistic expression is also used to provide a safe ground for Jake’s offensive intention as he found the woman bossy and bothersome. As Bertuccelli Papi stated that understating is a way to invite politeness inferences.\(^{57}\)

The data above shows that the translator used target language euphemism that has similar meaning of the original text because the translator used euphemistic expression *matang* in the target text which is a connotation of the word *mature*. According to KBBI, *matang* is “mulai dewasa dalam perkembangan manusia secara fisik dan psikologis”. The translator succeeded in replacing the word *mature* to *matang* that is a euphemistic expression in the target language. As Unseth stated that the form the euphemism takes in the target language may be radically different, but the meaning should be the same.\(^{58}\)

Furthermore, it can be seen in the translation result that the meaning and author’s intention is well substituted by the translator of the target language.

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\(^{58}\) Peter Unseth (2006), *op.cit.* p.34.
Datum 5

SL : ... their dear departed friend.
TL : ... teman tercinta mereka yang baru saja meninggal.

The data above is typed into understatement of euphemistic expression because the word departed is euphemized by the word dead as it is related to death circumstances that people usually feels uncomfortable to use it bluntly. From the context of the data above, the author narrated that a character named Seth who had taken his own life was buried and his children from a far stayed in his house which is a rare event and even they barely visited him. The occasion is much alike to his neighbors, after the sudden news, the neighbors came by to visit their departed friend’s house, though the visited neighbors came to just gossiping and grieved for the tragic way to go of Seth.

Hence, the author used the word departed to express the event. According to dictionaries, depart (v) means “to leave a place especially to start a journey or to go away”. This word, instead of dead, implies that the person referred to is leaving into another phase by the word departed. The word is used as alternatives to dispreferred expressions that may be taboo, fearsome, distasteful, or for some other reason has too many negative connotations.

The translation result of the data above shows that the translator used plain language strategy in translating the euphemistic expression because, according to KBBI, meninggal has literal meaning
as mati. The translator preferred to use the word meninggal than telah pergi as connoted to departed to make the translation obvious for the target reader. However, the word meninggal is also a euphemistic expression in Indonesian language. Thus, in writer’s opinion, the translation result is successful as it stands, as it does not change the meaning of the original text or the author’s intentions.

Datum 6

SL : She’s just a housekeeper.
TL : Dia hanya pembantu rumah tangga.

The data above is typed into understatement of euphemistic expression because the author used the phrase housekeeper to make the situation less offensive and more appropriate to the reader by sweetened the word from maid. From the context of the data above, one of Seth’s children mentioned Lettie as she is just a housekeeper while they were discussing to fire Lettie who is the one housekeeper Seth could tolerate. His children felt burdened to keep her for the pay price was higher than the normal price in the neighborhood. However, the time of the story began in 1988 when it is the year that racism is an issue, sensitive and awkward topic. It is as Huang stated that other reasons euphemistic expression used are; expressing politeness, disguising and showing elegance.59 According to Cambridge dictionary, housekeeper (n) means “a person, especially a woman,

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59 Y. Huang (2005), op.cit. p.46.
whose job is to organize another person’s house and deal with cooking, cleaning, etc.”

The translation result of the data above shows that the translator used target language euphemism in translating the word *housekeeper* into *pembantu rumah tangga* because the translator, in order to accommodate the context, has to keep the euphemism of the original expression. According to KBBI, *pembantu* (n) means “orang upahan yang pekerjaannya (membantu) mengurus pekerjaan rumah tangga (memasak, mencuci, menyapu, dsb)”. Therefore, the translator has substituted well the original word and author’s intention using preferred and acceptable euphemistic expression for the reader of the target text.

**Datum 7**

SL : “I heard them talkin’, Momma, and they’re gonna let me go.”

TL : “Tadi aku mendengar mereka bicara, Momma, dan mereka akan memecatku.”

From the context of the data above, Lettie the black housekeeper arrived at home after asked to go with the children of the deceased. She overheard that they are going to let her go that means they were going to terminate her service as a housekeeper.

Hence, the data above is typed into understatement of euphemistic expression because the author used the word *let me go* instead of *fired me* which is the real intention of the author of the
novel. This euphemistic expression had softened and was concealed from its real intention because Lettie did not want her mother felt unpleasant and burdened by the hurting fact. According to Cambridge dictionary, *let (something) go* (v) is “to stop holding something”. In this case, Seth’s children intended to remove Lettie as a housekeeper for Seth’s house as a way of saving the cost of employing them.

The translation of the data above shows that the translator used plain language as the strategy in translating this euphemistic expression into *mereka akan memecatku* because according to KBBI *pecat/memecat* (v) is “melepaskan dari jabatan; memberhentikan dari keanggotaan perkumpulan dan sebagainya” that has connotation to *fire*. As Muna Al-Shawi stated that it is possible for translator to convey the implied meaning without maintaining the euphemism of the original. In writer’s opinion, though the translator did not translate the phrase into euphemistic expression in the target text, the translation result is well rendered as it doesn’t change the author’s intention of the original text.

**Datum 8**

SL : “Then he was probably out of his mind.”

TL : “Kalau begitu mungkin pikirannya sedang tidak jernih.”

The data above shows a phrase of euphemistic expression that is typed into understatement because as it is mentioned above that understatement of euphemism is a figure of language that makes
something seem less important or bad than it really is. The phrase *out of his mind* is a phrase that has the original meaning as *crazy* or *mad*. According to Cambridge dictionary, *out of mind* means “extremely silly or extremely stupid or mentally ill”. From the context of the background data above, Jake the lawyer received a letter that sent by Seth a day before he committed suicide, Jake was shocked because he barely knew Seth and never met him. Jake then made an appointment with an executor whom Seth named in his will, Amburgh. In the time they were discussing, Amburgh claimed that he also did not go well with Seth in a friendship relation. Amburgh sneered while he knew the will as a handwritten will; he said that *Seth was probably out of his mind*.

The author used understatement of euphemistic expression in order to maintain the positive face of Amburgh because it was his first time meeting Jake. As Allan and Burridge explained the strategies we employ in choosing the type and the tone of the euphemism depend on things such as the speaker’s relationship with the listener and their relationship to the issue being euphemised. The author used this euphemistic expression considering the relation of Amburgh with Seth and Jake.

Furthermore, from the translation result of the data above, the translator used target language euphemism as its translation strategy because the translator substituted the phrase *out of his mind* into
pikirannya sedang tidak jernih which is a euphemistic expression in Indonesian language for gila atau tidak waras. In this case, the translator successfully maintained the flavor of the original text by using target language euphemism.

Datum 9

SL : As long as every word is written by the deceased, and signed and dated, it’s a real will.

TL : Asalkan setiap kata ditulis oleh almarhum, ditandatangani dan diberi tanggal, itu surat wasiat yang sah.

The context of the background data above is about Jake who discussed his work with his wife, Carla, as she was curious and heard all the sudden and tragic news everywhere. His wife asked whether the handwritten will was real or not. Jake referred Seth as the deceased which is a euphemistic expression.

Hence, the word the deceased is an understatement for the word is sweetened from the formal word, the dead. According to Cambridge, the deceased (n) is “a person who was recently died or people who have recently died”. The author used this euphemistic expression in order to save the positive face of Jake as a lawyer even in front of his wife. It is as Allan and Burridge explained that face is important in choosing our utterances. It is also important in
understanding the intentions of this utterance because “what we say is likely to maintain, enhance, or damage our own face.”

Furthermore, the data above shows that the translator used target language euphemism to substitute the word the deceased to almarhum. This euphemistic expression the author used is connoted to the euphemistic expression of the target language as it is according to KBBI, almarhum (n) means “orang yang telah meninggal”. The translator succeeded in replacing the source text the deceased to almarhum which is a euphemistic expression in the target language. Therefore, it can be seen in the translation result that the meaning and the author’s intention is well substituted by the translator of the target language.

Datum 10

SL : “... and medications that he’d been hit with over the past year he couldn’t’ve been thinkin’ clearly.”

TL : “... dan obat-obatan yang telah dikonsumsinya selama setahun terakhir, sehingga pikirannya tidak mungkin jernih.”

The context of the background data above is about Jake who asked for Rex’s opinion of how his opponent will attack him in the court and he bluntly answer that he will hired some medical experts to make the jury confused as Seth could not have been thinking clearly because of his medication.

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60 Allan and Burridge (1991), op.cit. p.5
Hence, the data above is typed into understatement of euphemistic expression because it is clear to see that the phrase make the original intentions milder. Harry’s original intention is to say that Seth was mentally ill because he was taking lots of medicine and therapies for his final stadium cancer that made his handwritten will might be an invalid one. This euphemistic expression the author used enabled Harry to express his ideas and intentions indirectly, and to achieve his goal in criticizing in a more euphemistic manner in order to maintain and secure a safe position. As Larson noted that euphemism is used to avoid an offensive expression or that is socially unacceptable, or one that is unpleasant.61

Furthermore, the data above shows that the translator rendered the phrase in plain language into pikirannya tidak mungkin jernih in order to maintain the original intentions without using offensive word and dispreferred expressions. The phrase of the target text is a euphemistic expression and has softened from the word tidak waras atau gila that is the original meaning of the author’s intentions. Thus, in writer’s opinion, the strategy used by the translator is an effective way for this case because it does not make any change from the author’s intentions and the meaning of the source text.

2. Overstatement of Euphemistic Expression

Datum 11

SL. : Dell was an old tart with the quickest tongue in town.
TL. : Dell adalah wanita tua dengan lidah paling cepat di kota.

The context of the background data above is when the rumors of the tragic event spread, many people in a diner enjoyed their breakfast while listened to others gossiping. As Jake sat, he was asked by a person named Prather if he ever knew Seth. Then suddenly a woman named Dell interrupted the talk and began added more comment as she was Mrs.-know-it-all about Seth. The narrator, which is a Jake’s point of view, said that Dell was an old tart with the quickest tongue in town.

Hence, the data above is typed into overstatement of euphemistic expression because judging by the comments Dell added, it is informed the reader that Dell was a garrulous woman who liked to babbling and fast to response any comment from other persons. And the author used the exaggerated word to describe her who had the quickest tongue in town. The author used this euphemistic expression in order to maintain a good face and to be less offensive to the audiences or readers.

Furthermore, the data above shows the translation strategy used by the translator is literal translation because this euphemistic expression translated into lidah paling cepat di kota which is well
preserved form the original text. As Unseth explained before, a literal translation into target text is acceptable as long as the target reader understand the connotation. Though the translated phrase are not instantly obvious to the target reader, the real meaning will soon become clear as the reader pay attention to the situation of the story. Thus, the translation result is quite well because the meaning and author’s intentions did not distort from its original context.

**Datum 12**

**SL:** Her radar as always on high alert.

**TL:** Radarnya selalu waspada.

The context of the background data above is a narration about Dell who was not only had a quickest tongue in town but *her radar was also always on high alert*. The story in the novel informed that when someone coughed, Dell quizzed about his/her health and if someone tries to whisper, she would be standing at his/her table, refilling cups regardless how full they happened to be.

Hence, the data above is typed into overstatement of euphemistic expression because the author used the phrase to make the character sounds polite and more pleasant than the reality. The phrase *her radar was always on high alert* is an exaggerated word which means she was nosy and really curious on other’s businesses which made Jake usually relied on her for some gossip or real information that the street talks. As Leech said that euphemism is the
practice of referring to something offensive or delicate in terms that make it sound more pleasant.\textsuperscript{62}

Furthermore, the data above shows that the translator transformed this euphemistic expression in literal way as it is give minimum change. The translator substituted the phrase \textit{her radar was always on high alert} into \textit{radarnya selalu waspada} which is also a euphemistic expression in the target text. Though sometimes literal translation might make a distorted meaning, this phrase is translated literally without any different or changes meaning from the author’s intention in the original text. Thus, in writer’s opinion, the translation strategy turned out to be an effective way in this case.

**Datum 13**

SL : Harry Rex extracted blood, along with money and land and everything in sight.

TL : Harry Rex membuat orang marah, menguras uang dan tanah dan segala sesuatu di depan mata.

The context of the background data above is a narration about Harry Rex who is a lawyer and a good friend of Jake yet he was quite temperamental. Harry Rex specialized in divorce case which made Seth felt trauma and hated lawyer because he made Seth lost his lot of assets after got divorced by his two former wives. Everyone who

\textsuperscript{62} G.N. Leech (1983), \textit{op.cit.} p.22.
involved as Harry Rex’s opponent was also miserable for his whole life.

Hence, the data above is typed into overstatement of euphemistic expression because the author used exaggeration word *extracted blood* to make it sounds serious and dangerous. According to Cambridge, extract (v) means to “remove or take out something” and *blood* is the red liquid that has an important role to human alive. This euphemistic expression means that Harry made his opponent miserable for the rest of his/her life by taking his opponent money, assets, or everything valuable by winning the court decision aggressively and merciless.

The data above shows the translation strategy that the translator used is target language euphemism because the phrase *extracted blood* substituted to *membuat orang marah* which is if it is translated literally, the meaning will be distorted and it will become dispreferred expression for the reader of the target text. However, seen from the target text, the phrase *membuat orang marah* is not a strong word like its original text, *extracted blood*. Though this translation result is also a euphemistic expression, the meaning has changed from its original intentions of the author. This euphemistic expression should be rendered its equivalence in the target language such as *menghancurkan hidup orang lain* or anything similar in the target language. Thus, in writer’s opinion, the translator failed to render the
strong meaning of the source text and the author’s original intentions to the target language.

**Datum 14**

SL : We could be in for **a long, hard fight** together.

TL : Kita mungkin akan menjalani **pertarungan sengit dan panjang** bersama-sama.

From the context of the background data above, Jake had realized that he would be in hostility after received Seth’s handwritten will with Seth’s children. He then called Lettie, one of the heirs that named in the will, to meet in private and persuaded her by saying as the data above, we could be in for **a long, hard fight together**.

Hence the data above is typed into overstatement of euphemistic expression because the author used the phrase **a long, hard fight together** to make it sounded important and serious problem. According to Cambridge, **fight (n)** means “when you use a lot of effort to defeat someone or achieve something or to stop something happening”. The phrase **a long, hard fight together** means that there will be a lot of work hours and strong opponent to be dealt with, including court session, preliminary investigation, lots of witnesses’ testimonial, etc.

Furthermore, the data above shows that the translation strategy used by the translator is literal translation because the phrase **a long, hard fight together** translated into **pertarungan sengit dan panjang**
bersama-sama which is its connotation. Moreover, the phrase is rendered to the target text in minimum change or in other words without any grammatically changes. As Newmark stated that literal translation is a translation in which the source language grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest target language equivalence. Thus, the translation result maintains its original meaning of the source text which can be said that it is a succeed translation strategy to applied in this case.

Datum 15

SL : He fired the old secretary and appointed Julina as his “executive assistant”.

TL : Seth memecat sekretarisnya yang sudah tua dan menunjuk Julina sebagai “asisten eksekutif”-nya.

From the context of the background data above, Jake’s opponent, Randall Clapp, had found Julina who was a former secretary of Seth. She was a beautiful dark skin woman with seductive smile. She revealed that the old Seth a long time ago was a quite player. She told Randall that she filed sexual harassment against Seth after their business trip to Mexico alone then she was fired after that.

Hence, the data above is typed into overstatement of euphemistic expression because the author used executive assistant to referred Julina as a replacement for the offensive words such as prostitute or whore. According to Cambridge, executive (n) means
“someone in a high position, especially in business, who makes decisions and puts them into action” and assistant (n) means “the help”. Moreover, the author used the phrase in quotation marks that made it clear that it has hidden meaning. From the background of the data above, it can be seen clearly that Julina was hired for her appearance, not her intelligence because she could not even type.

Furthermore, the data above shows that the translation strategy used by the translator is literal translation because as Unseth explained, if the source and the target language both have similar euphemisms, then translating a euphemism fairly literally is not difficult. In this case, executive assistant is translated into its connotation in the target language, asisten eksekutif. Moreover the translator also used a quotation mark for the translated phrase that made it stronger that it is a literal translation. Therefore, the translation result is successful as it stands because the meaning did not distort from its original text and the author’s intentions.
A. Conclusion

As social tools, euphemistic expressions are widely used in every level of society to meet certain communicative needs, show respects, humility, and politeness. Translating cultural bound units, such as euphemisms, is in fact problematic. In translating euphemistic expression, translator as a bridge of both languages must have put extra efforts and must be familiar with both cultures to distinguish the kind of the expression.

Based on the research finding, there are 15 data of understatement and overstatement as type of euphemism found in the novel *Sycamore Row* written by John Grisham. 10 data out of 15 are classified into understatement of euphemistic expression and the rest are classified into overstatement of euphemistic expression.

The writer also analyses the translation of both type of euphemistic expression found in the novel based on Peter Unseth’s theory of euphemism translation strategy which are literal translation, target language euphemism, plain language, and combination of target language euphemism and plain language. Thus, the most used strategy is target language euphemism for 6 data then followed by literal translation for 5 data and 4 data translated using plain language translation. However the last translation strategy is not found in the translation result.
By using those strategies, generally, the translator succeeded in translating those euphemistic expressions to a euphemistic expression of the target language in which the translator maintained the intended meaning of the source text or the author’s intentions, except for 2 numbers of the data that were translated into non euphemistic expression. However, the writer also observed that there is only one of the translation results that affect the intended meaning of the original euphemism. To sum up, it can be concluded that the translation of euphemisms using those strategy successfully delivered the meanings of the euphemisms in the source language into the target language.

**B. Suggestion**

In this chapter, the writer has suggestions as follows:

1. For translators, especially in translating euphemistic expression, it should be noted that the best strategy is using target language euphemism. The translator should try to employ the equivalent of euphemistic expression in the target language. However, because of the cultural differences, a translator might not find the best euphemistic expression of the target language in replacing the euphemistic expression of the source language, then literal translation and plain language translation or the combination of both could be conducted as long as the intended meaning of the source language does not distorted,

2. For the next researchers who are interested in conducting euphemism translation, since the translation of euphemism has not yet received
considerable research attention, it is necessary to conduct further study of this euphemism translation to enrich and complement the current research. Furthermore, the writer recommends other researchers to conduct study that explore more euphemized topics such as in political issue or in religion context,

3. For teachers and lecturers of language, the writer believes that euphemism and the translation of euphemism is needed to be taught in class as euphemistic expression widely used and sometimes people might not realize that it is a euphemistic expression. The teacher should make translation exercise of euphemism as it is cultural bound and also, the students should have known well how to use euphemism in positive way, and last,

4. For government, it is believed that libraries and other sources of information such as translating and interpreting center are needed in educating translation fields, providing translation and interpretation services, and as a bridge in strengthening ties between different cultures from different countries.
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APPENDICES

Synopsis of *Sycamore Row* written by John Grisham

Seth Hubbard, a millionaire suffering from late stage lung cancer, hanged himself from a sycamore tree on his family property in Palmyra, Mississippi. An employee found him and immediately called the police. At his home, a specific suicide note was found that not only expressed that Seth had killed himself of his own free will, but also gave specific instructions for his funeral. Seth was something of a recluse, but everyone knew he was dying and were not unduly shocked by his death.

Jake Brigance found an envelope in his mail on the Monday 1st October 1988 after Seth’s death. Before Seth had taken his own life, he sent a handwritten will to Jake Brigance. The will stated 90% of the estate to his black maid. He also left 5% to his church and 5% to his brother, Ancil F Hubbard, whom he had not seen in years and was not sure he was still alive. This will left the largest fortune ever seen in Ford County. The estate then discovered to be about 24 million dollars. Jake did as he was told, waiting until just moments after the funeral to probate the will in court. The following day, another will was presented. The will was prepared a year earlier by Stillman Rush firm, one that benefited Seth’s two grown children, Herschel and Ramona and four grandchildren, rather than the maid who received the bulk of his estate in the new will. Determined to prove that this will was made from undue influence by the maid, Mr. Hubbard’s children sued it. They immediately hired lawyers and began to fight.

Jake found himself embroiled in yet another big, controversial trial. The opposition brought in a large number of lawyers. Herschel and Ramona who were deadbeats, according to their father that rarely came to see him unless they needed something, hired lawyers to protect their interest; all from Tupelo and were ready to fight, while Jake was just a street lawyer from Clanton. The maid, Lettie Lang, whose husband cared more for drinking than he did working, had a son in prison,
and a daughter recently returned from the military, hired a Memphis lawyer, Booker Sistrunk, who only got in the way and caused trouble in regard to the jury pool. Lettie’s husband, too, Simeon, had always been trouble, drinking too much and sometimes getting violent. However, when he learned his wife was set to inherit more than twenty million dollars, he tried to become a model husband.

Herschel Hubbard and Ramona Hubbard Dafoe hired Wade Lanier to challenge the handwritten will, claiming that their father did not have testamentary capacity to make a new will. Once Jake Brigance probated the more recent will, Clanton, Mississippi, knew there was going to be a long, probably drawn-out battle over who will get Seth Hubbard’s millions.

As Jake prepared for trial, he got a lot of help in the investigation of this will trial from his friends; Harry Rex Vonne, a mammoth divorce attorney who had approached his work with unholy glee and Sheriff Ozzie Walls, one of two black sheriffs in the state. Also Lucien Wilbanks, the disbarred but brilliant former civil rights attorney who owns Jake's building. Lucien tried to find a reason why Seth Hubbard would leave his fortune to Lettie, a woman he had only known for three years.

In this investigation, Lucien discovered something shocking. Lettie Lang’s maiden name was Tayber, but she was not a Tayber, she had been adopted by Clyde and Cypress Tayber. Lettie was part of the Rinds family who disappeared from Ford County in 1930 shortly after Seth’s father came to own eighty acres that used to belonged to Sylvester Rinds.

In the trial, Jake was convinced that he was losing when Lettie was caught lying on the stand. Wade Lanier was a very good lawyer. He had his investigator turn up another handwritten will, written up by one of Lettie Lang’s previous employers, which she had failed to mention in her initial deposition, in which an elderly white woman, Irene Pickering, left her $50 thousand. Irene Pickering’s son managed (apparently unfairly) to have this handwritten will annulled, and Lettie Lang got nothing out of it. Nevertheless, Wade Lanier planned to argue that Lettie Lang had a history of exerting undue influence on her elderly dying employers.
Though unstated, Wade Lanier planned to argue that Lettie Lang became Seth Hubbard’s illicit girlfriend in order to access his millions. Wade Lanier’s investigator also found a beautiful black woman, Julina Kidd, in southern Georgia who stated she had filed a sexual harassment case against Seth Hubbard a few years earlier. The case was settled out of court, but there was a record of her allegations, which would tend to establish that Seth Hubbard had a propensity to take sexual advantage of his female employees.

Things seemed to be going Wade Lanier’s way. Lettie Lang’s credibility was questioned. Did she exert undue influence over the very elderly and sickly Seth Hubbard to get herself named in last will and testament or not. With the permission of the Judge, Reuben V. Atlee, who presided over the trial, gave Jake Brigance permission to spend some of the fortune to hire an expensive company that specialized in locating missing persons. Fortunately, they finally located Ancil Hubbard in Juneau, Alaska, where he was working as a bartender under an alias, Lonny Clark. Jake sent Lucien to Juneau to locate and speak with him. Lonny was hospitalized since he had suffered brain injury in a brawl in the bar where he worked. Lucien went to the hospital, and at first pseudo-Lonny Clark denied ever hearing the name, Ancil F. Hubbard. Once Lucien told him that Ancil Hubbard might inherit a million dollars from his deceased brother, Lonny admitted he was Ancil Hubbard. Lucien went to a local lawyer and arranged to videotape Ancil’s deposition or testimony.

According to Ancil’s testimony, he admitted his father was Cleon Hubbard. Cleon had two sons, Harry Seth and Ancil F. Hubbard. They hated their father. When Seth was 12 years old and his brother Ancil was 7 years old, crouching in the nearby bushes, the two boys witnessed something awful their father had done. In 1930 Cleon Hubbard, a white Mississippi landowner, arranged the lynching of his black neighbor, Sylvester Rinds. Sylvester had 80 acres of land and his family lived on the farm, including brothers and sisters, and nephews and nieces. Cleon Hubbard also had 80 acres. After Sylvester Rinds was murdered, Cleon went to his wife, Esther Rinds. With a shotgun in hand, he forced her to sign over the 80 acres to him. Cleon Hubbard, with a sort of posse, chased all the
Rinds family off of the land. He annexed the Rinds property through violence. Ancil also admitted they enjoyed playing with the Rinds kids, especially 7 year old Toby Rinds without their father knowing. Ancil knew Esther had only one little daughter, Lois Rinds. When Ancil was 18 years old, he left and joined the Navy and wanted to escape Mississippi, which he despised with a passion but Seth stayed in Palmyra.

Ancil Hubbard’s video testimony was shown to the jury on a VCR. Though Seth Hubbard did not say so in his handwritten will, it became clear that Seth knew that Lettie Lang was the granddaughter of Sylvester Rinds and he was compensating for his father’s crime. Of course, the jury decided Seth Hubbard did know what he was doing at the time he wrote the handwritten will.

In the epilogue of the story, Lettie by help of Harry Rex Vonner divorced her husband who is arrested for manslaughter when he caused an accident that killed two popular high school kids. Lettie stated that she did not want the whole fortune; she just wanted her own house, the 80 acres, so that she did not have to be a maid any more. She also did not want Seth Hubbard’s two children, as unsympathetic as they were, to be completely disinherited. The judge hammered out a settlement that left all sides with a little something. Herschel and Ramona received a few million each for themselves and their children, i.e. Seth Hubbard’s grandchildren. The bulk of the money, however, would be put into a scholarship trust for needy black students who wanted to go to college.

A month after the verdict, Ancil Hubbard went back to his childhood home. He walked toward the sycamore tree where they found his brother. He pointed to a place that used to be the woods where he and Seth hid and witnessed the lynching that occurred at the tree beside him. At the same time, Ancil Hubbard was finally able to put the past in the past and moved on with his life after running from it for fifty years.