Translation of Material Culture at Museum: Procedure and Translation Output

Abstract

This paper discusses the procedures in the translation of material culture from Malay into English. Material culture alluded to in this study are artifacts or museum exhibits which have been labelled in Malay and then translated into English for the benefit of local and overseas visitors. The research is done to identify the procedures used by the translator in translating these labels. The translations will also be classified and discussed. The data analyzed were taken from the Penang State Museum. This study will utilize Newmarks’s (1988) categories of material culture and translation procedures in order to identify the types of material culture in the museum and also to analyze the procedures used to translate the labels of these museum exhibits. In addition, Newmark’s (1988) concept on translation effects is used to help determine the types of the translation employed. The study found that the interpretation of material culture, implicit aspects of culture and history behind the use of these artifacts cannot be ignored in the translation process.