CHAPTER III

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES

3.1 The comparative Study of proverb in English and Indonesia

3.1.1 Explanation

During job training in *Balai Bahasa* Bandung, the present writer did a research about language and found a case of language, which is used in every country, reflects their country or culture itself. One of language forms is peribahasa or proverb. The proverb is a language contains figurative language. The present writer is interested to compare proverb in Indonesia and English which has a same meaning and the research focuses on the language used in every country to show how the language reflects their culture or country.

3.1.2. Analysis

Marhn H Manster (2007: xx) defines "*A proverb is a saying, usually short, that express a general truth about life. Proverbs give advice, make an observation, or present a teaching in a succinct and memorable way. This dictionary covers the main English-language proverbs that are widely recognized today*". The proverb contains many lessons or life values which formed from an experience life and then is known and used by society.

Whereas Norrick (1985:78) defines the proverb as "A traditional, conversational, didactic genre with general meaning, a potential free

conversational turn, preferably with figurative meaning." In proverb, language is used to smooth a communication, especially to reprimand, to give an advice or mock without hurting others feeling or acting like a teacher.

Data 1:

Proverb (Indonesia)	**Proverb (English)**	**Meaning**
1. Nasi sudah menjadi bubur	It no use crying over spilt milk	We don't need to stress over all the little mistakes in our past.

"Nasi sudah menjadi bubur ***vs*** It no use crying over spilt milk **"**

Analysis:

Nasi sudah menjadi bubur, this proverb means that something has happened and we cannot reverse it back. Indonesian culture makes an analogy of the condition with "**nasi**" because *nasi* is identical with primary food of Indonesian. Many researchers say that a language reflects the culture of a country. This is the reason why the proverb is not represented with ***kentang*** (potatoes)***, gandum*** (wheat)***, or roti*** (bread), because these foods describe American or European food culture. As mentioned in ***Bangka pos news on 31 Oktober 2012*** *discusses"mengkonsumsi beras setiap tahun sebesar 139,5 kg. Konsumsi beras Indonesia lebih besar dua kali lipat konsumsi beras dunia pada angka 60 kg per tahun".* Most of Indonesian thinks that eating without rice could not be called eats.

The elaboration above shows that the proverb used shows Indonesian everyday life. In addition, the rice is not only a primary and typical food of Indonesian, but also it is related to natural landscape and culture of Indonesia. Indonesian soil is perfect to be planted by paddy to produce a grain of rice.

Whereas the American describes the same condition with different analogy, the proverb is it no use crying over spilt milk. Milk has the same association as rice that is the main food.

American also loves to consume or drink milk. However, in Indonesia Milk is not the main food. As mentioned in ***KOMPAS news*** en*titled* ***Minum Susu Segar Belum Menjadi Kebiasaan*** on 31 Mei 2012, American spends many liters of milk every day while Indonesia spends less than it. Thus, American uses "milk" in their proverb reflects their habit in consuming milk. As rice in Indonesia Milk is also a primary drink in America.

Data 2:

Proverb (Indonesia)	**Proverb (English)**	**Meaning**
2. buah jatuh tak jauh dari pohonnya	The apple falls near the tree	Describe the behavior or similar talent between the child and their parent.

"Buah jatuh tak jauh dari pohonnya ***vs*** the apple falls near the tree***"***

Analysis:

This proverb means a habit or behavior children that would be similar from their parents. In Indonesian it will be described by "buah and pohon". It is because Indonesia is known with their country which is fertile and green, as mentioned in **KOMPASIANA** titled ***Indonesia Megah dengan Hutan*** on 3 April 2013 describes that "*Indonesia adalah negeri yang indah, negeri yang kaya akan keindahan alam. Salah satunya adalah Hutan di Indonesia, yang meruapkan paru-paru bagi iklim di dunia*." A lot of trees spanned in Indonesia Island. Therefore, the language or word that used in proverb above using ***buah*** and ***pohon***. Therefore the analogy is refers to the conditions of Indonesian.

If in Indonesian culture uses "**buah**", American uses "**apple**" to describe the same condition with proverb. 'Apple' has a significant role in American social life, as seen in their favorite food "apple pie" is an American Culture phenomenon that known since the early 1900s, it has been associated with the "*American Dream*." Moreover this food is an important American cultural icon, and it will continue to be so for many years. (Mentioned in **SOLOFOODS NEWS** on 3 July 2012)

Data 3:

Proverb (Indonesia)	**Proverb (English)**	**Meaning**
3. Berfikir sebelum bertindak	Look before you leap	Consider all aspects of a situation before you take any

		action.

"Berfikir sebelum bertindak ***vs.*** Look before you leap**"**

Analysis:

Berfikir sebelum bertindak, means we have to think carefully before we do something regretful. Indonesian people use a word *"berpikir"* in the proverb. It reflects a behavior or condition of Indonesia culture, *"kebanyakan teori bukan praktek"* as mentioned in **info banknews** titled ***Indonesia Butuh Banyak Orang Kreatif*** on 3 September 2012 describes that "*Salah satu yang membuat Indonesia sulit bersaing dengan negara lain dalam berbagai bidang disebabkan oleh kurikulum pendidikan di Tanah Air, yang lebih banyak mengedepankan teori bukan praktek*." Therefore Indonesia many theories or concept than practice it made Indonesian people thinks too much before take an action, in other word they afraid to take a risk. Thus, it can make Indonesian left behind the more developed countries who brave enough to take a risk. Actually, it is good to think before doing something, but not too long because we also have to do an action. The time will be wasted to think but no action. Therefore, Indonesians people use *"berpikir"* in the proverb above describe or reflect behavior of Indonesian who is thinking too long.

While American people describe the same condition with the proverb look before you leap. From the analogy above it shows that American tends to do something quickly. It is because of American work ethic, as seen in the following

quotation “Individuals are encouraged to work hard, freely make their economic choice for the pursuit of their own material.” (ĐỖ THỊ MINH NGỌC: 2010)

As mentioned in SHERADIO news on 15 november 2013 discusses “*warga Amerika tak lagi tertarik jadi karyawan*” means that Americans prefer open a business and being a boss, they dare to take a risk and never doubt, this reflect mindset of Americans people who like to do something **quickly**. Moreover, if the present writer notices when they are doing the business, they don't use like the word that Indonesia use "***menjalankan bisnis***", but they use "**running business atau melarikan bisnis** not walking business". Indirectly, from the word that they used reflects America culture which is very active, extreme, and fast. This case is same with the case "***look before you leap***", they use a word "leap or jump", the word "leap" is more sharp in the meaning and impressed more **quickly** meaning too, it means before do something we have to think before the thing make us fall or die from the leap that we do. It is clearly, American mindset reflects American never feels doubt in doing something.

The elaboration above shows that the usage of proverbs has the same intention but they use different way of saying. The difference is caused by cultural differences between Indonesia and English.

3.2 Problems and Solutions

During job training, the present writer found some problems in researching the proverb, the problems are:

1. There are many proverbs which have same meaning between Indonesia and English, so that the present writer must focus only on proverb that has known or familiar used in daily life;
2. The present writer has problem in finding the background that makes the language that is used in proverb from America and Indonesia culture.

Based to the problem above, the solutions are:

1. The present writer must be careful in researching the proverb, which they often use in daily life;
2. The present writer should read a lot and understand about the culture in America and Indonesia, which is researched by the present writer.