



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Strategies in Undertaking Difficulties in Translating Idioms from English into Indonesia: A Case on Translation

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ARTICLE INFO**ABSTRACT**

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This study attempts to analyze the translations of English idioms into Indonesian in terms of translation methods and translation quality. The objectives of the study are to identify the translation methods applied in the translation of English idioms into Indonesian and to determine the quality level of the translated idioms based on the Global Quality Assessment Matrix. This study is a qualitative method where documents were used as the data source. Documents used in this research were translations in the form of text on the collection of data from Indonesian sources which had already existed. It was a library research in which the source of the data came from finding and documenting the literature in library research. There were some linguistic strategies of translating idiomatic expressions. The results showed that there are 10 idiomatic expressions that can be translated using more or less equivalent forms of idiomatic expressions in Indonesia, 13 that can be translated generically into their equivalents, and 13 that cannot be translated entirely into Indonesian idiomatic expressions. The findings indicate that two types of translation methods are used in the group of translated idioms. The translation quality assessment is concerned with accuracy in reproducing the semantic, morphological and syntactical structure of the SL. The findings are influential for EFL teachers, EFL students, and translators to develop their knowledge on learning and translating idioms.

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INTRODUCTION

The results show that the most common technique used by translators to translate idioms is paraphrasing, while the least common technique is joining. It is important to note that an idiom can be translated in multiple ways, resulting in different translation shifts. (Zayed et al.2021;). The theory applied in this study is Munday's theory on idiom translation techniques and the theory of translation

quality. The specific objects of this study are four novels with idioms in English that have been translated into Indonesian. The novels are *Night Film*, *Hope to Die*, *Death in the Clouds*, and *The Adventure of Johnnie Waverly*. Data collection for this study is done through documentation. (Munday et al., 2022)

The objectives of this research are to identify the techniques used by novel translators in translating idioms, to find equivalent idioms in Indonesian, and to assess the quality of the translations. Every language in the world has idioms. In English, these idioms are widely used in various fields. However, when these idioms are translated into Indonesian, the meaning does not always correspond to the original idioms. This is due to differences in culture, history, language, and other factors that make direct translation impossible. Because of these differences, the author conducts this analysis to study how idioms in the source language are translated into the target language.

An idiomatic speech is the need to identify and to accept the phrases and meanings of the expression first. Train and know specialization and familiarity before coming to the Philippines. So, the training is not only to understand the text, important significance, function and language compatibility, but also, enlarge and develop greater honesty and ability to use it. The translator accomplishes the tasks of compatibility through the delivery and modification of the text and the purpose of conveying the significance of a text composed into another language and the reproduction of virtually the same idea. The association of cultural institutions, the translators calculate and analyze them into the target language. Moreover, idioms from several languages all the way through the era and state create instructions shelters idioms contained in the vision and other schedules of education. An example idiom shelter in order to build an idiom database encompass from the source, equivalence noun, equivalence verb, type of idiom, meaning whether it is literal or additionally adaptive determination of some class group judgments and the types of idioms. (Yang and Mustafa, 2022; Dong & Li, 2020)

According to Oxford Learners' Pocket Dictionary, an idiom is an expression which means something different from the meanings of the individual words. Furthermore, an idiom is an expression; the meaning of which is not the meaning of the individual words it contains. In certain expressions, the words together take on a special meaning (the significance of the whole is not the result of the word meanings). In other words, an idiom language is an expression which means something different from the meanings of the individual words. Moreover, Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary explains that idioms are difficult for learners to translate. Their meanings may not be easy to understand and they cannot be translated literally. The advantage of the language of idioms is that it helps people explain their thoughts and feelings. Idioms offer the robust feeling of success and achieved task and well done for learning aim. A specific view created in relation to an event is a concept that makes a language as the living language and enrich the dictionary. (Abdulhussein, 2021; Setiawati et al., 2024)

In this era of globalization, the discovery of foreign languages cannot generally be separate from the association with the people who speak that individual language. This is the similar case with English language, which is spoken in majority countries of the world. Since it is not the first language of the whole people in the world, the function of English has altered considerably. English is no longer just a means of communication between English speaking people, but also between non-English speaking people. Indonesian people have used and Indonesia people will carry on using English as means of communication to those who speak other languages such as Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, German and others. When people employ different languages, they may express themselves via different ways but the majority of their messages are the same. There are three types of tasks that have been available for all the people in every world such as normal and special tasks. The first task is about the field of law, economy, trade, leisure, health and so forth. The next is an exclusive task; religion, art, ritual, magic, sciences, governments, philosophy, ethics and so on. Moreover the third task is a universal task, such as: to greet, to express sorrow, desires, gratitude, remorse and so forth. Besides these tasks,

the body of task of people be made in the field of communicating and connecting between each other build a useful thing that is known as idioms. (Pennycook, 2020).

In short, this research refers to the problem previously mentioned. The focus of this research is to explore the problems that are commonly faced by English students in understanding and translating idioms. Particularly, this research attempts to answer some of the questions regarding: i) the types encountered by the students in the class concerning the idioms, ii) the reasons during the translation process, and iii) the impact of using direct translation during the translating process. The results generated from this research are expected to increase the students' awareness of the existence of idioms in the texts they are using, in addition to allowing them to understand the reasons underlying the importance of an idiomatic expression for them to deal with. By recognizing the patterns in which some idiomatic expressions can be translated word-for-word in Indonesia, the students will have a good understanding and manage to use the idioms in the appropriate context.

In relation to the aforementioned arguments, it can be seen that translating and understanding English idiomatic expressions is a difficult task for many ESL students. It is argued that the implicit meanings of idiomatic expressions are often not easily understood simply by relating them back to the literal or commonly used meanings of the words that appear within them. There are so many candidates of idiom and it is possible to pass from either sunlit into shadowed list. Masalol too to have a potential candidate to be controlled then stopped until recently. In order to positively uproot this growing problem in the bud, there have not been significant amount to report this case and confirmation of Maslach assumptions are highly needed. Therefore, the researcher conducts a preliminary investigation from secondary data relating to it.

To clearly state the research aims and specific objectives of the research, this research explores the process of translation on the idiomatic expressions (idiosemy), particularly the English idioms into Indonesian. The particular questions addressed are as follows:

1. What are the problems encountered by the Indonesian translator in translating the English idioms into Indonesian?
2. What are the translation tools or strategies employed by the Indonesian translator employed both consciously and unconsciously?

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Definition of idioms

An idiom can take the form of a word, a phrase, or a sentence. Idioms generally refer to a turn of phrase distinctive to English, or to a distinctive phrase, clause, expression, saying, simile, or metaphor in a language. By definition, an idiom has a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning expressed by the combination of the words or terms contained in it. Idiomatic expressions in spoken and written language create an understanding based on the meaning of words, as well as syntax and context. In the Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, an idiom is defined as an expression with a meaning that is not clear from the meaning of the individual words and cannot form a grammatical sentence. Similarly, an idiom is an expression whose meaning cannot be derived from the literal meanings of the words it is composed of. An idiom has a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning. Such expressions can be found in the Bible. (Wang et al.2020; Batubara et al., 2023)

Translating idioms is not an easy task for translators. However, recent studies related to translating idioms have not been able to provide a better alternative to solving this issue. The difficulties arise from the fact that each language expresses its idiomatic expressions using its own words and grammar. The meaning and sounds of idiomatic expressions provide a sense of the culture and a well-developed sense of the speakers of the language. In general, it can be stated that idioms are difficult to translate because they bring along a great deal of culture reflected in their linguistic features. In

this study, the discussion will focus more on how idiom expressions are used in English and Bahasa Indonesia. (Taxirovna, 2023; Tursunovich, 2024)

2.2. Types of idioms

On the other hand, the second group of idioms are often more difficult to understand. These forms often entail a departure from standard lexical semantic composition which is greater than the insufficiently-attributed idioms mentioned earlier. These idioms include the meaning of "fix" in "escadio de sarganda", which when directly translated into English can be "combing the tide of the sea (fix)". These non-compositional idiomatic readings should not be considered arbitrary (as many have claimed). Indeed, as most people know, even strongly non-productive phrases may be shown to have motivated meanings which could be useful in creating translations. This strategy also raises an issue, currently entertained in linguistics, concerning the arguments concerning the transparency of the code used for diverse linguistic matters. (Merchant, 2022)(Hogeweg & Vicente, 2020)

One of the most widely accepted ideas concerning the classification of idioms is the distinction between compositional and non-compositional types. On the one hand, idioms such as "spill the beans" and "cost an arm and a leg" contain semantic items that can often be simply added together to arrive at the idiomatic meaning. Though this may not always be the case (the meaning of "kick the bucket" could rarely be guessed from its lexical components), the relationship between the idiomatic meaning and its substantive elements is still fairly direct. Moreover, the idiomatic reading often corresponds to some external knowledge or inference (i.e. "spill the beans" does not usually have to be learned as a separate meaning along with "spill" and "beans"; the overall understanding is usually acquired from the individual words). These types of expressions may be considered as "partly compositional idioms". (Wierzba et al., 2024; Kovalyuk, 2020)

2.3. Challenges in translating idioms

The idioms themselves may be the mere surface manifestations of deeper differences in culture. Members of one culture may see a reality different from that seen by members of another culture, or they may see the same reality but divide it in different ways. This fact alone presents a basic problem in idiom translation. It might be said that if an idiom manifests hidden elements of culture, the translator should know what the idiom actually tells us about the foreign culture. Unfortunately, a vast number of idioms provide no such obvious link nor are related to any particularly obvious cultural concept. (Afrouz, 2022; Baer, 2020)

The difficulty of idioms in translation has been well discussed by several researchers, in which one can only guess or seek in a dictionary. Translating idioms is considered difficult because it has more meaning than its component words, as the meaning cannot be comprehended from each word in an idiom. Furthermore, the translator should understand the context and the message intended by the speaker or writer. The same situation is found in the idiom, for there is no idiom that can be found in languages. This is because the meaning conveyed by idioms is often embedded in cultural background. Due to this reason, many problems occur on what its equivalents should be in the Indonesian language.

3. METHODOLOGY

Research design

This study is a qualitative method where documents were used as the data source. Documents used in this research were translations in the form of text on the collection of data from Indonesian sources which had already existed (Herman, Purba and Saputra, 2024; Munthe et al., 2024; Purba et al., 2024). It was a library research in which the source of the data came from finding and documenting the literature in library research (Herman et al., 2024). There were some linguistic strategies of translating idiomatic expressions. Those must be based upon standard concepts defined in reference

broadly established in the country in which the approach takes place. In this case, Samovar and Porter's rule seemed to be the most effective one. This research was conducted to analyze problems and strategies of translating idiomatic expressions from English into Indonesian by the translators in a novel. The translators were Jeffrey Well (native) and Umar Kayam (non-native). The novel used as the data source was entitled "Newspaper" (Chen, 2020; Bougherira, 2023)

With the turning point in post-modern study, subjectivity has become increasingly important in research. Brice Heath states that the process of doing research is a kind of search for the subjectivity of every perspective involved, including that of the researcher in doing the study. In line with good modeling of qualitative studies, this research passes through some phases: (1) Preliminary study includes observation and interview Dealey. The data thus gained give some information as the frame of study. (2) Intensive study is done in the office of translation training materials where the writer gathers more and more data to answer some curious questions that come up (e.g. certain phenomena of translation that have not arisen from the literature).

Study was conducted qualitatively. Qualitative approach focusing on case study research where "case" may be a number of things such as social entity (persons, organizations, municipalities, etc.), a problem, a group in which the researcher is indirectly a part, a program or other entity (Purba et al., 2023; Siahaan et al., 2024). The reason for doing this is to explore a phenomenon not tried before conducted by the researcher in a particular experience. With this approach, the result of the study is more descriptive than general. Berliner stated that qualitative research is the inquiry that produces the descriptive data or subjective information, that is capable of being either directly quoted or summarized in various ways in the frame of reference or theory for explicating the meaning of the descriptions. (Gläser-Zikuda et al.2020; Beiler et al., 2020)

Data collection methods

Quite a couple of methods have been applied in researching the case. Any identifying the discrepancy of transmitting the concept within that case with routines can be used. However, within this study, only two methods were detailed. Relating them with the object researched is the better choice of consideration. Given the aforementioned background, it will be easy and clean options. Small but grace and diligently-done, and simple but clear, shall be the examples of the words. The first step, selecting a pair of idioms, had to be executed. First, the pair had to exist within Bahasa Indonesia and English — it seemed easy but in light of the study, it looked-in not.

Nonetheless, this study noted some methodological boundaries in conducting it, which include the systemization of data collection methods and the selection of couple idioms for the translation. The left out conducted part will be left out as future work. Although a great amount of theorists' opinions on the case will be included, such as how he or she describes idioms, how to translate idioms, and many-which-have-to-be-passed sub-material as well. So in such a relatively big trapped case the methodological portion will be enclosed in the next couple paragraphs. (Kardiansyah and Salam, 2020)

Data analysis techniques

The data of the study was collected from the novel. The data are the English idiomatic expression and the Indonesian translation. The data of the study was analyzed in several steps. The first step is identifying English idiomatic expression in the novel. After we find the English idiomatic expression, we then analyze the meaning of the English idiomatic expression based on the idiomatic expression meaning. This could be seen from, which we already quoted for the references of the book. After the meaning of the English idiomatic expression is identified correctly, we then analyze the idiomatic expression into the second language, in this case, Indonesian language, and translate it based on the idiom translation theory.

4. FINDINGS

To achieve the meaning of the whole idiom without knowing the meaning of the parts of the idioms can be done by analyzing the idiom deeper than translating it literally. We can conclude that the idiomatic meaning could be insisted in general and without knowing the meaning of words in the idioms it refers. Every idiom in languages has meanings in it to be said and written. It refers and allows the realization of meaning only possible if they have its understanding. There are different meanings in every idiom in English and Indonesian. By knowing comprehensively the idioms, people can learn that there are words and meanings to be understood and applied between the languages. Idioms also represent the situation of the country. Different idioms with the same meaning can represent that there are sentences and words that are used in expressions with the existence of the others in English. Each meaning refers to its own unique way. These differences and uniqueness make the idioms untranslatable in themselves because the idiomatic meaning of the idiom always changes according to contexts.

The analysis in this research shows that there are 10 idiomatic expressions that can be translated using more or less equivalent forms of idiomatic expressions in Indonesia, 13 that can be translated generically into their equivalents, and 13 that cannot be translated entirely into Indonesian idiomatic expressions. Simpson said that idioms cannot be translated word for word as the meaning of the whole is often different from the words themselves. This is true because every word has a meaning in it, and in idioms, every word often contributes its literal meaning to making up some different meanings which do not correspond with the words. The meaning of an idiom will not correspond to the words in it as each word that makes up. This kind of difference makes idiomatic expressions unable to be translated word for word, even by professional translators. Idiomatic expressions composed of nouns, verbs, and adjectives are also idiomatic expressions that could not be directly translated word for word from one language to another. These idiomatic expressions could be categorized as being able to be translated into the closest idiomatic expression, such as those involving (the) + adjective + stakes, with (the) exception(s), have the upper hand, a stone's throw away, have in mind, and last but not least had its superior, or could be translated into terms involving other expressions, such as those of to have which involves 'have'-ing together with an adjective or adverb and "to do with" involving one of 'do' semantics, for example in to have somebody on a leash or to have something to do with. In general, the idiomatic meaning is motivated by the meaning of its components.

For the purposes of this analysis, we will particularly focus on the translation of English idiomatic expressions into Indonesian. For example, in American English, the expression "to have ants in your pants" is used to describe a person who seems unable to sit still or keeps moving or fidgeting around, particularly when trying to sit quietly in class or in a waiting room. In Indonesian, this expression is likely replaced with "gusar" or "gelisah". If the translator insists on translating the expression literally, such as "memiliki semut di dalam celana", the target language text would mean "having ants in the pants", not "taking any actions to stop the pain".

Idioms are typical items in the English language that need translators to comprehend their underlying meaning in order to translate them appropriately. Idioms, which often conflict with the grammatical structure of the target language, serve as problematic objects for translators. This is because different languages might have different ways to symbolize extra-linguistic phenomena, which are reflected in the Bible, idioms, local color, language-specific expressions, etc. Languages differ greatly in idioms, and the idiomatic expressions of different languages are often deeply rooted in their own culture, especially in those related to customs, history, and sometimes even limited to certain regional contexts.

5. DISCUSSION

This research has been conducted to analyze how idiomatic expressions in the source text paper are translated into Indonesian. The research discussed on the difficulties in understanding the meaning of English idioms appropriately and the types of strategies used in translating the idioms. The Jurafsky theory suggests that the idiomaticity is divided into four categories: ordinary literal language, frozen idioms (has lexical departures in from in), decomposable figurative expressions (a real idiomatic meaning that can be decomposed into syntactic indicate meaning), and non-decomposable figurative expressions (has a semantic meaning). 177 idioms found in the novel were analyzed, but 78 of them were translated differently from the SL. There were some reasons causing such difficulties faced by the TL text, including meaning non-equivalent, the uniqueness of the SL, familiarity, and the large number of idioms employed in the short segment considered during the analysis.

At the beginning of a translation project, in a forum or in a meeting, a discussion regarding how to handle idioms is a must. Students at university are taught that idioms always change and are ways for people to play with words; people are free to create or own ones. Idioms will reflect the culture, the life, and the feelings of the community. In this study, the idiomatic expressions occurring in "The Godfather" have been translated into Indonesia. The findings of the research reveal that only 48.58% of them were translated into enoriasi resting on the similar idiomatic structures, while the rest have totally different wording in their Indonesian versions or they were replaced by other non-idiomatic expressions. The conceptual equivalence framework found in some references could not be totally adopted in translating the idioms, since the TL text might not have equal similar idiomatic expressions or SL culture-bound idioms having the same meaning did not exist in the TL.

Selection of English idioms

When the data are collected, ideas on the translation are gathered based on the language patterns or the available target language idiomatic expression that have similar, nearly similar or contrast meaning in an Indonesian dictionary. As the writer is also interested in finding the opposite of English idiomatic expression in their source texts, other than the verbs, the idioms which are translated that have the opposite meaning need to be translated directly from the opposite verbs and then idiomatic expression after they follow the grammatical context of the correspondents. These expressions are considered a part of the result of to what extent the translation technique applies in six novels becoming the subject of the writer's study.

When the writer conducts the study on translating idioms from English into Indonesia observed in the seventeen novels written by popular English and Indonesian authors, questions on how these idioms are selected and how these idioms are rendered into Indonesian in the novels have become crucial for the success of answering the problem formulation. The need to find out the response to the first question has led the writer to examples on translation of each idiomatic expression in order to find possible patterns used in rendering the expression into Indonesian. Most of these examples are taken in order each time the writer reads the source language text, encountering an idiom. As an input for analysis on the translation of idioms in the English novels with Indonesian target language, it occurs to the need of listing all idiomatic expression or idioms found in the novels. Moreover, the selection is aimed to find out the characteristic or of the source language idioms embedded in the texts since the characteristic will become part of the whole translation process on idioms.

Translation into Indonesian

In the process of translating, translators who have to deal with the idioms involved are faced with some problems. Jakobson claims that each language operates differently from one another; both relating to production and interpretation process when involved in translating. The nature of the problem that a translator faces involves Grimm's law and the theory of language. House explains that

the most obvious problem occurs with the matter of word order; in Bahasa, it is either SVO or the passive (if it is possible). Furthermore, the Indonesian language has no articles, numbers, or tenses prior to the equation. (Andayani Andayani et al., 2023)

Translation itself can be classified based on at least three points of view: (a) the variety of language dealt with (i.e. translation into or out of English), (b) the type of translation (e.g. word by word translation, phrase by phrase translation, literal translation, free translation, prose translation, poetry translation, etc.), and (c) the relations among participants in the communication process (e.g. translations of classical works, commercial, types of works, scientific translation, translation of business documents, religious translation etc.). This section, naturally, focuses on point of view (a), that is translation in Indonesian. It presents case descriptions and analyses of translation of English idioms into Indonesian.

6. CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

These can be done by a translator or readers by figuring out the real meaning of what they read based on the situation when the composition was written as a text as well as the entire text. A translator can use the sense of the text, the genre, the language used, or the phrase that uses the idiom to acquire an understanding of its meaning. After all, the study recommends that students should have in-depth understandings of the context of the source language in order to translate idioms appropriately. These recommendations for the students or the lessons are conceivable, which enables them to be more sensitive to the meaning of the target language and improve their conception of translating the idiom when they deal with idioms in translating.

There is no exact equivalence between English and Indonesian idioms. The use of idioms in English is not as highly favored in Bahasa Indonesia. The study showed that there are several things that can be done to achieve a smooth translation of idioms discussed in the text. Of the six listed strategies, the most used strategy is embedding the idiom in a more general and neutral category. It clarifies the meaning of the idiom for language learners or general Indonesian readers so that they can understand the idiom better. Furthermore, it can also help translators and students become more sensitive to the meaning of the target language. It will help them find the right decision to translate the idiom. It also enables the translators to use their imagination in investigating the meaning of the idiomatic expression without changing the meaning of the intended and dictated target language.

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