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# The Strategies Used in Translating Idiom from English into Indonesia in The Catcher in The Rye's Novel

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### A B S T R A C T

This research is aimed to analyze the translation strategies applied by the translator in translating English idiom into Indonesian. The source of data are taken from the Novel entitled by The Catcher in the Rye by J.D Salinger. There are 35 idioms are found in the novel and the translator applies 4 translation strategies in translating them, they are Translating Idiom Using An Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form, Translating An Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form, Translating Idiom by Paraphrase, Translating Idiom by Omission.

## INTRODUCTION

English learners or non-English native speakers in Indonesia often get troubles to understand the meaning of English idioms. This is because according to Salim & Mehawesh, idioms are one's everyday language or culturally bound expressions. Idioms are also known as multi-word expressions which cannot be translated literally even if someone knows the meaning of the words and the grammar of the phrase [1].

Seeing that case, the writer conducts a research about how the translator from Indonesia translates English idiom into Bahasa Indonesia properly. In term of translation, it is typically defined as the process of transferring words or text from one language into another or target language. The aim of translation is to convey the exact meaning from a source language to target-language. A translator needs to be not only bilingual or multilingual but the translator also must be bicultural or multicultural.

Lack knowledge of translation strategies will lead to mistranslation especially when it comes to idiomatic expression. It happens because idioms in one language hardly match with idioms from other languages [2]. Each particular language has its own unique and specific idioms which give color to that language. Idioms offer the same kind of problems to non-native English speakers and writers. They are unclear because the meaning of the phrase is not literal or predictable. The translator must first analyze what the writer has intended to say before translating it.

Furthermore, regarding as idioms, the research focuses on the novel *The Catcher in the Rye*. This is a 1951 novel written by J. D. Salinger [3], a sixteen years old boy. A controversial novel which originally published for adult tells about a teenager named Holden Caulfield. The writer finds many humors during reading this novel. The way the author conveys the message in this novel is so enjoyable. The author can stimulate every sentence in this novel very well even though there are a lot of vulgar languages here. On the whole, the purpose in this research is to know the strategies and techniques of translation used by the translator to translate idioms from the novel *The Catcher in the Rye* into Bahasa Indonesia.

The main difficulties involved in translating idioms and fixed expressions are the ability to recognize and interpret an idiom correctly. The meaning of idiom is diverse from the meaning which is expressed by the individual words. Also the meaning conveys and associates with culture-specific contexts which make it difficult to translate. The questions that come out due to these problems are:

- What groups of idioms found in the novel of *The Cather in the Rye*?
- What strategies and techniques of translation used by the translator to translate idioms from English into Bahasa Indonesia from the novel *The Catcher in the Rye*?

There are some previous researches have been done related to translating idiom. Some of them had applied the theory proposed by Mona Baker in analyzing the data [4]-[7], meanwhile the second author applied the theory about translation strategy by Nida and Taber. After analyzing their data, all authors find every strategy of translating idioms as proposed by Mona Baker and Nida. Similarly to this research, the author also applied Mona Baker theory in analyzing the data but the source of the data is different.

Idioms and fixed expressions which contain culture-specific items are not necessarily untranslatable. They are frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form. Idioms often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components. They are not the specific items an expression contains but rather the meaning it conveys and its association with culture-specific context which can make it untranslatable or difficult to translate [2].

Furthermore, in a journal article written by Salim and Mehawesh [5], they mention some definitions about idiom by experts, as follow: " the term idiom is generally used in a variety of different senses. Idioms can be considered an integral part of language. They give information about conceptions of the world considered by linguistic communities. Moreover, idioms can be defined as multiword expressions whose meaning is not predictable from their component parts.

## **METHOD**

There are three methods applied in this research, they are collecting the data, analyzing the data and presenting the result of analysis. The writer reads the English Novel for several times and then marking all English idioms found in the novel. After all idioms in English novel are identified, the writer also identifies the translation of it in target language. In analyzing the data, both idioms and the translation are compared in the table and then the strategies of the translation those idioms are identified.

There are 35 data are analyzed in this research and following are the result analysis of the data. 25 idioms among 35 idioms are translated by using paraphrase, it means the translator cannot

find the appropriate idioms in target language and paraphrasing it is one way to solve the problem.

### Translating Idiom Using An Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

This strategy involves using an idiom in the target language which conveys roughly the same meaning as that of the source-language idiom. In addition, it consists of equivalent lexical items. This kind of match can only occasionally be achieved [2]. For example :

**SL:** *Remember to stay calm before the judge. Don't get nervous and lose your head!*

**TL:** *Ingat untuk tetap tenang di hadapan hakim. Jangan gugup dan kehilangan akalmu!*

The English idiomatic expression *lose your head* is translated into Bahasa Indonesia by using idiomatic expression *kehilangan akalmu*. According to Ammer *lose one's head* mean to become so agitated that one cannot act sensibly [8]. This expression, which at one time meant literal decapitation and was used figuratively from the mid-nineteenth century.

Meanwhile in Bahasa Indonesia, according to Wahya & Waridah *kehilangan akal* mean putus asa; bingung(tidak tahu apa yang harus dikerjakan) [9]. In this case, both English and Bahasa Indonesia find the equivalent of idiomatic expression which refer to using an idiom of similar meaning and form.

### Translating An Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

It is an idiom or fixed expression in the target language which has a meaning similar to the source idiom or expression, but consists of different lexical items. It is often possible to find an idiom or expression in the target language which has a meaning similar to that of the source idiom or expression, but which consists of different lexical items [2]. This strategy uses different lexical items to express more or less the same idea. For example:

**SL:** *Patricia was late for work, and she couldn't find her car keys. She was running around his apartment like a chicken with its head cut off.*

**TL:** *Patricia terlambat pergi kerja, dan dia tidak bisa menemukan kunci mobilnya. Dia berlari sekitar apartemennya seperti cacing kepanasan.*

According to Ammer *like a chicken with its head cut off* mean behave distractedly and crazily. This graphic simile apparently is based on barnyard experience: the body of a decapitated chicken sometimes continues to totter about crazily for a time following the dirty deed [8].

Meanwhile, in Bahasa Indonesia according to according to Wahya & Waridah *seperti cacing kepanasan* mean tidak tenang; tidak mau diam; selalu bergerak [9]. Therefore, both expressions in the source language and its translation in the target language refer to the same meaning. In terms of form, both expressions cannot be said as equivalent.

### Translating Idiom by Paraphrase

This is the most common way of translating idiom when a match cannot be found in the target language or when it seems inappropriate to use idiomatic language in the target text. This is because of differences in stylistic preferences of the source and target language. You may or may not find the paraphrases accurate [2].

Paraphrasing can be used to solve problems in the process of translating idiom. It can be an amplification technique used in a translated text or a cultural item paraphrased to make it intelligible to TL readers. This does not mean that paraphrasing as a strategy will necessarily lead to using an amplification technique. The result may be a discursive creation, an equivalent established expression, an adaptation, etc. For example:

**SL:** *They say the wedding's scheduled for December, but to tell you the truth, **all bets are off**.*

**TL:** *Mereka mengatakan pernikahan itu dijadwalkan bulan Desember, tetapi kenyataan yang terjadi sekarang, **rencana itu dibatalkan**.*

The English idiom **all bets are off** is translated into **rencana itu dibatalkan** in the target language. According to Ammer **all bets are off** mean the agreement is canceled, because the relevant conditions have changed [8]. Therefore, the translator cannot find the equivalent in target language Bahasa Indonesia. Thus, the translator just translates idiomatic expression from source language to target language based on his/her understanding to that idiom. After that, the translator uses his/her own words to target language so that the meaning can be acceptable and understandable.

### Translating Idiom by Omission

As with single words, an idiom may sometimes be omitted altogether in the target text. It is because it has no close equivalent in the target language, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reasons (Baker, 1992, p. 77). For example:

**SL:** *I shall have to ask them what the name of the country is, **you know**.*

**TL:** *Tapi aku harus bertanya pada mereka nama negeri ini.*

It can be seen in the example above that **you know** is not realized in Bahasa Indonesia. According to Dictionary of Idioms and Phrasal Verbs, the idiomatic expression **you know** is used to open a conversation or switch to a new topic. The translator applies the omission strategy by letting the idiom **you know** be not translated to get effectiveness and considers that the readers will easily understand the meaning of the idiom.

Since it is very difficult to translate idioms into idioms, then a translator may apply non idiomatic translation in order to maintain the meaning of the translated expressions in the target language. Moreover, the translator has a choice not to realize an idiom in the translation since it has no close match in the target language or its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased.

Briefly, this means that one may either omit or play down a feature such as idiomaticity at the point where it occurs in the source text and introduce it elsewhere in the target text. This strategy is not restricted to idiomaticity or fixed expressions and may be used to make up for any loss of meaning, emotional force, or stylistic effect which may not be possible to reproduce directly at a given point in the target text.

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing 35 idioms from the novel *The Cather in the Rye*, the writer finds there are 3 idioms using strategy translating an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, 25 idioms using translating idiom by paraphrase.

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