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Article

The Strategies and Orientation of Translating Idiomatic Expressions in Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Novel

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ABSTRACT

In translating idiomatic expressions, strategies are applied in order to make the result equivalent in the target language. This research proposes to explore the strategies used in translating idiomatic expressions and translation orientation. Translating idiomatic expressions might cause difficulties for translator and the result tend to be based on the source or target language. Therefore, we proposed to investigate the translation strategies of the novel "The Adventures of The Huckleberry Finn". It aims at deciding the most frequent strategies used in the translating idiomatic expressions and translation orientation. This research is descriptive qualitative study using content analysis applying purposive sampling technique since not the whole novel is investigated. This finding shows that there are 53 idiomatic expressions translated using strategies proposed by Mona Baker (2018). This research also found that there are four strategies are used by the translator, such as (1) using an idiom of similar meaning and form; (2) translation by omission of entire idiom; (3) translation by paraphrase; and (4) translation by omission of a play on idiom. The most frequent strategy is translation by paraphrase with 51.8% occurence. Furthermore, domestication is dominating the orientation of the translation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is the most important tool used by human to communicate with each other. Communication uses a language to share ideas or information within society. Every society has its own language expressions which have different meaning with the literal meaning called idiom. Idiomatic expressions are expressions which employ non-literal meaning and may have ambiguity. In some languages, they may have similar idiomatic expressions that can be recognized and translated accurately. Hence, the translation of idiomatic expressions has been an interesting issue in the study of translation (Hashemian and Arezi, 2015; Jabbari, 2016; Ping, 2018; Elnoty, 2020). Translation of idiom is not only re-creating the message of the source language, but also finding the equivalent meaning which does not exist in the source language (Newmark, 1988). They present during a chat or conversation and are used based on their own culture. Therefore, idiomatic expressions are mostly based on culture and used by the native speakers of a language. In other words, they are well understood by native speakers and not easily identified by non-native speakers. English, as the most spoken language in the world, has abundant idiomatic expressions. It is commonly found in both spoken and written languages. In the spoken language, it can be found in every day conversation. Meanwhile, in the written language, it can be found in literary products, including in the novel (Putra & Novalinda, 2019; Fitri, et al, 2019; Shabitah & Hartono, 2020; Premasari & Widodo, 2021; Valizadeh and Vazifehkhah, 2021).

A novel is a play and draws the real play with

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live characters, scene-shifting, and footlight (Crawford, 2016). It also represents a culture and uses idiomatic expressions to make the plot and setting more natural and real. To make the readers get into the story and the conversation look more familiar, the writer uses idiomatic expressions. Furthermore, it also shows the novel's identity of a culture that is brought in the story by the author. Newmark suggests three senses which belong to idioms; idiom contains constituents of words in which the meaning cannot be predicted, used by native speakers naturally as everyday language, and the characteristic of vocabulary differs with regular expression and the people whose use the idioms. In short, idiom is used by native speakers in which the meaning of each constituent cannot be predicted. To recognize idiomatic expressions, Baker mentions that there are two situations that can help to identify it (Baker, 2018). First, when the idioms violate truth conditions. For example, it's raining cats and dogs. There is not any rain looking like cats and dogs. Therefore, people will assume that it is an idiomatic expression because it is uncommon. Second, some expressions also do not follow the correct grammatical form. As in the idiomatic expression 'trip the light fantastic'. Grammatically, it is incorrect and each constituent does not have any relation. It makes confusion for readers. Furthermore, Baker also adds that when an expression is difficult to understand, it is more likely an idiom (Baker, 2018). Therefore, a translator should be aware of some expressions which cannot be interpreted easily and has unfamiliar grammatical forms.

The first thing that is faced by translators is identifying idiomatic expressions. It is not easy to find the equivalence in the target language. Moreover, for non-native translators, they still may find it hard to recognize idiomatic expressions although dictionary of idiom is available. Baker also agrees that a translator may face difficulty in recognizing idomatic expressions (Baker, 2018). There may be obstacles in translating idiomatic expressions if a translator does not have any knowledge of the culture. The problems that may be faced by translators, as proposed by (Baker, 2018) are:

1. idiomatic expressions may have no match expression in the target language;

- 2. idiomatic expressions may have a similar form in the target language but having different context:
- 3. an idiom may be translated using both literal and sense in the source text;
- 4. the usage of idiom in written discourse, based on the contexts that can be applied. The frequency of using also depends on the source and target language.

In order to cope with translating idiom, there are six strategies of translating idiomatic expressions suggested by Baker, they are: 1) Using an idiom of similar meaning and form; 2) Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form; 3) borrowing the source language idiom; 4) Translation by paraphrase; 5) Translation by omission of a play on idiom; 6) Translation by omission (Baker, 2018). She also states that translating an idiom or fixed expressions depends on the style of questions, register, and the effect of rhetorical should also be considered. Lörscher (2005) states that translation strategies are the procedure that can be done by a translator to cope with translation problems. Furthermore, the way a translator translates idiomatic expressions may lead to translation orientation. There are two orientation, such as foreignization and domestication (Venuti, 2017). Venuti also defines foreignization as bringing the cultural differences of the source text without trying to find the equivalence into the target language's culture. Foreignization tries to bring a foreign culture into other cultures. Meanwhile, domestication is reducing the source text into the target text's culture. It is adopted to minimize cultural differences and make readers interpret the meaning easily. When translating idiomatic expressions which present in novels, translators consider strategies and translation orientation into the translated version. They need to make the translated version as equivalent as possible. Therefore, it is important to investigate the translation strategies and orientation applied by translator.

Several research have been conducted by other researchers under this topic. A research conducted by (Fitri et al., 2019) aims at describing the types of idioms found in "Crazy Rich Asians" novel. It analyzes strategies in translating idiom used by the translator using the theory proposed by Mona

Baker. The result of research shows that there are five strategies applied by the translator. The most frequent strategy is translating by paraphrase. Paraphrasing is the most frequent strategy used by the translator because the equivalent meaning does not match with the idiom in the target language. Similar research conducted by Putra & Novalinda (2019) which investigates the translation strategies which are applied by the translator in "The Catcher in The Rye" novel using Mona Baker's idiom strategies. The result shows that there are 35 idioms translated using 4 strategies. The strategies that are applied by the translator 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. Both research use novel as the object of research and investigate similar cases. Hence, this research focuses on investigating strategies in translating idiomatic expressions as well as viewing translation orientation. Both previous research investigate translation strategies. Therefore, to fill in the gap, this research also investigates the orientation of translation. It is important to know what kind of orientation applied by the translator whether the translator will bring source language's culture or being suited with target language's culture. The result will be domestication or foreignization. Through this research, it is expected that the readers have more insight on the focus of this study.

II. METHOD

This article is a report of descriptive qualitative research which aims at describing translation strategies and orientation of idiomatic expressions in a novel. The material objects were taken from a novel entitled "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" written by Mark Twain. The novel consists of 42 chapters with 434 pages. It is published by Gramedia Pustaka in 2018. While the Indonesian translated version was translated by Ambhita Dhyaningrum in 2011 consisting 42 chapters with 391 pages and published by Bentang Pustaka. The data were idiomatic expressions in both novels. However, the material objects were limited to chapter one to ten in the novel since this research applies purposive sampling technique. Samples were chosen by considering that there are many idiomatic expressions found in the ten chapters of the novel. Considering the popularity and the use

of idiomatic expressions, this novel is chosen as the object material. It also has been filmed 18 (eighteen) times. The author also states that he painstikingly tries to make the characters talk differently using several dialects. It shows that the author also uses idiomatic expressions to make the plot looks more cultural. Data were obtained by content analysis technique. Content analysis potrays the ways to describe and quantify the phenomena systematically and objectively (Downe-Wamboldt, 1992; Schreier, 2012 in Elo et al., 2014). It was used to analyze the idiomatic expressions found in the novel. To collect the data, the researcher reads all the chapters as well as underlining idiomatic expressions in both novels by doing note-taking. After idiomatic expressions were recognized, they were checked according to McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms (2005). To anayze the data, this research used Baker's (2008) theory relating on translation strategies of translating idiomatic expressions. This research also used Newmark (1988) V Diagram to investigate translation orientation. The classification was not sufficient, therefore it was combined with the classification stated by Bastin in Zare-behtash & Firoozkoohi (2009).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are 53 (fifty-three) idiomatic expressions identified in the novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn". In the translated novel, the translator applied 4 (four) strategies. They are, using an idiom of similar meaning and form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission of a play on idiom, and translation by omission of entire idiom. there were 2 (two) strategies which are not applied by the translators. They are using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form and borrowing the source language idiom. The frequency of translation strategies is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 shows the frequency of idiom translation strategies which are found in "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" novel. The result shows the way the translator deals with translating idiomatic expressions. From 6 (six) strategies proposed by Baker (2008), the most dominant strategy used by the translator is translation by paraphrase which occurs 31 (thirty-one) times. In addition, the second frequent strategy is translation by

Table 1. Frequencies and Percentages of the Translation Strategies Used

| Foreignization | Number | (%) |
|---|--------|------|
| Using an idiom of similar meaning and form | 2 | 3.8 |
| Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form | 0 | 0 |
| Borrowing the source language idiom | 0 | 0 |
| Translation by paraphrase | 31 | 58.5 |
| Translation by omission of a play on idiom | 16 | 30.2 |
| Translation by omission of entire idiom | 4 | 7.5 |
| Total | 53 | 100 |

ommision of a play on idiom. It occurs 16 (sixteen) times. Meanwhile, translation by omission of entire idiom occurs 4 (four) times. The translator does not translate the idiomatic expressions, therefore, the idiom is ommited. It is done to make it more natural and some expressions also do not have equivalence in the target language. Furthermore, the result of the translation strategy using an idiom of similar meaning and form is placed in the third rank. There are only 2 (two) idioms that use this strategy because the equivalence in the target language is difficult to meet. On the other hand, there are two strategies that are not used by the translator. First, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. Second, borrowing the source language idiom.

Translation Strategies

Using An Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

This strategy has similar interpretation and form with the Source Language (SL) idiom. It has an equivalent meaning in the target language and also belongs to an idiom. in the target language, it has the same form, that is idiomatic expressions. The following is the description of the examples.

(1) SL: ... but now he was a-going to **turn over** a **new leaf** and be a man nobody wouldn't be ashamed of, ...

TL: Namun, ayahku berjanji akan **membuka lembaran baru** dan menjadi seorang pria yang tidak membuat orang malu terhadapnya.

According to McGraw-Hills Dictionary of American Idioms, the idiomatic expression 'turn over a new leaf' means 'to reform and begin again'. It can be interpreted regenerating something from

the beginning. In the target language, the translated idiom 'membuka lembaran baru' means 'starting a something new from the beginning'. The meaning is similar. In addition, the form of the idiom is also similar with the translated idiom in the target language which starts with verb followed by noun. If translated literally, the meaning does not meet with the context of the sentence. In addition, both English and Bahasa have the equivalent of idiomatic expressions. Therefore, the idiom is classified into this strategy.

(2) SL: Why, my boy, you are all **out of breath**.

TL: Ada apa anakku? Mengapa kau sampai kehabisan napas begitu?

The idiomatic expression 'out of breath' has similar form with the translated idiom 'kehabisan napas'. It does have similar meaning with the translated idiom. According to McGraw-Hills Dictionary of American Idioms, 'out of breath' means 'breathing fast and hard and gasping for breath'. It is equivalent to the meaning in the target language, in which 'kehabisan napas' means 'sulit bernafas atau terengah-engah'. Furthermore, it is also equivalent to the source language. If translated literary, the meaning will be having no more breath or not being able to take a breath. However, in the story, the situation shows that the character (Huckleberry) visited Judge Thatcher imediately causing him have shortness of breath. No one seems about to die in the story. As seen from the situation, it matches with the non-literal meaning.

Translation by Paraphrase

Translating idiomatic expressions accurately into the target language is a big challenge for translators. Translators might face difficulties in finding the equivalent meaning. This strategy is used when a translator gets difficulty in finding the match translation in the target language (Baker, 2018). It is mostly applied by the translator when the translation is not appropriate to use. The translator can modify it by making it more appropriate in the target language. Therefore, the translated idiom will be more familiar with the target language. The examples of this strategy is presented below.

(3) SL: You just shell it out.

TL: Kau hanya akan **menghabiskannya**.

According to McGraw-Hills Dictionary of American Idioms, the idiomatic expression 'shell it out' means to spend a certain amount of money. It can be interpreted that a person uses his/her money for buying something. In the target language, it means 'menghabiskan sejumlah uang'. Both meanings are equivalent because the translated meaning still mentioning about spending money. The idiomatic expression in the target language does not match with any expression in the target language. Therefore, it is translated according to the meaning of the idiom and the most proper way is by paraphrasing into the target language. The situation in the story discusses about money which matches with the meaning of the expression.

(4) SL: and who told the widow she could put in her shovel about a thing that ain't **none of her business**?

TL: Lalu, siapa yang bilang kepada janda itu kalau dia bisa menjejalimu dengan urusan yang sama sekali bukan urusannya?

The idiomatic expression 'none of her business' means 'not of someone's concern' (McGraw-Hills Dictionary of American Idioms). it can be interpreted that something does not belong to someone's consideration. In the target language, it means 'sesuatu yang bukan urusan seseorang'. The translated expression above in the target language means 'sama sekali bukan urusannya'. It is equivalent to the meaning in the source language. Since proper expression cannot be found in the target language, it is paraphrased based on the nonliteral meaning. Furthermore, the situation in the story does not talk about any kind of business. It means that this expression does not belong to any kind of business. It is then recognized as idiom and translated using this strategy.

Translation by Omission of a Play on Idiom

This strategy is used by rendering the meaning of an idiomatic expression literally. The meaning which matches with the target language is allowed to be used playfully (Baker, 2018). The meaning is taken from the idiom not idiom meaning. It can be translated word by word. The examples of the strategy are presented below.

(5) SL: ...and that nigger was corked up and had to take a back seat.

TL: Dan negro itu akan terdiam dan mundur.

The example above shows that the meaning is translated literally by the translator. The idiomatic expression 'take a back seat', according to McGraw-Hills Dictionary of American Idioms means 'become less important than someone or something else'. Meanwhile, in the target language, it is translated as 'mundur'. In the target language, 'take a back seat' means 'taking the back seat of a means of transportation which has a backseat'. It means that if a person rides a kind of transportation, he/she is asked to take the back seat. It is more familiar with the target's culture in which taking a back seat means sitting in the back seat. According to the situation of the story, the imagery shows that the person should sit in the back seat. Therefore, it is translated literally without considering the nonliteral meaning of the idiom since it is far from the idiomatic meaning.

(6) SL: **Dog my cats** if i didn't hear sumf'n.

TL: Anjing atau kucing? Atau hanya pendengaranku?

According to McGraw-Hills Dictionary American Idioms, the idiomatic expression the example above is used to show an exclamation of surprise or incredulity. When a person uses this expression, he/she is surprised over something. Meanwhile, in the translated novel, it is translated literary by the translator as 'anjing atau kucing'. The translator translates it word by word according to the idiom. It is also translated into two sentences. From the translation, the translator might not know the equivalence or the non-literal of this expression. The idiomatic expression shows an exclamation while the translated expression is a question about an animal. However, in the story, the situation does not seem talking about any kind of animals. The equivalent meaning cannot be found which makes it translated literally.

Translation by Omission of Entire Idiom

An idiomatic expression can be ommited when it has no match with the expressions in the target language. When an idiomatic expression cannot be translated easily, therefore, omitting can be a strategy applied by a translator. The translator can omit the whole idiomatic expression in order to make the meaning equivalent to the target language. The examples of the data are presented below.

(7) SL: He said there was hundreds of soldiers there, and elephants and treasure, and so on, but we had enemies which he called magicians; and they had turned the whole thing into an infant Sunday-school, just **out of spite**.

TL: Namun, kami punya musuh yang disebut Tom sebagai penyihir, dan dalam sekejap mereka telah menyihir semuanya menjadi anak-anak Sekolah Minggu.

The idiomatic expression 'out of spite' is ommited into the target language. According to McGraw-Hills Dictionary of American Idioms, it means 'the desire to harm someone or something'. The dialogue already shows a clear situation of the story which harmed the children there. They have enemies which turning it into an infant Sunday-School. The idiomatic expression is not necessary to be put in the target language. It is omitted because readers still can imagine the clear situation which is drawn by the author by reading the story. The translator try to make the meaning equivalent by not showing the uneccesary information mentioned in the novel.

(8) SL: You lemme catch you **fooling around** that school again, you hear?

TL: Jangan coba-coba pergi ke sekolah lagi, kau dengar?

The expression in the example, according to McGraw-Hills Dictionary of American Idioms means 'to waste time doing something unnecessary or doing something amateurishly'. Meanwhile, the translated expression does not show this kind of action. The translated expression 'cobacoba' means 'to try' in English. It is omitted because the equivalent meaning in the target language does not match. The translator omits the idiomatic expression and simplifies the transation. The idiomatic expression is not necessary to be translated. Therefore, it is better to omit it.

Translation Orientation

In translating "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" novel, the translator uses translation orientation, they are foreignization and domestication. It is applied by a translator to produce a more natural translation result into the target language or bring the source language's culture. Newmark (1988) proposes a V diagram which identifies some strategies which belong to Source Language (SL) and Target Language (TL). SL emphasises word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, and semantic translation while TL emphasisez adaptation, translation. idiomatic translation. free communicative translation. Since the strategies proposed by Mona Baker are not equal to those proposed By Newmark, the similarity between each strategy is identified then classified. In Mona Baker strategies of idiomatic expression, using idiom of similar meaning and form is equal with idiomatic expression, translation by paraphrase is equal with free translation. Meanwhile, the paraphrasing strategy does not belong to any kind of strategies mentioned by Newmark, it is used Ma's strategy (2012, in Yan, 2018). He states that paraphrase is called free translation since the translator can apply freedom translation. Therefore, paraphrase is equal with free transation in Newmark's strategies. The strategy of omission belongs to domestication (Bastin, 1998 in Zare-behtash & Firoozkoohi, 2009). Furthermore, translation by omission of a play on idiom is applied by translating the literal meaning of idiomatic expressions. It is equal with literal translation which belongs to foreignization. Strategies which belong to translation orientation is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Orientation of Translation Implication

| Orintation | Translation Strategies | Total | (%) |
|------------------|--|-------|------|
| Domestication | Using an idiom of similar meaning and form | 2 | 3.8 |
| | Translation by omission of entire idiom | 4 | 7.5 |
| | Translation by paraphrase | 31 | 58.5 |
| | Total | 37 | 69.8 |
| Foreignization | Translation by omission of a play on idiom | 16 | 30.2 |
| | Total | 16 | 30.2 |
| Total of Idiomat | tic Expressions | 53 | 100 |

From the table 2, there are three strategies belong to domestication. They are; (1) translation strategies using an idiom of similar meaning and form; (2) translation by omission of entire idiom; and (3) paraphrase belong to domestication. Meanwhile, translation by omission of a play on idiom belong to foreignization. The result shows that domestication dominates the translation of idiomatic expressions in "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" novel.

The percentage is 69.8% which is higher than foreignization with 30.2%. It pririotizes the cultural expressions in the target language. The translator try to make the story more accepted in the target culture and does not look like a translated novel. Those three strategies use the equivalent meaning based on the familiar expressions in the target language. The source language's idioms are

In addition, the translation of idiomatic expressions tends to use domestication because it uses proper words in the target language. Proper words are chosen to make the plot appropriate with the culture in the target language without changing the meaning from the source language. It shows that the translator considers cultural differences by making the readers draw the imagery of the plot through domestication. Furthermore, domestication makes the reader easy to understand the plot of the story. It is acceptable because the story is similar with the situation in the target language's culture. However, foreignization is still applied by the translator in translating idiomatic expressions although only a third part of the idiomatic expressions. Some idiomatic expressions in the target language does not match hence foreignization is still applied.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Mona Baker's strategies of idiomatic expression is applied in investigating "The Adventures of The Huckleberry Finn" novel. The results showed that four strategies were used such as using an idiom of similar meaning and form, translation by omission of entire idiom, translation by paraphrase, and translation by omission of a play on idiom. According to the obtained results, paraphrasing dominated the translation strategy. It was applied since the equivalent meaning is not matched with the target language. The translator may find difficulties in finding similar idiomatic expressions or the idiomatic expressions may have no equivalence in the target language. Therefore, paraphrasing is the most frequent strategy applied by the translator. The finding also shows that both foreignization and domestication were applied in the novel, domestication dominated the translation orientation. However, there is a need for further study to investigate the strategies and orientation of translating idiomatic expressions using other objects. There are many idiomatic expressions in both spoken and written languages such as in short stories, news, podcasts, or films. Those objects can be investigated under similar topic.

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