ANALYSIS OF TECHNIQUES USED IN TRANSLATING IDIOMS FROM ENGLISH TO INDONESIAN AS FOUND IN *ALL AMERICAN GIRL* NOVEL

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ABSTRAK

Artikel ini membahas teknik-teknik dalam menerjemahkan idiom bahasa Inggris yang terdapat dalam novel *All American Girl*. Novel ini merupakan karya seorang penulis Amerika, Meg Cabot, dan diterjemahkan oleh Monica Dwi Chresnayani. Penelitian ini berfokus pada teknik penerjemahan yang digunakan penerjemah untuk menghasilkan terjemahan yang sesuai dalam bahasa sasaran. Penulis menganalisa data dengan cara membandingkan idiom dalam bahasa sumber dengan hasil terjemahan dalam bahasa sasaran dengan menggunakan teori penerjemahan oleh Vinay dan Darbelnet. Vinay dan Darbellnet dalam Venuti (2004) membedakan beberapa teknik penerjemahan yang dapat dikategorikan dalam dua model, yaitu terjemahan langsung (*literal translation*) dan terjemahan tidak langsung (*oblique translation*). Terjemahan langsung dapat diaplikasikan dengan cara; peminjaman, *calque*, dan terjemahan harfiah, sedangkan terjemahan tidak langsung dapat diaplikasikan dengan cara; transposisi, modulasi, kesepadanan dan adaptasi. Penulis menyampaikan analisa data dengan menggunakan tabel beserta penjelasannya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penerjemah novel ini menggunakan dua teknik penerjemahan, yaitu modulasi dan transposisi. Untuk modulasi, penulis menemukan bahwa penerjemah melakukan beberapa perubahan semantis serta mengubah bentuk positif menjadi negatif dalam bahasa target. Untuk transposisi, penerjemah melakukan penyesuaian pada tataran gramatikal dan kelas kata pada bahasa target.

Kata Kunci: *Idiom, Teknik, Konteks*

ABSTRACT

This article discusses techniques in translating English idioms found in *All American Girl* novel. The novel is written by an American novelist, Meg Cabot, and translated into Indonesian by Monica Dwi Chresnayani. This research focuses on describing the techniques used by the translator in producing a proper translation. The data are analyzed by comparing idioms from source language with the translation in target language. The writer applies the theory of translation proposed by Vinay dan Darbelnet in analyzing the data. Vinay and Darbellnet in Venuti (2004) proposed several techniques of translation. These techniques are categorized in two models; direct and oblique translation. Direct translation can be applied in; borrowing, calque, and literal translation, while oblique translation can be applied in; transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation. The writer describes the analysis by providing tables along with its narrative description. The result of the research shows that the translator uses two techniques in translating; they are modulation and transposition. For the modulation technique, the writer finds that the translator utilizes some semantic changes and switches some positive forms to negative ones in target language. For the transposition techniques, the translator applies some adjustments of word class and word order.

Keywords: *Idiom, Technique, Context*

1. Introduction

One figurative language often used by authors is idiom. According to McCarthy and O'Dell (2002: 4), idioms are fixed expression in which the meaning is not immediately obvious from looking at the individual words in the idiom. Idioms occur in conversation in order to create a good sense of meaning or to avoid such stiff conversation between speaker and hearer. Most authors use them to make the language more lively and interesting, especially when they are used to describe something like people, places, objects, speech or behaviors. It is important to learn the meaning of idioms and how they are used, since it is quite difficult for non-native speakers to understand the meaning of idioms. As the user of English as foreign language, using idioms in

daily conversation will make our speech more natural like native speakers. People may get an understanding of English idiom by learning the technique used by translator. In interpreting the idioms of source language, translators may adopt different techniques to transfer the real message of the idiom. Hence, the writer is interested in conducting a research to analyze the translation techniques of English idiom which is used by the translator.

2. Background of the Research

The research is conducted in order to identify the techniques in translating English idioms into Indonesian adopted in Indonesian version of the novel. The data were taken from Meg Cabot's novel titled *All American Girl* which is translated into Indonesian by Monica Dwi Chresnayani titled *Pahlawan Amerika.* In conducting this research, the writer uses two kinds of written data. The first one is the original English version of the novel and the second one is the Indonesian version translated by the translator. The research is managed by reading both novels at the same time carefully. Both data are taken by using non-participant observational method (Sudaryanto, 1988: 5). The writer obtains the data through reading the novel and its translation by using note-taking technique, then sorting and listing the words which are considered as idiom. In analyzing data, the idioms which found in the English version will be compared with Indonesian version to figure out the techniques used by the translator. The analysis is presented in descriptive analysis.

The writer chooses this novel as the source of data because the idioms found in this novel are interesting to be analyzed. Since the translator also transferred the meaning of idioms quite well, the writer is intended to figure out how the author or American people generally used some types of idioms in any kinds of situation, and how the translator reproduced English idioms into Indonesian language. The writer analyzes its techniques of translation proposed by Vinay and Darbellnet (1995).

3. Review of Related Literature

3.1 Definition of Idiom

An idiom is an expression which cannot be understood from the literal meaning of the words of which it is composed (Rachmadie, 1988: 38). Mona Baker in her book *In Other Words* distinguishes idiom from collocation by the transparency of meaning and flexibility patterning. According to Baker (1992: 63), idioms are frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components. McCarty and O'Dell (2002: 6) in *English Idioms in Use* mentioned that idioms are expressions which have a meaning that is not obvious from the individual word. In doing translation, the translators may find difficulties in transferring the meaning of such combination of words. Like common words, idioms sometimes have more than one meaning. Therefore, the context in which an idiom is used will determine the intended meaning of that idiom.

3.2 Techniques of Translation

Vinay and Darbellnet (in Venuti, 2004: 84-93) divided several techniques of translation, they are:

a. Borrowing

Many types of borrowing are made from one language to another. It is often used when TL has no equivalent for SL units, in this technique the SL word is transferred directly to the TL, sometimes by changing the word spelling or making pronunciation adjustments. Foreign terms may be used in order to introduce the flavor or some special characteristics of SL. Hence, many well- established borrowing words, which are widely used, have become a part of the respective TL lexicon. There are many English words that are no longer considered as borrowing in Indonesian usage, such as; memo - *memo*, taxi- *taksi*, astronaut – *astronot*, etc.

b. Calque

Vinay and Darbelnet (in Venuti, 2000: 86) stated that a calque is a special kind of borrowing whereby a language borrows an expression form of another, but then translates literally each of its element. It is also called loan translation. The result is a lexical calque, a calque which respects the syntactic structure of the TL whilst introducing a new mode of expression, or a structural calque which introduces a new construction into the language. Initially, common people probably think it sounds strange and they cannot get the real meaning of the new words.

For examples:

- (SL) credit card   (TL) kartu kredit
- (SL) grass roots   (TL) akar rumput

c. Literal Translation

Literal Translation refers to one-to-one structural and conceptual correspondence which is also known as word-for-word translation. In this case, the TL forms may be translated literally into TL as long as the meaning is preserved. This technique is used most common between language of the same family and culture. For example: 'Mary has come' in English can be translated literally into 'Mary sudah datang' in Indonesian because they have similar meaning.

d. Transposition

Transposition is one of the most common procedures or techniques used in translation, it is also known as a shift of form. Transposition is a translation procedure involving a change in the grammar from SL to TL (Newmark, 1988: 85). In other words, it involves replacing one word class or word order into another without changing the meaning of the message, like a change of one different type of part of speech to another in order to achieve the same effect. There are some types of transposition according to Catford (1974), such as;

1. The change from singular to plural (and vice versa) or in the position of the adjective.
   - Example for transposition from plural to singular

     SL: a pair of trousers

     TL: sebuah celana panjang
   - Example for transposition in the position of the adjective

     SL: green (Adj) scarf (N)

     TL: selendang (N) hijau (Adj)

2. The change in grammatical structure or word order from SL to TL.

       Example:

              SL: we must bring the flower

              TL: bunga itu harus kita bawa

3. The change of part of speech or word class from SL to TL, when literal translation of SL text may not acceptable in the natural usage of TL.

       Example:

- Catford's class-shift which occurs when the translation equivalent of SL item is a member of a different class from the original item, such as noun becomes verb, adjective becomes verb, etc.
  For example:
  SL: the house owner was *welcoming* to the guests (adjective)
  TL: sang pemilik rumah *menyambut* kedatangan para tamu (verb).

- Catford's unit-shift: changes of rank. These changes of rank include word into phrase, word into clause, phrase into clause, and so on.
  SL: hospitality (word)
  TL: skap ramah tamah/ keramah-tamahan (phrase).

e. Modulation

Modulation entails a change in lexical elements, a shift in the point of view, or thought of the source language. It consists of using a word or phrase that is different in the source and target language to convey the same idea.

For examples:

a. SL: you *shouldn't dislike* the birthday gift from your father.

    TL: kamu *seharusnya menyukai* kado ulang tahun dari ayahmu.

In this case, the negative form in SL becomes positive in TL. It is a modulation that occurs when literal translation is considered unsuitable or awkward in TL. If translator translate the TL form literally become "kamu tidak seharusnya tidak menyukai kado ulang tahun dari ayahmu", it sounds strange in Indonesian language although it is correct grammatically.

b. SL: the jewelry shop beside my home *was robbed* last nigt.

TL: ada yang *merampok* toko perhiasan di samping rumah ku tadi malam.

In this case, modulation can be done by changing the form from passive voice in source language into active voice in target language (and vice versa).

c. SL: the man *called* his daughter once a day when he was abroad.

TL: Pria itu *menelepon* anaknya sekali sehari ketika dia berada di luar negeri.

In the last example, the modulation can be seen from the change of abstract message in the source language into concrete in the target language.

f. Equivalence

Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) view equivalence in translation as a procedure which replicates the same situation as in the original. They suggest that, if this procedure is applied during the translation process, it can maintain the stylistic impact of the SL text in the TL text. In this case, the translators have to consider natural terms which are used in TL, like considering the cultural adjustment. They also stated that equivalence is therefore the ideal method when the translator has to deal with proverbs, idioms, clichés, nominal or adjectival phrases and the onomatopoeia of animal sounds.

For example: *Proverb*

SL: When in Rome do as the Romans do

TL: Dimana bumi dipijak disitu langit dijunjung

g. Adaptation

Adaptation is a translation technique that involves modifying a cultural reference for the target text readership (Vinay and Darbelnet in Hatim and Munday, 2004: 334). It is used in those cases where the type of situation being referred to by the SL message is unknown in the TL culture. Adaptation occurs in specific to one language culture that is expressed in a totally different way that is familiar or appropriate to another language culture. It involves changing the cultural reference when a situation in then source culture does not exist in the target language culture, but the TL has quite similar concept. In such cases translators have to create a new situation that can be considered as being equivalent. Adaptation can, therefore, be described as a special kind of equivalence, a situational equivalence. Titles of books, movies, and characters fit into this category.

For examples:

- SL: 'All American Girl' [a novel by Meg Cabot]
  TL: Pahlawan Amerika.

3.3 Context

The role of context is important in translating the idiom. According to Hatim and Munday, contexts is the multi-layered extra-textual environment which exerts a determining on the language used. The subject matter of given text, for example, is part of a context of situation (2004: 336). Rachmadie (1988: 38) stated that idioms sometimes have more than one meaning; therefore the context in which an idiom is used will determine the attended meaning of that idiom. Therefore, in translating idioms, a translator has to know the context well to comprehend the closest meaning of idiom.

4. Analysis of Techniques Used In Translating Idioms From English To Indonesian as Found in All American Girl Novel

This analysis provides two data which assume are adequate to represent the whole data found in the novel.
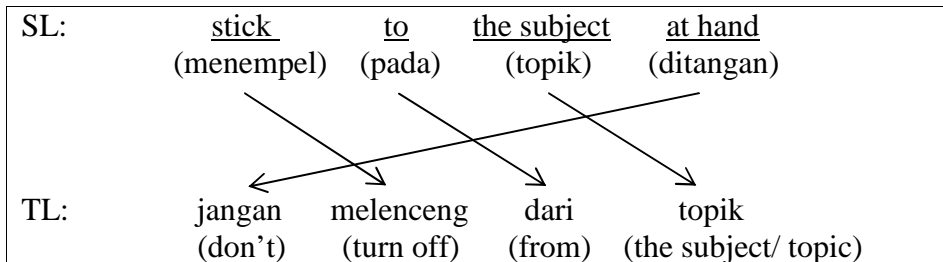
Datum 1:

SOURCE LANGUAGE	TARGET LANGUAGE
"You take a bullet for the President of the United States of America, and all you get out of it is *dinner*?"	"Kau menghadang peluru untuk Presiden Amerika Serikat, dan penghargaan yang kaudapat untuk jasamu itu hanya berupa makan malam?"
"I didn't take a bullet for him," and it's dinner at the White House. And could we **please stick to the subject at hand?** What am I going to say to Susan Boone?"	"Aku tidak menghadang peluru untuknya," and ini bukan sekedar makan malam di Gedung Putih. Jadi **tolong jangan melenceng dari topik**. Apa yang harus kukatakan pada Susan Boone?"

The idiom **"stick to the topic at hand"** is produced by Samantha in her phone conversation with Catherine. Sam wants to share an important issue with Cath, but she keeps asking about another issue. Therefore, Sam asks her to stick to the subject at hand, because all she wanted to share is about Susan Boone. The source language is in form of clause (*verb + preposition + article + noun + preposition + noun*) and the target language is also in form of clause (*auxiliary + verb + preposition + noun*).

Source Language Version	Target Language Version
Stick to the subject at hand (*idiom*)	Jangan melenceng dari topic (*non-idiom*)

The translator uses the modulation technique to translate **"stick the subject at hand"** into **"jangan melenceng dari topik".** Here, the positive form in source language becomes negative form in target language. It is done by translator because the literal translation is considered unsuitable in target language. The word "**stick"** (positive form) in source language, which means **"menempel"** in Indonesian, is changed into **"jangan melenceng"** (negative form)

in the target language. The phrase **"to the subject"** is translated into "**dari topik"**, while the words **"at hand"** itself is dropped. In other word, the whole set of idiom refers to something that is close to the subject or keep focusing to the topic.

SL:	stick	to	the subject	at hand
	(menempel)	(pada)	(topik)	(ditangan)
TL:	jangan	melenceng	dari	topik
	(don't)	(turn off)	(from)	(the subject/ topic)

The figure above shows that there is transposition technique or shift of form used by the translator. It is done by replacing the word order and word class in the target language. The change of word order occurs in shifting the position of words **"at hand"** into **"jangan"**, which its meaning functioned to modify the word **"stick"**. Moreover, the change of word class can be figured when the translation equivalent of source language item is a member of different class from the original item. In this case, **adverb** (at hand) in source language is shifted into **auxiliary** (don't) in the target language.

Datum 2:

SOURCE LANGUAGE	TARGET LANGUAGE
"Draw what you *see*, "not what you know, Sam. I'll see you on Thursday."	"Gambarlah apa yang kau lihat, bukan yang kau tahu, Sam, sampai ketemu lagi hari kamis,"
I smiled back at her, but of course I was thinking, **Over my dead body!** will you see me on Thursday.	Aku mebalas senyumannya, tapi tantu saja aku berpikir, **langkahi dulu mayatku!**, baru kau bisa bertemu lagi denganku hari Kamis nanti.

This is the description of Samantha's mind after listening to the unacceptable words from Susan Boone. She thinks that her freedom of creative license had been ruined by Susan Boone. Susan has destroyed her belief about drawing. Sam shows her unsatisfied feeling by saying "**over my dead body!** will you see me on Thursday" in silent. Such expression is used to warn herself self for not coming to the class next week. This idiom implies that someone is going to do

everything to prevent something. The source language is in form of clause (a*dverb + pronoun + adjective + noun*) and the target language is also in form of clause (*verb + adverb + noun + pronoun*).

Source Language Version	Target Language Version
Over my dead body! (*idiom*)	Langkahi dulu mayatku (*idiom*)

In this case, the translator shifts the category of thought in translating the idiom **"over my dead body!"** becomes **"langkahi dulu mayatku"**. Since the literal translation, **"atas tubuh matiku"**, sounds weird in the target language, several semantic changes are applied in the translation. It is done to keep the meaning of the idiom clearer and easier to understand for the readers. Word **"over"** which actually means **"atas"** is translated into **"langkahi"** (in English: **step on**), and the phrase **"dead body"** which means **"tubuh yang mati"** is translated into "mayat" (in English: **corpse**) to gain equivalence of translation. This technique of translation is known as modulation.
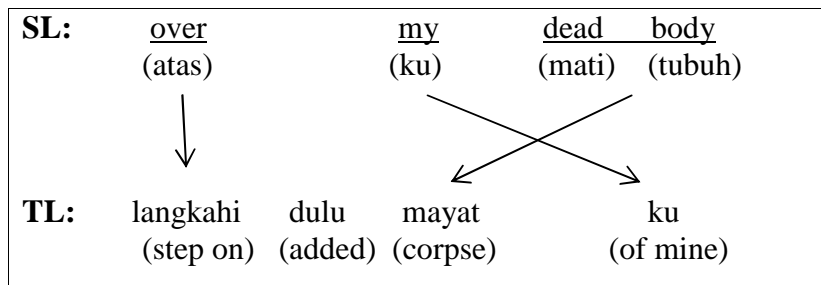
Transposition technique is also used by the translator by the replacement of a virtual lexical gap by a grammatical structure. The emphasis in SL is shown through TL regular grammatical construction. It occurs in additional word **"dulu"** in order to emphasize textual function in the target language. This idiom symbolizes an attempt to fight against something.

5. Conclusion

After observing and analyzing the data, the writer figures out two techniques used by the translator in transferring the meaning of English idioms into Indonesian. Those techniques are modulation and transposition. An idiom may involve both the translation techniques. The translator of the novel uses modulation technique by changing the point of view or category of thought in the target language text. It can be applied by utilizing some semantic changes. For instance, some lexical elements are replaced with another element in target language but still preserving the real meaning of the idioms as found in most data. There are also found the change from abstract message into concrete by giving additional information in target language, and the change of positive form in source language into negative form in the target language. Transposition technique is found in the change of the word class, the change of word order, and the change of rank in the target language. For this matter an idiom should be learned in context, as it will help us in some ways to guess the meaning of an idiom intelligently.

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