Strategies of Idiom Translation from English to Indonesian: The Case of The Novel Rich People Problems

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ABSTRACT

In idiom translation, strategies are employed to find equivalent results from the source language to the target language. There are challenges in translating idioms. The purpose of this study is to find idiom translation strategies in the novel Rich People Problems. In addition to idiom translation strategies, this article also aims to classify idioms in the novel. This study used a qualitative method and was supported by quantitative data using sampling technique. As a result, as Baker (2018) explains, this article has three idiom translation strategies. They are (1) translation using paraphrase, (2) translation by the omission of a play, and (3) translation by the omission of the entire idiom. However, there are three strategies that are not used in this article. They are borrowing the source language idiom, using an idiom of similar meaning and form, and using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. Translation by paraphrasing is the most dominant strategy used to translate the idioms in this article, at a rate of 64.29%. In addition, this article also has the types of idioms proposed by Makkai (1972). These are (1) phrasal verb idioms, (2) tournure idioms, and the last (3) irreversible binomial idioms. Therefore, the main use of translating idioms by paraphrase may be due to time constraints for the translator due to the deadline for determining the idiom equivalences in the target language.

I. INTRODUCTION

Translation creates a connection to build a bridge between the two languages. It is defined as a way to translate a word or text in one language into another. Therefore, the purpose of translation is to deliver the equivalent meaning from the source language into the target language. The translation aims to change the textual material from the source language to the target language (Catford, 1965). Translation of textual material is expected to achieve the proper meaning in the target language and not change the meaning of the source language. (Newmark, 1998; Larson, 1998). However, translation was a problem, especially with linguistic features whose meanings were unpredictable in word constructs such as idioms. Idioms are considered meaningful and are part of the language used on a daily basis. English is characterized by a variety of vocabularies used in metaphorical language, including idioms. Nevertheless, English speakers use idioms in everyday conversation. Unlike other figurative languages such as metaphors and personification, idioms, also known as idiomatic expressions, cannot be literally predicted the meaning of the words or phrases that make them up (Adelnia & Dastjerdi, 2011; Ahmadi, 2017; Motallebzadeh & Tousi, 2011). Idioms are explained as the order of words or phrases which have unrelated meaning to their structure and unpredictable lexical items and grammatical construction (Kridalaksana, 2001; Chaer, 2012). In other words, idioms are made up of words and phrases that are literally different and have unpredictable meanings because of their structure.

Idioms can be used in everyday conversations...
and writing. Sentences commonly used by English speakers include the following idioms: ‘break a leg’, ‘call it a day’, and ‘hang in there’. The phrase ‘break a leg’ has no relation to the verb ‘break’ or even ‘a leg’. But that means cheering someone up or saying good luck to someone. In addition, the idiom of ‘call it a day’ is often used to mean finishing work or completing an activity. It also has no link to ‘calling something’ or ‘a day’. In addition, the idiomatic expression ‘hang in there’ means ‘don’t give up’ which has nothing to do with hanging something somewhere. Besides phrases, idioms can also be in the form of sentences. The idiomatic expression of ‘raining cats and dogs’ has the meaning of pouring rain. It has nothing to do with cats and dogs. Therefore, its meaning cannot be predicted from its grammatical structure. Another idiomatic expression is ‘every cloud has its silver lining’. This expression means that any bad condition or situation can eventually be good. From this we can conclude that idioms and idioms can cause ambiguity, their meaning cannot be predicted, and they have no literal meaning from their structure.

So, idiom translation has been an exciting subject of matter to deal with. In addition, idioms also appear in literary works such as novels. Literary work like a novel is the outcome of the writer’s thoughts. As explained by Newmark (1998), novels are classified as serious and imaginative literature. In other words, the author’s way of thinking is expressed through the expressions written in the novel. These expressions are implemented to express emotions and thoughts, including the use of idioms. Instead, the novel Rich People Problems is the last book of a trilogy from the best-selling book Crazy Rich Asians talking about a big rich family that is wealthy but disputes who succeeds to get the hereditary. The novel has the main use of idioms to convey ideas, arguments, and statements made by the characters involved. Therefore, the existence of idioms in this novel can represent them in the real world. In addition, one of the main issues in translating an idiom is identifying the idiom itself. For example, there are idioms that look obviously unrealistic, for instance ‘straight from the horse’s mouth’. It seems that something is coming out of the horse’s mouth. It’s hard to say or express what’s happening to a horse and its mouth. Therefore, it is surreal and can be classified as an idiom. Another example is that the idiomatic expression violates grammatical structure in general such as the expression ‘blow someone to kingdom come’. There are two verbs ‘blow’ and ‘come’, however, the verb ‘come’ should be ‘coming’ but it violates the pattern by having ‘come’ instead. In summary, the harder it is to explain and understand a word or phrase, the easier it is to recognize the idiom.

In addition to the difficulty of identifying idioms, there are many problems faced by translators. There are dictionaries of idioms and phrasal verbs, but there are still difficulties in translating idioms like what Baker (2018) suggests such as (1) idioms have no equivalence in the target language, (2) idioms might have similarities in the target language but different use of context, (3) idioms might have literal and figurative meanings at the same time. On the other hand, it is difficult to translate idioms by only looking at one-word components. Moreover, it is due to an unchangeable pattern and little variation to change. Baker also adds several difficulties for instance (1) changing the structure of idioms, (2) deleting a part of idioms, (3) adding a new word, and (4) substituting a word with another unrelated word. Thus, to solve the problems dealing with translating idioms, Baker (2018) also proposes strategies to translate idioms.

(1) Using an idiom of similar meaning and form
(2) This strategy looks for the exact same meaning and grammatical form in the source language as the target language. It is rare to find in general.
(3) Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form
(4) This type of idiom translation strategy requires the same meaning as the target language’s idiom, but may be in a different format, but is still considered the target language’s idiom.
(5) Borrowing the source language idiom
(6) It borrows the idioms in the source language to be taken to the target language because of cultural differences which might not accommodate the idiom in the target language.
(7) (4) Translation by paraphrasing
(8) This type of strategy is the most common method to be implemented in idiom translation because no equivalent match can be found and the idioms cannot be reformulated due to different stylistic preferences.
(9) Translation by the omission of a play on the idiom
This translates the literal meaning of the source language idiom into the target language of the actual reading context.

Translation by the omission of the entire idiom

This idiom translation strategy is used because the target language does not have a similar idiom match and is difficult to paraphrase.

Given a large number of idioms in the form of phrasal verbs, this article applies Makkai (1972) idiom classification. These classifications are matched to the data of idioms found in this article. Makkai elaborates that there are six idiom categories, they are:

1. Phrasal Verb Idioms
2. Phrasal verb idioms are structured commonly as verb + adverb. The adverbs can be in the form of prepositions and also can be transitive adverbs and intransitive adverbs known as the object of prepositions such as ‘give up’, ‘take off’, and ‘bring up’. The structure can be called the object of a preposition. It can be the structure verb + adverb_1 + adverb_2 like ‘come up with’, ‘talk down to’, and ‘look up to’.

3. Tournure Idioms
4. Tournure idioms are identified as idioms consisting of more than three lexemes and have the compulsory nonrepresentative definite and indefinite articles ‘the’, ‘a’, or ‘an’ for instance ‘to kick the bucket’, ‘bite the dust’, and ‘to pull a fast one’. That idiom also has a compulsory nonrepresentative ‘it’ such as ‘to have it out’. This type of idiom also doesn’t always get preceded by a verb and can be started by a preposition, such as ‘through thick and thin’, ‘to all intents and purposes’. Likewise, it can be headed by an irreversible binomial like ‘rain cats and dogs’. However, a direct object can exist or not for instance ‘to build castles in the air, and ‘to dance on air’.

5. Irreversible binomial idioms
6. Irreversible binomial idioms are stated as idioms that cannot be changed in the position and structure such as ‘kith and kin’, ‘now or never’, separated by conjunctions ‘and’, ‘or’.

7. Phrasal compound idioms
8. Phrasal compound idioms consist of two lexemes such as noun plus noun in White House, and adjective plus noun in the black market.

Incorporating Idioms

Incorporating idioms are described as complex lexemes in which the first lexeme is a noun or an adjective for example sight-see, job-hunt, brown-nose.

Pseudo Idioms.

This type of idiom might mislead. It has the construction of a lexeme for instance ‘cranberry’ means ‘a red berry’ or ‘the face gets red’.

To solve the challenges, some previous studies have been done in the same field of interest. There are several strategies employed in the idiom translation of the novel The Adventure of The Huckleberry Finn (Hanım & Hardjanto, 2021). They are using an idiom of similar meaning and form, translation by paraphrase, translation by the omission of a play in the idiom, and translation by the omission of an entire idiom (Baker, 2018). Translation by paraphrase is dominantly implemented by the translator due to its flexibility to modify idioms in the target language appropriately. By translating properly, the translated idioms might be more accepted in the target language. Also, there are found orientations in idiom translation that are foreignization and domestication. Those are applied to make more accepted translation results. But there is no category implemented in that study. Another research conducted to translate idioms in the novel Crazy Rich Asians involves the categories of idioms in choosing the strategies (Fitri et al., 2019). It uses the idiom classifications by Fernando and Flavel and implements Baker’s strategies of idiom translation. The most dominant idioms are opaque phrase idioms followed by semi-transparent phrase idioms and the last semi-opaque phrase idioms. There are four strategies implied in total according to Baker (2018) in this research. They are using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, and translation by omission. The strategy applied to translate opaque phrase idioms is a translation by paraphrase. Also, that strategy is encountered to translate semi-transparent and semi-opaque idioms. Another strategy to translate is literal translation dealing with transparent expressions but not opaque phrases. The other research also uses strategies proposed by Baker.
researcher implemented reading chapters one to fourteen to underline idioms from both novels and employed note-taking to collect the data. After being collected, both data of idioms from English and Indonesian are placed in the table to compare and examine the strategies used to translate them. McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (Spears, 2005) and Oxford Dictionary of Idioms (Siefring, 2004) are implemented to validate the idioms after being identified from the underlining and note-taking. Therefore, the types of idioms are underlined and categorized using Makkai (1972). Also, the strategies of idiom translation from Baker (2018) are employed to analyze the data of idiom translation.

II. METHOD

This article implemented descriptive qualitative research (Taylor et al, 2015) which has the purpose to figure out the strategies of idiom translation used in the novel Rich People Problems that is also supported by using quantitative data presenting the types of idioms and the frequencies of idiom translation strategies. This method was chosen because it defines the data of the idioms being observed and described in the result. The material objects of this article are the novel Rich People Problems by Kevin Kwan in English and its translated novel in Indonesian. The novel consists of 436 pages in total published by Penguin Random House LLC. It has 56 chapters included. Moreover, the Indonesian version is translated by Cindy Kristanto entitled Masalah Orang Kaya with 476 pages. Since there are many idioms found in the novel, this article implemented a sampling technique. Thus, that technique applies to investigate some chapters only not the whole chapters. The data taken from both novels were in the form of idioms. Rich People Problems is the final book of the bestselling international book from the trilogy of Crazy Rich Asians and ranked top three positions in the New York Times bestselling list. The story behind it has the intrigue of a rich family fighting against each other to inherit wealth. It shows an abundance of daily conversations including the use of idioms identified. Knowing the popularity and the success of this novel and the use of idioms found, therefore the novel was picked to represent the use of idioms in the literary work. The data are written data; therefore, a content analysis technique was applied to analyze the idioms and to describe and also quantity particular phenomena (Bengtsson, 2016; Hsieh & Shannon, 2005). The researcher implemented reading chapters one to fourteen to underline idioms from both novels and employed note-taking to collect the data. After being collected, both data of idioms from English and Indonesian are placed in the table to compare and examine the strategies used to translate them.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Types of Idioms

Based on the results, there found 56 (fifty-six) idioms in the novel Rich People Problems and also there found three types of idioms. In Masalah Orang Kaya, there are three idiom translation strategies identified. The idioms found in the novel “Rich People Problems” are dominantly in the form of phrasal verbs. Hence the idiom classifications from Makkai (1972) are employed to put them into categories.

Table 1. Types of Idioms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Types of Idioms</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Phrasal Verb Idioms</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>55.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Tournure Idioms</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>33.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Irreversible Binomial Idioms</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>56</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 above indicates the frequencies of types of idioms. Makkai (1972) explains that there are six idioms in the classifications. They are (1) phrasal verb idioms, (2) tournure idioms, (3) irreversible binomial idioms, (4) phrasal compound idioms, (5) incorporating idioms, and (6) pseudo idioms. However, there are only three idioms occurred in this article. The most dominant type of idiom is the phrasal verb idiom with 31 idioms in total for 55.36 of the entire percentage. This kind of idiom is generally indicated with the verb followed by a preposition or an adverb. After that, the second type of idiom occurring is the tournure idiom with 19 idioms found in total by having percentage of...
In addition, the least idiom found in the classification is irreversible binomial idioms with only 6 idioms of occurrence for 10.71. However, phrasal compound idioms, incorporating idioms and pseudo idioms are not found in this article.

Frequency of Idiom Translation Strategies

Based on the result, there are 56 found in chapters one to fourteen. In the translation from English to Indonesian in the novel Rich People Problems, there are three strategies implemented in this article. They are (1) translation using paraphrase, (2) translation by the omission of a play on the idiom, and (3) translation by the omission of the entire idiom. There are three strategies of idiom translation not being implemented; they are borrowing the source language idiom, using an idiom of similar meaning and form, and using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. Below is the table showing the frequencies of idiom translation strategies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Idiom Translation Strategies</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Translation using paraphrase</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>64.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Translation by the omission of a play on the idiom</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Translation by the omission of the entire idiom</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 above, it represents the strategies of idiom translation in the novel Rich People Problems based on Baker (2018). This is shown that the most dominant strategy used in idiom translation is translation using paraphrase. That strategy is the most common strategy used in this article. It is implemented due to no equivalent match or being inappropriate using idiomatic expressions in the target language. It has 64.29 of the total percentage with 36 idioms. Moreover, translation by the omission of a play on idiom gets 30.36 of the entire data with 17 idioms. This type of strategy is implemented due to no equivalent idiom in the target language and translates only the literal meaning of the idiom in the source language. However, the least strategy found is translating by omission the entire idiom percentage of 5.36 with 3 idioms in total. Sometimes there is no match of idiom in the target language and the meaning cannot be smoothly elaborated, therefore the idiom is omitted entirely.

Strategies of Idiom Translation

Translation using paraphrase

In this article, the novel Rich People Problems is later shortened as RPP, and the Indonesian version Masalah Orang Kaya is abbreviated as MOK. This type of strategy is the most dominant idiom translation applied in this article due to no equivalent match of meaning and inappropriateness of different languages in the target language (Baker, 2018).

(1) SL: “No, lah! But she’s his wife—she heard it straight from the horse’s mouth that Ah Ma’s not going to last long. (RPP p.31)
TL: “Bukan lah! Tapi dia istrinya- dia mendengar langsung dari sumbernya bahwa Ah Ma tidak akan bertahan lama. (MOK p.34)

The idiomatic expression ‘straight from the horse’s mouth’ can be defined as ‘from the person directly concerned or another authoritative source’ (Spears, 2004). It has an equivalent meaning in the target language which is ‘dari sumber terpercaya’ or can be elaborated as ‘langsung dari sumbernya’. Moreover, it is also classified as a tournure idiom because it has a direct object ‘the horse’s mouth’, and a compulsory non-representative definite article ‘the’ in ‘the horse’s mouth’, and also it has more than three lexemes. Since an appropriate expression cannot be traced in the target language, thus the idiomatic expression is paraphrased to the target language. The state in the novel has nothing to do with the horse or its mouth.

(2) SL: I guess the cat’s out of the bag. Everyone must be talking about us now. (RPP p.36)
TL: Kurasa rahasia sudah terbongkar. semua orang pasti membicarakan kita sekarang. (MOK p.40)

As stated by McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (Spears, 2005), the idiomatic expression has the meaning of ‘the secret has been known’ which is literally translated into the target language ‘rahasia sudah diketahui’ or can be roughly restated as ‘rahasia sudah terbongkar’. This type of idiom belongs to the tournure idiom (Makkai, 1972) because it has
more than three lexemes and a definite article ‘the’ in ‘the cat’. That meaning of the idiom is translated from the source language to the target language due to no equivalent match of the idiom in the target language. The context of the conversation doesn’t discuss any cat. Thus, it means that the expression is recognized as an idiom and translated by using this strategy.

(3) SL: “Oh, Madame Bing, I’m so sorry, but this dress is already spoken for.” Luka smiled at her apologetically. (RPP p.41)
TL: “Oh, Madame Bing, maaf sekali, tapi gaun ini sudah dipesan” Luka tersenyum menyesal. (MOK p.46)

Regarding McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (Spears, 2005), the phrase ‘spoken for’ means ‘lay claim to something or someone’ which can be elaborated as ‘to book or claim’. Therefore, the idiom is translated using the equivalent meaning to the target language which is sudah dipesan. Furthermore, it is categorized as a phrasal verb idiom (Makkai, 1972) because it consists of a verb ‘spoken’ followed by a preposition ‘for’.

(4) TL: Er, Astrid, I must be very...um, blunt with you. Your grandmother’s condition is extremely...touch and go...at the moment. (RPP p.66)
SL: “Ng, Astrid, aku harus sangat...mm, berterus terang padamu. kondisi nenekmu sangat...tidak pasti...saat ini.” (MOK p.72)

The idiomatic expression ‘touch and go’ belongs to irreversible binomial idioms (Makkai, 1972) because its position cannot either be replaced or changed. However, it means ‘very uncertain or critical’ (Spears, 2005) and does not relate to either the verbs ‘touch’ or ‘go’ regarding the situation of the conversation. It has the similar meaning with ‘sangat tidak pasti atau kritis’. Thus, it is translated as ‘tidak pasti’ in the target language.

(5) TL: He had of course been into many homes of the high and mighty, but nothing else came close to this. (RPP p.73)
SL: Tentu saja dia pernah dia pernah mengunjungi banyak rumah orang kaya dan terhormat, tetapi tidak ada yang mendekati ini. (MOK p.80)

According to the Oxford Dictionary of Idioms (Siefring, 2004), the idiomatic expression high and mighty has a similar meaning to ‘important and influential’. Therefore, the idiom is paraphrased to be ‘orang kaya dan terhormat’ in the target language. The word ‘influential’ is related to ‘wealthy people’ which means ‘orang kaya’ and the word ‘important’ is generally associated with the ‘honorable person’ meaning ‘terhormat’ in the target language.

(6) SL: Astrid burst out laughing, delighted at the Bollywood spectacle unfolding before her. (RPP p.114)
TL: Astrid terbahak-bahak, girang mendapatkan tontonan Bollywood yang tersaji di hadapannya. (MOK p.125)

Makkai (1972) classifies the idiom ‘burst out’ to the group of phrasal verb idioms since it involves ‘burst’ as the verb followed by the adverb ‘out’ in the form of a preposition. Based on the description of McGraw-Hill’s dictionary of American idioms and Phrasal Verbs (Spears, 2005), the idiom has the closest meaning to ‘begin doing something unexpectedly like crying, laughing or all of sudden’. Moreover, in the target language, it has a similar meaning to ‘tiba-tiba tertawa, menangis’. However, the result has been paraphrased into ‘terbahak-bahak’ which means ‘suddenly laugh out loud’. The strategy matches the target language style that terbahak-bahak is the situation where someone suddenly laughs out loud.

(7) SL: “Come on, Dad, you’re making a mountain out of a mole—(hill)” (RPP p.51)
TL: “Ayolah ayah, jangan membesar-besarkan—” (MOK p.56)

The idiomatic expression ‘making a mountain out of a molehill’ is categorized as tournure idioms for the reason that it has more than three lexemes and the compulsory non-representative indefinite article ‘a’. However, it has a similar meaning to ‘foolishly or pointlessly exaggerating something trivial’ based on the Oxford Dictionary of Idioms (Siefring, 2004). The translator applies paraphrases by using ‘membesar-besarkan’ which means ‘making a big issue out of a minor one’ or can be elaborated as ‘exaggerating something’. Based on the situation in the conversation, they do not talk about any mountain. Therefore, it’s obvious to categorize that expression as an idiom.

**Translation by the omission of the entire idiom**

This is the least strategy of idiom translation found in this article. Idioms are similar to other words or phrases that infrequently have no equivalence in the target language meaning that
they can neither be paraphrased nor have a similar meaning (Baker, 2018). Thus, the omission of the whole idiom is implemented.

TL: Victoria mengerang. “Kenapa juga kau menyebut Nicky?” (MOK p.118)

The idiom ‘on earth’ has the equal meaning to ‘really, indeed, in fact’ (Spears, 2005). In the target language, it means ‘sungguh, tentu, sebenarnya’ which does not complete the sentence or match any expression in the target language. Therefore, the idiom is omitted from the translation to meet the language stylistic preference in the target language.

(9) SL: His grandmother reached her arm out, drawing him closer, and he remembered being surprised by the gesture, by the softness of her body as he leaned against her while the car rocked gently back and forth as it navigated down the dark leafy lanes. (RPP p.96)
TL: Neneknya mengulurkan tangan, menariknya mendekat, dan dia ingat merasa terkejut oleh sikap itu, kelembutan tubuh sang nenek saat dia bersandar kepadanya sementara mobil berguncang pelan menyusuri jalanan gelap yang dinaungi pepohonan. (MOK p.104)

The expression ‘back and forth’ belongs to an irreversible binomial idiom since its position cannot be reformed (Makkai, 1972). It means ‘from one direction and the other one repetitively’, or ‘from one place to another repeatedly’ according to McGraw-Hill’s dictionary of American idioms and Phrasal Verbs (Spears, 2005). In the target language, it has the similar meaning to ‘mondar-mandir, kesana kemari’, or ‘dari satu tempat ke tempat lainnya secara berulang’. However, the translator might it difficult to be paraphrased or searched for equivalence in the target language due to stylistic preference. Also, it might not

(10) SL: “Now, ladies, I hope you don’t mind if I leave Luka to show you the new collection. I have to rush off to an appointment with the fashion director of Saks.” (RPP p.39)
TL: “Nah ibu-ibu, aku harap kalian tidak keberatan jika aku meminta Luka untuk memperlihatkan koleksi yang baru. Aku ada janji dengan direktur mode Saks.” (MOK p.43)

Regarding McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American idioms and Phrasal Verbs (Spears, 2005), ‘rush off’ means ‘delivering something rapidly to someone or something’. In the target language, it has an equivalent meaning to ‘mengirim sesuatu dengan cepat kepada seseorang atau sesuatu’. Though, it has been deleted due to language style, no match, or struggles to paraphrase in the target language. On the other hand, the idiom is classified into phrasal verb idiom as it consists of the verb ‘rush’ and adverb ‘off’ as prepositions. So, the strategy is implemented to translate the idiom.

Translation by the omission of a play on the idiom
As stated by Baker (2018), this strategy is implemented due to the problem of replicating the idiom in the source language to the target language. Therefore, it carries the idiom in the source language by translating it using the same meaning and form but it’s not considered an idiom in the target language.

(11) SL: This is your last chance to make up with your grandmother”—she lowered her voice again—’and if you play your cards right, you still might get Tyersall Park!” (RPP p.33)
TL: Ini kesempatan terakhirmu untuk berbaikan dengan nenekmu” —dia merendahkan suaranya—’’dan kalau kau memainkan kartumu dengan benar, kau mungkin masih bisa mendapatkan Tyersall Park!” (MOK p.35)

Based on the definition of McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (Spears, 2005), ‘playing your cards right’ means ‘to work or negotiate correctly and skillfully’. With the same grammatical pattern both in the source language and the target language, it is literally translated to be ‘memainkan kartumu dengan benar’. The idiom belongs to tournure idioms as defined by Makkai (1972) that the verb ‘play’ becoming ‘memainkan’ is followed by direct object ‘your cards right’ translated into ‘kartumu dengan benar’. In the target language, the expression is not recognized as an idiom.

(12) SL: Suddenly the door burst open. “NO, I SAID YOU CANNOT GO IN!” a female attendant shouted forcefully, breaking the silence. (RPP p.28)
TL: Tiba-tiba pintu terbuka lebar. “TIDAK. SAYA BILANG ANDA TIDAK
BOLEH MASUK!" seorang petugas perempuan berteriak galak, memecah kesunyian. (MOK p.30)

The idiom ‘breaking the silence’ is classified as a tournure idiom (Makkai, 1972) which has the verb ‘break’ followed by the object having the compulsory non-representative definite article ‘the’ in ‘the silence’. According to McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (Spears, 2005), that idiom means ‘to make a noise interrupting a period of silence’. It has the equivalent meaning to the translation in the target language which is ‘memecah kesunyian’. However, it is not recognized as an idiom in the target language.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Idioms are a part of the language that cannot be predicted in terms of meaning and lexical items. Therefore, the idiom translation has been an issue. Identifying idioms itself is the very first challenge to deal with. There are also a number of idiom classifications. Other difficulties in the idiom translation process are for example having no match in the target language, similar form but different context, different language style, and no paraphrasing matched in the target language. Moreover, the idiom has its own grammatical pattern that is unchangeable and cannot be translated into the literal meaning based on its lexical items. Therefore, there’s a need to conduct research on the strategies of idiom translation. As result, there are three idiom translation strategies found in this article as explained by Baker (2018): They are (1) translation using paraphrasing with 36 idioms summing up to around 64.29% of the entire idioms, (2) translation by the omission of a play on the idiom with the occurrence of 17 idioms for 30.36% in total, and (3) translation by the omission of the entire idiom with only three idioms found with 5.36%. However, there are three strategies not employed, they are borrowing the source language idiom, using an idiom of similar meaning and form, and using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. Besides, there are also types of idioms found in this article as proposed by Makkai (1972): (1) phrasal verb idioms with 55.36% in a total of 31 idioms, (2) tournure idioms by means of 33.93% with 19 idioms, and the last (3) irreversible binomial idiom by 10.71% with 6 idioms only. Accordingly, the dominant use of translating idioms by paraphrasing might happen due to time limitations in idiom translation for the translator because of the deadline for finding the equivalence of idioms in the target language.
REFERENCES


