

THE TRANSLATING OF ENGLISH IDIOMS INTO INDONESIAN

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Abstract

This study discussed English idioms and their renderings. It focused on the strategies used in translating idioms and their renderings fidelity. This research was descriptive in nature. The data were obtained from a novel written by Stephenie Meyer entitled Twilight and the rendering in Indonesian under the same title translated by Lily Devita Sari. The population of this research was all of the sentences containing English idioms within Twilight and the renderings in the Indonesian version of the novel. To get the sample, this research applied total sampling. Therefore, all of the data were analyzed one by one. To judge the strategy used by the translator, translational equivalent method was applied. Likewise, to search the fidelity of the renderings, translational equivalent method was also applied. Based on the strategy used, most idioms in the novel were translated by paraphrase (87 idioms) and only a few idioms were translated by using idioms of the same meaning and dissimilar form (2 idioms). Due to the fidelity of the renderings, most idioms in the novel were translated faithfully by adhering the meaning fidelity (67 idioms). Some other idioms, however, were translated unfaithfully (20 idioms).

Key Words : *idioms, translation, fidelity.*

A. Introduction

Translating idioms requires extra knowledge of the translator. It is due to the fact that the system of one language is different from that of another language, especially in the use of expression like idioms. Idioms in one language, in fact, may not have an equivalent in another language. Secondly, the meaning of the idiom cannot be traced from its lexical items. Therefore, it is crucial to apply the appropriate strategy in translating idioms. It aims to produce an acceptable translation in the target language.

Concerning the idioms, Larson in *Meaning-based Translation* asserted as the following: Idioms are special collocation, or fixed combinations of words which have a meaning as a whole, but the meaning of combination is not the same as the meaning of the individual words (1984: 20).

It is clearly stated that idiom is a set of words the meaning of which cannot be judged literally. In other words, a translator cannot rely on the meanings of the components of an idiom to find its real meaning. It is because an idiom carries restricted figurative meaning. Therefore, knowing the meaning of each word in the set is not enough to understand the message of the idiom. The English idiom *to spill the beans*, as stated by Fernando (1996: 4), does not relate to beans, for example. The actual meaning of the idiom, hence, is to tell people secret information.

A good translation is produced when the response of the target language readers is the same as that of the source language ones. It means that translation should obey the concept of fidelity. Dealing with the concept of fidelity, Beekman and Callow, furthermore, divided fidelity into two – fidelity to the meaning and fidelity to the dynamics (1974: 40). Fidelity to the meaning

means reproducing the original information in the target language, while fidelity to the dynamics means reproducing the natural form and the original message in the target language.

Translating idioms, a translator should be aware in choosing the appropriate strategies. Mona Baker proposed some strategies of translating the English idioms as the following:

- 1) Translating idioms by using idioms of the similar meaning and form
- 2) Translating idioms by using idioms of the similar meaning but dissimilar form
- 3) Translating by paraphrase
- 4) Translating by omission

B. Discussion

This is the most important part in this work because it analyses the collected data. In this part, the analysis focuses on the strategies used in translating idioms and the fidelity of their renderings in Indonesian.

1. The Strategies Used in Translating English Idioms into Indonesian

Translating idioms requires the use of appropriate strategies. The strategies of translating idioms used here are the ones as suggested by Mona Baker. The English idioms translated by those strategies can be seen below.

a. Translating Idioms by Using Idioms with Similar Meaning and Form

This strategy is used when the English idiom has similar counterpart in the target language both formally and semantically. In other words, the source language idiom is translated as idiom and the two idioms have similar meaning and similar lexical items.
 SL: (73/Eng/115) "And so the lion *fell in love* with the lamb..." he murmured.
 TL: (73/Ind/290) "Jadi singa *jatuh cinta* pada domba..." gumamnya.
Fell in love is a commonly used idiom in English. *To fall in love* means to start loving someone or something. Here, the English idiom is translated as *jatuh cinta* in Indonesian because of the similarity in form and meaning.

b. Translating Idioms by Using Idioms with Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

Translating an idiom by using this strategy is recommended when the target language has another idiom of which meaning is the same as that of the source language. In this case, the similarity in form is not a requirement. However, the use of this kind of strategy is limited. The following is an idiom which is translated by using idiom with similar meaning but different form.
 SL: (53/Eng/70) *Right on cue*, the waitress appeared with our drinks and a basket of breadsticks.
 TL: (53/Ind/181) *Pucuk dicinta ulam tiba*, si pelayan muncul membawa minuman kami dan sekeranjang roti Prancis.
Right on cue is an English idiom which shows that something happens just after someone has said or thought it would happen. While, *pucuk dicinta ulam tiba* is an Indonesian idiom whose meaning is similar to that of the English idiom. The two idioms may have different lexical items, but they convey similar meaning. Thus, the English idiom is rendered as an idiom in Indonesian with different lexical items.

c. Translating Idioms by Paraphrase

An idiom which has no equivalent in the form of idiom is usually paraphrased in order to transfer the meaning to the target language. It is the commonest way of translating idioms as

finding the same idiom in the target language is a quite hard work to do. Here is the analysis of the English idiom translated by paraphrase.

SL: (33/Eng/23) Possibly my crippling clumsiness was seen as endearing rather than pathetic, casting me as *a damsel in distress*.

TL: (33/Ind/67) Mungkin kecanggunganmu dianggap menarik dan bukan menyedihkan, membuatku kelihatan seperti *cewek yang sedang kesusahan*.

The English idiom *a damsel in distress* is used to express a young woman who is in trouble and needs man's help. This idiom has no similar equivalent in the form of idiom in Indonesian. So, it is translated as *cewek yang sedang kesulitan* in Indonesian.

d. Translating Idioms by Omission

Some idioms might be omitted if they have no equivalent in the form of idioms in the target language. Besides, those idioms cannot be paraphrased.

Therefore, for the stylistic reason, the idioms might be totally omitted. The analysis as follows is the idiom which is omitted in the translation.

SL: (60/Eng/84) What *on earth* was I going to tell her? TL: (60/Ind/214) Apa yang akan kukatakan padanya?

The English idiom *on earth* usually comes after a question word to show that someone is surprised, angry or confused about something. This kind of exclamation has no equivalent in Indonesian. Besides, it will cause clumsiness if it is translated into Indonesian. Hence, the English idiom *on earth* is omitted to produce a natural translation in target language.

2. The Fidelity in the Translating of the English Idioms into Indonesian

The analysis conducted here concerns with faithful translation and unfaithful translation. To judge whether the translation is faithful or not, semantic analysis is used to find the common components and the different components of the English idioms and their renderings.

a. The English Idioms Translated Faithfully

– The English Idioms Translation Which Obeys Meaning Fidelity and Dynamic Fidelity

Source Language (SL):

SL: (74/Eng/122) And they've been together *ever since*.

Referential Meaning-Source Language (RM-SL):

Ever since: continuously since that time.

Feature: +continuously, +the beginning, +period of time

Target Language (TL):

TL: (74/Ind/305) Dan *sejak itu* mereka selalu bersama-sama.

Referential Meaning-Target Language (RM-TL):

Sejak itu: kata penghubung untuk menandai mulai dari saat itu. (KBBI:1241)

Feature: +the beginning, +period of time

Semantic Analysis:

Common Components (CC): +the beginning, +period of time

Different Components (DC): (SL): +continuously

(TL): -continuously

The above analysis shows that both the English idiom and its rendering in Indonesian have common features “the beginning” and “period of time”. The English idiom is translated faithfully although it does not get the dynamic fidelity. In other words, the idiom is not translated as idiom but it conveys the meaning of the idiom completely.

– The English Idioms Translation Which Obeys Meaning Fidelity

Source Language (SL):

SL: (1/Eng/4) How could I leave my loving, erratic, harebrained mother to *fend for herself*?

Referential Meaning-Source Language (RM-SL):

Fend for herself: to take care of and provide for yourself without depending on anyone else.

Feature: +take care, +provide, +without anyone else

Target Language (TL):

TL: (1/Ind/16) Bagaimana bisa aku meninggalkan ibuku yang penuh kasih, labil, dan konyol ini *sendirian*?

Referential Meaning-Target Language (RM-TL): *Sendirian*: seorang diri,

sendiri (KBBI: 1269) **Feature:** +without anyone else

Semantic Analysis:

Common Components (CC): +without anyone else

Different Components (DC): (SL): +take care,
+provide (TL): -take care, -provide

In this case, the English idiom and its rendering have more different components than the common ones. Hence, the translation is included in an unfaithful translation.

b. The English Idioms Translated Unfaithfully

The unfaithful translations are seen through the different components of the English idioms and their renderings in Indonesian. Here is the analysis on the English idioms translated unfaithfully.

Source Language (SL):

SL: (16/Eng/11) She sniffed a clear case of *sour grapes*.

Referential Meaning-Source Language (RM-SL):

Sour grapes: Someone’s behavior that is angry because he/she has not got or achieved something that he/she wanted

Feature: +behavior, +angry, +disappointment, +failure

Target Language (TL):

TL: (16/Ind/34) Jessica mendengus, *sikapnya jelas pahit*.

Referential Meaning-Target Language (RM-TL): *Sikap* : perilaku; gerak-gerik (KBBI: 1303)

Pahit : tidak menyenangkan hati; menyusahkan hati; menyedihkan (KBBI: 999)

Feature: +behavior, +displeasure, +discontented, +unhappy