TRANSLATION ANALYSIS ON IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION IN THE LOST SYMBOL NOVEL TRANSLATED BY INGRID DWIJANI NIMPOENO

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This research deals with analyzing idiomatic expressions found in ‘The Lost Symbol’ novel and its translation. The aims of this study are to verify the strategies used in translating idioms of ‘The Lost Symbol’ novel and its translation, and to portray the accuracy of the translation. This study belongs to qualitative study, in which the source of the data is ‘The Lost Symbol’ novel and its translation. This study, found four strategies of translation for each types of idioms: using idiom of similar meaning and form (6 data or 3.9%), using idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form (1 datum or 0.65%), by paraphrase (143 data or 94%), and by omission (2 data or 1.31%). Furthermore, this study portrays the accuracy of the translation using questionnaires as the instrument. As the result, the accuracy of idiomatic expression translation in this study: 133 data or 87.5% are rated accurate, 19 or 12.5 % data are rated as less accurate, and there is no datum rated as inaccurate translation.

Key Word: translation, idiomatic expression, accuracy.

A. Introduction

As much information is shared globally in different languages, it is a need to master some languages in order to get the messages recently. In getting the information, translation process certainly will happen. Unfortunately, not all people master the source language. Hence, a good translator is considered very important to bridge between two different languages.

Based on the Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary (2011: 473), to translate means to put something written or spoken into a different language, i.e. the book from French into Russian. The definition of translation is proposed by Newmark (1981: 7) who defines translation as “a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a
written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language.” Furthermore, Pinchuk (1977: 35) states that translation is the transfer of meaning in which words are not necessarily the name of things or of ideas. They combine, change their forms, and follow one another in accordance with rules that vary from language to language. Another view comes from Nida and Taber (1969: 12) who assert that translation is “process of reproducing the closest natural equivalent of the source-language (SL) message in the receptor language (TL), first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.”

The definitions above bring the translation to the complex work since it requires some qualification of the translator. Translation is not only about translating words literally. The satisfactory knowledge belonged to the translator is not enough without the understanding of the emotive values of words and the stylistic features, which indicate the flavour and the feel of message. Those, that brings the translator to find out an appropriate equivalence in target language.

In this study, the focus is on the idiomatic expression found in *The Lost Symbol* and its translation. Different from previous studies, which is conducted by Ardianto (2007) and Prihatiwi (2010). First previous study written by Ardianto (2007), aimed at finding the meaning of its constituent as well as in the *E-Love* novel by analyzing the idiomatic expression based on the form of the idiom which favorable types of English idiom construction. While Prihatiwi (2010), She used total sampling to take the sampling and found four types of idiomatic expression from the data, i.e compound, phrase, semi clause, and clause or sentence idiom. The similarity between this research and the previous researches is that the present researches also analyze translation of idiomatic expressions. However, this research is different from them dealing with the data source. Meanwhile, this study employs *The Lost Symbol* novel as its data source. Furthermore, this study presents the strategies in translating idiom for each type of idiom.
Nida in Tarjana (2000: 15) states that “idioms are combination of words which have both literal and non literal semantic structure, but the connection between the two cannot be described as representing as additive process.” As avered by Rosetta (1994: 309) that “the meaning of an idiom is not derived compositionally from it’s part.” In order to achieve equivalence in translation, the translator should not translate idioms literally. Meanwhile, such in a good literary work, the author will employ many words that full of meaning, either in terms of lexical meaning or cultural meaning. Therefore, some strategies are needed to be employed. Baker (1992: 71) suggests four strategies to translate idiomatic expression, they are explained as follows:

1. Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form
   In the strategy, the translators use an idiom in the target language (TL) which conveys roughly the same meaning with the source language (SL).

2. Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form
   The translators often get difficulty to find an idiom in the target language which has a similar meaning to the source language. Thus, the translators use different lexical item to express more or less the same idea of the source language.

3. Translation by Paraphrase
   This is such a common way of translating when a match is impossible to find in the target language. It may be used because of differences in stylistic preference of the SL.

4. Translation by Omission
   For some reason, an idiom may be omitted altogether in the target language. This may because the translators can not find the close match in the TL, its meaning cannot be paraphrased, or for stylistic reason.

Not all idioms from the source language have the same meaning with the target language. It happens because of the differences of culture. As the consequences, the translators need strategies in translating idioms. Idioms would be translated in other form but still have the same meaning with the source language. Hence, the objectives of this study are to verify the strategies used in
translating idioms of The Lost Symbol novel and its translation, and to portray the accuracy of the translation.

Before verifying the strategies, the writer classified the idioms found using Fernando’s theory (1996: 19) that classifies idiom into several types such as: compounds (e.g. red herring, bread and butter, on go-lucky, etc.), phrases (e.g. set in, put up with, red herring, etc.), semi clauses (e.g. spill the beans, smell rat), and full clauses (e.g. while the cat is away, the mice will play).

The following are some examples of translation strategies of idioms found in The Lost Symbol novel and the variation occurred:

011/ LS /E.008 /I.28/ C3/ Pa

Source language: “I though so!” she said. “My group book read your book about the sacred feminine and the church! What a delicious scandal that one caused! You do enjoy *putting the fox in the henhouse*!”

Target language: “Sudah saya duga!” katanya dengan wajah berseri-seri. Kelompok pembaca buku saya membahas buku anda tentang *sacred feminine* dan gereja! Betapa menggemparkan scandal yang ditimbulkannya! Anda benar-benar suka *membikin kehebohan*!”

English idiom enganged here *putting the fox in the henhouse* is the form of semi clause idiom. The idiom means doing the things (scandal) so it gets many attention. The idiom is translated into *membikin kehebohan* in Indonesia, which is not an Indonesian idiom. The translator uses paraphrase strategy.

Furthermore, this study portrays the accuracy of translation of idiomatic expression. Accuracy is one of aspects of translation quality assessment. Larson (1998: 41) states that a translation is considered accurate when the target language conveys the same meaning as the source language.

It can be said that the accuracy of the translation happens when the information which has been transferred from the source language into the target language has the same message. Accurate translated text is text with no addition, deletion, or changing of the information in the target to gain informations about the translation accuracy.
Based on the phenomena above, the writer found some problems, they are what strategies used in translating idiomatic expression in *The Lost Symbol* novel and how the accuracy of the translating them

**B. Research Method**

This research belongs to descriptive qualitative study since it aims at identifying and classifying the variations of English idiom and verifying the strategies used in translating idioms of *The Lost Symbol* novel. Furthermore, the study is also conducted to portray the accuracy of the translation of idioms in *The Lost Symbol* novel. In conducting the research, the writer uses Triangulation method to assess the validity of the data. The writer applies questionnaire as the instrument assess the validity of the data, in which are distributed to three people who are competent enough in translation. It is used to gain informations about the translation accuracy. Within the questionnaire the writer uses some scales who indicates that the data are accurate, less accurate, or inaccurate.

**C. Research Findings and Discussion**

This part describes some points that fall into research findings, they are strategies of translation and accuracy. Initially, the writer shows the classification of idioms found in the novel. Afterward, the writer explains some strategies used for each types of the idioms. Finally, the accuracy of the translation is discussed.

1. **Strategy in Translating Idiomatic Expression**
   a. **Translating Compound Idiom (C1)**

   The first type of idiomatic expression found in the novel is in the form of compound. There are 12 (7.89%) data of idioms categorized into compound idiom.

   This type of idioms is translated using some strategies. The strategies are:

   1) **Compound Idioms are Translated by Using Paraphrase**

   As stated by Pinchuk (1977: 35), in translation words may combine each other, they also can be changed in form. That is why the translator need strategy to complete the process of translation, one of
the strategy that mostly used is by paraphrasing it. This kind of strategy is used since the translator can not find the English idiom that can conveys the same meaning or at least has closest meaning with Indonesian idiom. There are 9 data or 81.8% of compound idioms, which are translated by using this strategy. It is the most used strategy that applied to translate compound idioms in the novel.

2) **Compound Idioms are Translated by Using Omission**

   The writer found 1 datum or 9% of compound idiom, which is translated into Indonesian using omission.

3) **Compound Idioms are Translated by Using Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form**

   Compound idiom is also found translated by using idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. There is 1 datum or 9% of compound idioms, which is translated by using this strategy.

In the novel, compound idioms found are translated into Indonesian using three strategies, i.e. by using paraphrase, by using omission, and by using idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. The writer displays the strategies for compound idioms into a table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Number of data</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Using paraphrase</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Using Omission</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Using Idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Strategies of translating compound idioms

b. **Translating Phrase Idiom (C2)**

   Second type of idiom is in the form of phrase. There are 92 (60.5%) data categorized into this classification. The idioms in the form of phrase has several varieties, they are, verb phrase, adjective phrase, and prepositional phrase. The result of analyzing the idiom translation in the novel shows that all phrase idioms are translated using paraphrase.
c. Translating Semi Clause Idiom (C3)

The third type of idiom is semi clause form. There are 41 (26.9%) data found belonging to this sort called as classification C3. This type of idiom is the second mostly found in the novel.

This type of idiom is translated by using more than one strategies, which is used to translate the novel. They are by using paraphrase, by using omission, and by using idiom of similar meaning and form.

1) Semi clause Idioms are Translated by Using Paraphrase

The writer found 37 data or 90.3% of semi clause idioms, which are translated by using paraphrase.

2) Semi Clause Idioms are Translated by Using Omission

There are 1 data or 2.4% of semi clause idioms translated by using omission. The translator uses this kind of strategy when the meaning can not be easily paraphrased. Besides, the translator may consider it for stylistic reason.

3) Semi Clause Idioms are Translated by Using Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

Translating idiom is considered difficult work, since the meaning of the idiom in source language are rarely can be translated exactly same in the target language. However, there are some languages that has similar form of idiom with the same meaning as well. This condition brings the translator to use idiom of similar meaning and form as a strategy in translating. There are 3 data or 7.3% of semi clause idioms translated by using this strategy.

Therefore, from the result displayed above, these are the number and the percentage of strategies used for semi clause idioms. Below the writer presents the table of the number and percentage:
Table 3. Strategies of translating semi clause idioms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Number of data</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Using paraphrase</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Using Omission</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Using Idiom of similar meaning and form</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>41</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

d. Translating Clause Idiom (C4)

Another type as final type of idiomatic expression found in the novel is in the form of clause. There are 8 data are classified into idioms in the form of clause.

There are two strategies used in translating clause idioms found in the novel, they are by using paraphrase and by using idiom of similar meaning and form. Further explanation is discussed below:

1) **Clause Idioms are Translated by Using Paraphrase**

The writer found 5 data or 62.5% of clause idioms that paraphrased into indonesian.

2) **Clause Idioms are Translated by Using Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form.**

In the novel, the writer found 3 data or 37.5% of clause idioms translated by using this strategy.

Below the researcher presents the table of strategies used in translating clause idioms the type percentage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Number of data</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Using paraphrase</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Using Idiom of similar meaning and form</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Strategies of translating clause idioms

2. Accuracy of the Translation

The result shows that 133 data of idiomatic expression are accurately translated, 19 data of idiomatic expression are less accurately translated.
translated, and 0 datum of idiomatic expression are inaccurately translated.

a. Accurate

The translation is accurate when the meaning of the idiom of the source language is completely conveyed into the target language. The message is the same as the target language. There are 133 data of idiomatic expression are accurately translated in the novel based on the result of the rating.

b. Less Accurate

The data is considered less accurate when the meaning of the idiom of the source language is less accuracy conveyed into the target language. There is a deviation of the message of the source language. There are 19 data of idiomatic expression are accurately translated in the novel based on the result of the rating.

c. Inaccurate

The data is considered as inaccurate when the meaning of the idiom of the translation are completely different from the source language. The message of the idiom is not transferred adequately or not transferred (deleted). There is no data is found as inaccurate data based on the result of the rating.

Some strategies are applied in translating The Lost Symbol novel, they are using idiom with similar form and meaning, using idiom with similar meaning but dissimilar form, using paraphrase, and using omission. As Baker (1992: 71) suggests four strategies to translate idiomatic expression, the translator uses the strategies to translate the English version into Indonesian of the novel. The most used strategy used in The Lost Symbol novel is translating by paraphrase. This kind of strategy used since the translator can not find the equivalent idiom, neither in same or different form. There are 143 data or 94 % are translated using paraphrase strategy. Mostly, idioms with the form of phrase (verb phrase, adjectival
phrase, adverbial phrase, and prepositional phrase) are translated by using this strategy. For instance, waved him off is translated into *melambaikantanganmenolaknya*, went up is translated into *teracung*, etc. The secondly most used is by using idiom with similar form and meaning. There are 6 data or 4% are translated using this kind of strategy. It is considered that in the novel are found some idioms that are equivalent with some Indonesian idioms. The translation is good enough, since the idioms in target language are conveyed in Indonesian idiom. It means that the translator keeps the style of the original work. There are 2 data 1,3% that are translated by using omission strategy. Only 1 datum or 0,65% that translator transform into target language using idiom with similar meaning but dissimilar form strategy.

Different from previous studies, in this research the writer present the strategies to translate idiom by each types of idiomatic expression found in the novel. Compound idioms are translated using 3 strategies, they are by using paraphrase, using omission, and using idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. Phrase idioms are translated using only by paraphrase strategy. Semi clause idioms are translated by using paraphrase, using omission, and using idiom of similar meaning and form. Clause idioms are translated by using paraphrase and using idiom of similar meaning and form.

The next discussion is the accuracy of the the idiom translation in the novel. There are three scales has been used to asses the accuracy. There are 133 data or 87,5% are rated accurate. The rest, 19 or 12,5 % data are rated as less accurate. There is no datum is rated as inaccurate translation. From the result, it is considered that the translation of the idiomatic expressions in The Lost Symbol novel is quite accurate.

D. Conclusion

The writer attempts to conclude what have been discussed in the analysis. It covers two problems statements as stated in the first chapter. First, it deals with
the strategies used in translating the idiomatic expressions in The Lost Symbol novel and its translation. Secondly, it assesses the accuracy of the translation itself.

1. The Strategies Used in Translating Idiomatic Expressions

a. Compound Idioms

There are 12 (7.89%) data of idioms categorized into compound idioms, they are translated by using some strategies. Compound Idioms are Translated by Using Paraphrase. (9 data or 81.8%). Compound Idioms are Translated by Using Omission. (1 datum or 9%). Compound Idioms are Translated by Using Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form. (1 datum or 9%)

b. Phrase Idioms

There are 92 (60.5%) categorized into this classification. This kind of idioms are all translated by using paraphrase strategy.

c. Semi Clause Idioms

There are 41 (26.9%) data found belonging to this sort called as classification C3. They are translated by using some strategies. Semi clause Idioms are Translated by Using Paraphrase. (37 data or 90.3%) Semi clause Idioms are Translated by Using Omission. (1 data or 2.4%) Semi clause Idioms are Translated by Using Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form. (are 3 data or 7.3%)

d. Clause Idioms

There are 8 data are classified into idioms in the form of clause. There are two strategies used in translating clause idioms found in the novel. Clause Idioms are Translated by Using Paraphrase. (5 data or 62.5%) Clause Idioms are Translated by Using Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form. (3 data or 37.5%)

Based on the result, translation by paraphrase is considered to be the most dominant strategy of translating idiomatic expressions that used by the translator. It is used in every type of idioms. The secondly most used is by using idiom with similar form and meaning. There are 6 data or 4% are translated using this kind of strategy. It is considered that in the novel are found some idioms that are equivalent with some Indonesian idioms.
2. The Accuracy of Idiom Translation

In this research, there are three scales has been used to asses the accuracy of the translation. There are 133 data or 87.5% are accurate, 19 data or 12.5 % are less accurate and there is no datum is inaccurate.

From the result, it is considered that the translation of the idiomatic expressions in The Lost Symbol novel is quite accurate. As the number of accurate data is bigger than the less accurate one and there is no datum is rated as inaccurate translation.

Bibliography


