

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Munday stated in his book *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and application* (2008, p.5):

The process of translation between two different written languages involves the translator changing an original written text (the source text or ST) in the original verbal language (the source language or SL) into a written text (the target text or TT) in a different verbal language (the target language or TL).

Bassnet (2002) mentioned that:

What is generally understood as translation involves the rendering of a source language (SL) text into the target language (TL) so as to ensure that (1) the surface meaning of the two will be approximately similar and (2) the structures of the SL will be preserved as close as possible but not so closely that the TL structures will be seriously distorted.

Translation solely has one purpose, it is to deliver particular message from the one language into another. In learning English, many people usually have to be faced with idiomatic expressions, to which we find rather confusing, especially those we encounter in movies. This happens because in movies, they are spoken, not written. Also, the dialogue usually happens in a very fast tone and accent that the audience barely follows the story. However, the culture differences and linguistics are the main cause of the misunderstanding of the meaning of each idiomatic expression.

Ammer (1997) stated:

An idiom is a set phrase of two or more words that means something different from the literal meaning of the individual words. For instance, the phrase *to change one's tune* has nothing to do with music but means 'to alter one's attitude'. Similarly *to hit the nail on the head* often has nothing to do with carpentry but means simply 'to be absolutely right'.

Idioms give a great number of problems for non-natives. They are unrecognizable sometimes, that many people will translate these idioms quite literally. When translated literally, they often resulted in awkward meaning in target language, and making them inaccurate.

A subtitle is a textual version of the dialogue in movies and the likes, usually displayed at the bottom of the screen. They can be in a written form of translation of a dialogue, or literally the dialogue in the same language with purpose to help deaf or non-native audience. *TranslationDirectory.com* defines subtitling as words that translate what is said in a film in a different language and appear on the bottom of the screen.

Translating idiomatic expressions has been very problematic for many people. Translation and idiomatic expression are interconnected, therefore one needs to comprehend. Take an example, *cooking the books often* has nothing to do with cooking literal books but it simply means “mengerjakan pembukuan”. This particular problem demands us to increase our skill in translating subtitles. Baker (1992, p.65) noted:

Idioms and fixed expressions which contain culture-specific items are not necessarily translatable. It is not the specific items of expression contain but rather the meaning it conveys and its association with culture-specific context which can make it untranslatable or difficult to translate.

This research will use the movie script that of a movie entitled *That Thing You Do!* that was produced by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox which released in 1996. *That Thing You Do!* is the very first movie written and directed by Tom Hanks. The movie tells a story of a pop rock band formed in America in the early 1964. Guy Patterson, half-heartedly working in his family’s appliance store, is recruited into the band the Wonders after the original drummer breaks his right arm. After Guy gives a rock beat into lead singer’s ballad song, it brings the Wonders into a brief success. But when they reach the top, things happen and the fallout of the band was bound to happen.

There are so many idiomatic expressions found in the movie. The amount of idiomatic expressions is enough to be researched and to analyze whether or not there are misinterpreted expressions. Idioms cannot be translated literally because they have their own meaning. The researcher downloaded both English and Indonesian subtitles from a trusted website named *subscene.com*. *Subscene.com* is a resource for subtitles used by people globally.

## B. Previous Study

The writer found two studies which are considered related closely to this research report. The first one is conducted by Ambarwati, entitled “AN ANALYSIS OF THE IDIOMATIC TRANSLATION FOUND IN THE SUBTITLES OF MOVIE ENTITLED *SCREAM*”. She was an English student of Airlangga University. Her research is the closest study to this thesis because they have the same objectives, which is the subtitling found in movie script.

The second one is conducted also by a former student from English Department named Nisa'. Her research is entitled “AN ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSLATION METHOD USED IN THE ENGLISH SUBTITLE OF AN INDONESIAN FILM ENTITLED *BERBAGI SUAMI*”. She completed this study in 2008. The results from her research showed there are four methods of translation found in the script, they were communicative translation, faithful translation, free translation and adaptation. She found out that the most used method in the script was communicative translation.

There are also four journals used as references to the writer's research report. A journal entitled “*Strategies Used in Translation of English Idioms into Persian in Novels*” is the first one, conducted by Khatib from University of Allameh Tabataba'i. The study focused on the strategies that were used for English into Persian idioms translation in Harper Lee's novel “*To Kill a Mockingbird*” and John Steinbeck's “*Of Mice and Men*”. This research followed Baker's method of translation; paraphrasing, omission, using an idiom of similar meaning and form and using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form.

The next one is a journal entitled “STRATEGIES OF TRANSLATING IDIOMS” by Hassan from Department of English, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan and Tabassum from CE Department, University of South Asia, Lahore, Pakistan. The writers think that translating idioms is not an easy task because they belong to different cultures. They think idioms are expressions that are bound with their own culture. Also, they found out that translators use various kinds of methods, approaches and strategies to convey text from source language into the target language to find the equivalences of idioms.

Another journal the writer found is Saputro's "Idioms and Strategies of Translation in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows". This journal described the strategies of translating the idiomatic expression found in a novel entitled *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows* published by Bloomsbury using Baker's theory (2002). The writer used qualitative method to provide a detailed description about the strategies in translating the idioms found in said novel.

The very last one is a journal by Akbari from Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Campus, Iran, entitled "Strategies for Translating Idioms". This particular journal describes one of the most challenging matters in translation is translating idiomatic expressions from one specific language into another with target of maximal success in conveying the same meaning. This journal reviews a various kinds of idioms translation strategies used in translation studies.

### **C. Limitation of the Study**

This study is limited only in the area of idiomatic expressions translation in the script of *That Thing You Do!* movie. In this research the writer uses a few theories proposed by different experts, they are Fernando (1996), Baker (2002), and Nababan (2008).

### **D. Problem Statement**

Based on this research's background described above, the writer found the problem as mentioned below:

1. What are the types of idiomatic expressions found in *That Thing You Do!* movie and its subtitle?
2. What are the linguistics forms of the idiomatic expressions and their subtitle found in *That Thing You Do!* movie and its subtitle?
3. How are the accuracy of the idiomatic expressions and their subtitling found in *That Thing You Do!* movie?

### **E. Objective of the Study**

The research has three main objectives, they are:

1. To classify the types of idiomatic expressions found in the movie and its subtitle.
2. To classify the linguistics form of idiomatic expressions found in the movie and its subtitle.
3. To find out the accuracy of the idiomatic expressions' translation that are found in the movie and its subtitle.

#### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The researcher wishes that the results of this particular research will give a few benefits as the following:

1. For researchers, this study will hopefully be able to broaden their knowledge more about idiomatic expressions and their translation.
2. For the institution, this study can be used as one of the references for further study and teaching about idiomatic expressions and their translation.
3. For general people, the research is aimed to be able to educate those who read it more about idiomatic expressions and how to translate them.