

**ANALYSIS OF IDIOM TRANSLATION STRATEGIES
IN *LEGEND* NOVEL BY MARIE LU**



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APPROVAL

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ANALYSIS OF IDIOM TRANSLATION STRATEGIES IN *LEGEND* NOVEL BY MARIE LU

Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini yaitu untuk mengidentifikasi jenis idiom dan untuk menganalisis strategi yang digunakan penerjemah dalam menerjemahkan idiom pada novel *Legend* karya Marie Lu. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Sumber data dari penelitian ini berasal dari novel bahasa Inggris *Legend* karya Marie Lu dan terjemahannya dalam Bahasa Indonesia. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 127 data idiom yang terdiri dari tiga jenis idiom, yaitu *pure idiom*, *semi idiom*, dan *literal idiom*. Jenis idiom yang paling sering muncul yaitu tipe *literal idiom* yaitu sebanyak 50 dari 127 data. Penerjemah menggunakan empat strategi dalam penerjemahan idiom, yaitu (1) terjemahan dengan menggunakan idiom yang memiliki makna dan bentuk yang sama, (2) terjemahan dengan menggunakan idiom yang memiliki makna yang sama tetapi berbeda bentuk, (3) terjemahan dengan parafrase, dan (4) terjemahan penghilangan seluruh idiom. Temuan menunjukkan dari 127 data, penerjemah paling sering menggunakan strategi parafrase dalam menerjemahkan idiom yaitu 119 data.

Kata kunci: penerjemahan idiom, strategi penerjemahan, tipe idiom.

Abstract

The aims of this research are to identify the type of idiom and to analyze strategies the translator used in translating idiomatic expressions in *Legend* novel by Marie Lu. This research is a descriptive qualitative study. The source data of this research are from Marie Lu's *Legend* novel and the Indonesian translated novel. The research found that there are 127 data of idiomatic expressions, which consist of three types of idiom namely; pure idiom, semi idiom, and literal idiom. The most frequent type of idiom in the novel is literal idiom that has 50 out of 127 data. The translator used four strategies in translation, namely (1) translation by using an idiom of similar meaning and form, (2) translation by using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, (3) translation by paraphrase, and (4) translation of omission the entire idiom. The finding showed that the translator mostly used translation by paraphrase in translating idiom with 119 out of 127 data.

Keywords: idiom translation, translation strategy, type of idiom.

1. INTRODUCTION

Translation has a big role as a bridge that keeps a person connected with another person who comes from a different language. Translations are divided into two types namely written translation and spoken translation or interpretation. Both of

the types are same, to translate the source language into the target language. The difference is the object of translation. As stated by Larson (1998), translation is a process of transferring text from the source language into target language. Translation is needed to help the readers understand the text meaning that originally from foreign language into their first language.

Newmark (1988) stated to translate a language to another, a translator should have language knowledge, understand the context of the text, and the culture of the source language. The writing style of the author also needs to pay attention for a translator. Translator should not lose the text style that the author carried. That is why a translator needs extra careful to comprehend the source language in order to convey the meaning in target language, even it has different culture or grammatical structure.

Another difficulty in translation is when finding idiomatic expressions in a text. According to Huber-Okrainec and Dennis (2003) idioms are a non-literal phrase that cannot be translated literally. Idiomatic expressions are used commonly in spoken and written. All languages have their own idiomatic expressions. For example, Indonesian has idiom *meja hijau*. In literal, it translated to *green table*. Because *meja hijau* is an idiom, it cannot be translated literary. The meaning of *meja hijau* is *the court*, not a green colored table. There is no relation about table with the actual meaning of the idiom. English has idiom *raining cats and dogs*. The idiom *cats and dogs* does not have anything to do with the animals cat and dog, but the idiom means *a heavy rain*.

Translating idiom is kind of difficult because the translator should understand the source language idiom then transfer it to the target language. Some idiomatic expressions even have more than one meaning. It depends on the context of the text. For example, the idiom *make a face* can be interpreted to *grimace*, *sullen*, *disgusted*, or any other expressions of facial gesture. Another example is idiom *break out*. According to Cambridge Dictionary, *break out* means *to start*, *to escape*, or *a certain skin condition*. Those meanings are not similar to each other.

This is why translating a spoken or written idiom is not easy because the translator should understand the context to translate the idiom precisely.

The purposes of this research are to identify the type of idiom, to analyze strategies the translator used in translating idiomatic expressions, and to find out the most frequent strategy used by the translator in translating idiom in *Legend* novel by Marie Lu. The researcher uses Baker's theory about translation strategies and Fernando's theory about the type of idiom.

2. METHOD

This research is descriptive qualitative study. The object of this researcher is the idiomatic expressions in *Legend* novel by Marie Lu. The researcher analyzes the data using theory from Baker about strategy of translating idiom and Fernando's Theory about type of idiom. The researcher selects some data to be analyzed in detail in Result and Discussion. The researcher uses descriptive analysis as the technique to analyse the data in this study.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Type of Idiom in *Legend* Novel

3.1.1 Pure idiom

Pure idiom is an idiomatic expression in which the individual words contain figurative meaning. The meaning of the idiom is usually quite difficult to understand. There were 39 data classified as pure idiom found in *Legend* novel.

Datum 1 (017/L/SL133/TL145)

SL: "*Bite your tongue, cousin.*"

TL: "*Jaga lidahmu, Sepupu.*"

The idiom *bite your tongue* translated to *jaga lidahmu* in Indonesian. The translation categorized as pure idiom. According to Cambridge Dictionary, the meaning of *bite your tongue* means *to stop saying something*. The reason why this idiom categorized as pure idiom because the idiom *bite your tongue* cannot be guessed easily. The individual words of the idiom are non-literal meaning as a whole. The speaker of the dialog above does not mean he asked his cousin to bite his tongue. However, the speaker means to warn his cousin to be careful of his words or else it would cause them trouble

3.2.1 Semi Idiom

Semi idiom is an idiomatic expression that contain at least one word that related to the actual meaning, meanwhile the other individual word is non-literal or does not have any relation with the meaning. The researcher found 38 data were categorized as semi idiom.

Datum 2 (070/L/SL216/TL273)

SL: “*The rest of you people just **sit around** and complain and blame the state for your bad luck.*”

TL: “*Sedangkan kalian hanya **duduk-duduk**, protes, dan menyalahkan negara atas ketidakberuntungan kalian.*”

The data above classified as semi idiom. The meaning of idiom *sit around* can be guessed by the word *sit*. The word *sit* gives the clue to understand actual meaning of the idiom. The meaning of *sit around* is “to sit and do nothing”. In Indonesian, the translator translated it to *duduk-duduk*. The words *duduk-duduk* is Indonesian reduplication words with the verb *duduk* (sit) as the root of the

word. The meaning of *duduk* and *duduk-duduk* is a bit different. The word *duduk* has close meaning with the word *sit* in English, meanwhile *duduk-duduk* similar to *sit around*. So, the actual meaning of idiom *sit around* represented by the word *sit*, meanwhile the word *around* is figurative one.

3.3.1 Literal Idiom

Literal idiom is an idiomatic expression that easier to comprehend the meaning than pure and semi idiom. There were 50 data found by the researcher that classified as literal idiom. The researcher analyzed 2 of 50 literal idiom data.

Datum 3 (055/L/SL179/TL228)

SL: “*And more important, you’ve put one of our most irritating criminals **behind the bars**.*”

TL: “*Dan yang lebih penting, kau memasukkan salah satu dari penjahat kita yang paling mengganggu ke **penjara**.*”

The idiom in the data above can be easily understood in literal. The idiom *behind the bars* refers to “in prison”. The Indonesian translation of the idiom is *penjara*. The translator could translate it to *di balik jeruji besi* which has the same meaning with the idiom and the style of the author still attached in the translation. However, the translator chose to paraphrase the idiom to *penjara* (prison) in which the meaning still convey the meaning of the source language idiom but the style is not as close as the translation *di balik jeruji besi* to the source language idiom. According to the raters either *penjara* or *di balik jeruji besi*, it is not an idiom in Indonesian.

3.2 Strategies Used by The Translator in Translating Idiom in *Legend Novel*

3.1.2 Using an idiom of similar meaning and form

Datum 4 (126/L/SL181/TL230)

SL: “*You’re the Republic’s golden girl.*”

TL: “*Kau anak emas Republik.*”

The translation of idiom above showed that the idiom *golden girl* translated to *anak emas*. According to Cambridge Dictionary, *golden girl* means “a woman who is very successful and is much admired, although often only temporarily.” The meaning is similar with idiom *anak emas* in Indonesian. The form of both idioms were also similar. The source language idiom consists of individual words *golden* and *girl*, meanwhile in Indonesian the idiom consists of individual words *anak* (kid) and *emas* (golden). Based on raters judgment, the translation *anak emas* classified as idiom in Indonesian. The meaning of *anak emas* is the person his/her family, superordinate, or boss loved the most, usually because of his/her achievement. In Indonesian, the idiom *anak emas* represent all genders meanwhile the English idiom *golden girl* is female-only. It already represented in the form of the English idiom. In this dialogue, the translator already translated the source language idiom to an equal idiom in target language. The meaning and form of both idioms are similar

3.2.2 Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form

Datum 5 (086/L/SL237/TL298)

SL: “*But I’ve given up on him.*”

TL: “*Tapi aku angkat tangan terhadapnya.*”

The dialogue above is translated with similar idiom but the form is different. The idiom *given up* and *angkat tangan* share the same meaning. *Given up* is past participle of *give up*. The meaning of *give up* according to Cambridge Dictionary is “to stop trying to do something before you have finished, usually because it is too difficult.” The idiom *angkat tangan*, or if it translated literally it means *hands up*, has the similar meaning with the idiom *give up*. The translation is equal with the source language. In the dialogue, June said to Thomas that she gave up on Day. She said that seeing Day dies will do better since Day is a person who killed her brother. Actually, what June has said is just a lie. She said that in order to convince Thomas that June is on his side. The translation to target language fits in the context.

3.3.2 Translation by paraphrase

Datum 7 (065/L/SL202/TL256)

SL: “*Day you’re on dangerous ground.*”

TL: “*Day, kau tidak dalam situasi yang tepat untuk berkata seperti itu.*”

The dialogue above is translated by paraphrase. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary the idiom *dangerous ground* means “a situation in which a person may do or say something that will have a bad result, make people angry, etc.” The target language does not have equal idiom that has similar meaning with the idiom *dangerous ground*. Therefore, the translator paraphrased the idiom. The dialogue is about June warned Day to be careful of his assumption that Republic had intention to poison the citizen. If the

Republic heard of what he has said, they will sentence him right away.

The translator translated the idiom to *tidak dalam situasi yang tepat untuk berkata seperti itu* or ‘not in a right situation to say that’ in English. In other word, the paraphrased translation still conveys the meaning of the source language idiom though it did not translated with similar idiom. This translation classified as paraphrase because the form of translated idiom is not an equal idiom to the source language. However, the translator translated it with parphrased that had the same meaning with the idiom.

3.4.2 Translation by omission of entire idiom

Datum 8 (034/L/SL159/TL202)

SL: *Commander Jameson lets out a sharp laugh.*

TL: *Komandan Jameson tertawa tajam.*

There is omission in the translation of the data above. The idiom *lets out* according to Oxford Learners Dictionary means let something out. Translation of *let out* in Indonesian can be vary depends on the context. It can be means *mengeluarkan*, *memekik*, *menghela* and so on depend on the context or following word. If the translator insisted using word *mengeluarkan* for the translation of *lets out*, it will sound a bit strange for the whole sentence translation. In this case, a translator should pay attention to how he/she translates the words without causing misinterpret. The translator of this novel decided to omit the idiom translation not because of culture clash or because the idiom do not have equivalent meaning, but the translator might omit the idiom for

stylistic reason. The translation above did not change the source language message.

Based on the analysis above, the researcher is in line with Fernando theory about type of idiom. The researcher found there were 127 data of idiomatic expression in *Legend* novel by Marie Lu. Those 127 data divided into three type of idiom, based on Fernando's theory. the idioms found in *Legend* novel consist of 39 pure idioms, 38 semi idioms, and 50 literal idioms. The most frequent idiom type in this novel was literal idiom.

This research is also in line with Baker's theory of idiom translation strategies. There are four strategies that the translator used in translating idiom in *Legend* novel. From the result, it shows that the translator used translation by paraphrase 119 data or 93,7 out of the entire data. So, the translator mostly used translation by paraphrase in translating idiom.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the research in previous chapter, the researcher draws conclusion:

4.1 Type of Idiom

Legend novel by Marie Lu has 127 data of idiomatic expressions. From the amount of data, 39 data or 30,7% belong to pure idiom, 38 data or 29,92% belong to semi idiom, and 50 data or 39,37% belong to pure idiom. So, from problem statement of this study, the researcher can answer that there are three types of idiom found in *Legend* novel. Those three types of idiom are pure idiom, semi idiom, and literal idiom. The most frequent type of idiom is literal idiom with 50 data or 39,37% out of 127 data.

4.2 Strategy in Translating Idiom

From the 127 idioms that the researcher found, there are four strategies that the translator used in translating idiom in *Legend* novel. The first one is translation by using an idiom of similar meaning and form. It has 2 out of 127 data or 1,57%. The second one is translation by using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form that has 3 data or 2,36%. This strategy is as much as omission of entire idiom strategy. Translation by paraphrase has 119 data or 93,7%. In contrast to the other strategies, translation by paraphrase is the most dominant idiom translation strategy in *Legend* novel. So, the Indonesian translator in *Legend* novel mostly used translation by paraphrase strategy to translate idiomatic expressions.

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