Idioms and Strategies of Translation in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

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Abstract

This article described the translation of idioms expression found in the novel *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows* published by Bloomsbury and the strategies in translating idioms applied based on Baker (2001). Using qualitative method, the writer provided a detailed description about the translation strategies in translating idiomatic expressionsfound in *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows*. As the results, the study showed that several translation strategies are applied, which include idioms of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, and translation by omission. The cultural difference becomes the main concern in keeping the original meaning, especially when dealing with idiomatic expressions. When translating idioms, the translator might use some adjustment in the certain context to keep the correct meaning, so the translated text is still readable and clear. In conclusion, translating idioms could be a serious matter regarding the target language. In this case the problems are doubled since the stylistic meaning should be kept without reducing the beauty of the text

Keywords: Idioms; Novel; Source Language; Source Text; Translation; Translation Strategies; Target Language; Target Text

1. Introduction

Recently, there is a hype that movies adapted from a book or novel become a box office movie. For example: Lord of The Rings, Twilight, Harry Potter, etc. People tend to wait for the movie based from novel, after they read the story; but somehow people feel dissatisfied with the depiction of the story by the movie makers. Later, they prefer to read the book or the novel itself rather than the movie.

When reading a novel, sometimes we find difficulties in understanding and catch the meaning, if we read a non translated novel. That's why; some famous novels are translated into many languages, to make the readers easier to read and to enjoy the story, since not all of the readers adequately mastering the origin language of the novel.

What is a novel? According to E.M Forrester in Aspects of Novel (1955: p. 6) "novel is a fiction in prose of a certain text and extent as over 50.000 words" A novel arises from the desire to depict and interpret human characters and the readers of the novel is both entertained and aided in a deeper perception of life's problems. Furthermore, novel tells about the story of the main character where the event could change the characters story inside. Novel consists of many genres, such as: romantic, fiction, fable, thriller, etc.

This study focuses on J.K Rowling novel, which is regarded as best-selling books in the origin country, England. The novel itself is a fiction story about a young wizard named Harry Potter with his whole family and friends in adventuring their life to destroy a demonic wizard named Voldemort. Since its first edition, JK. Rowling novels Harry Potter series become best seller and continue until the final book. Thus, this novel is translated into many languages, including Indonesian

On the other hand, regarding translating a novel, since every language is influenced by social and cultural factors, a translated text must be appropriate for the target reader, and the cultural context in certain area. As the source text, in this case Harry Potter novel, attracts general public, from a child to adults, considering the limitation and the restriction in translating novel, it is necessary convey the meaning and chose the appropriate translation for the target readers.

According to Newmark (1988: p.5) "a language can be transferred into another language by way of translation". Translation, is defined as conveying the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text. Translation becomes the main tools to convey the purpose of the source text and create an understandable translated text for target readers.

Moreover, Munday (2001: p.4) stated that "the term translation itself has several meanings: it can refer to the general subject field, the product (the text that has been translated) or the process (the act of producing the translation, otherwise known as translating)". Further, 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).

One of the problems in translating novels is concerning with idioms. Idiom is defined as multiword construction that is a semantic unit whose meaning cannot be deducted from the meanings of its constituents, and has non-productive syntactic structure (Mary, 1986). In addition, according to Irujo (1986) "idioms is a conventionalized expression whose meaning cannot be determined from the meaning of its parts". Idioms differ from other figurative expressions, such as similes and metaphors, in that they have conventionalized meanings. For example: in a sentence "it is raining *cats and dog*" for those who are not familiar with this idiom will think about a situation in which cats and dog are falling from the sky. In fact, the cats and dog itself means a very heavy rain (David Holmes: 445)

Idioms have their own characteristic to notice. According to Berman (2000) "we cannot normally change the words, their order, or the grammatical forms in the same way as changing non-idiomatic expression". In other words, idioms are basically fixed expressions. If we found idioms, we cannot change the structure or translate it per words, as idioms tied to each other; means we cannot delete or add words. Another important thing to notice that the meaning of an idiom is metaphorical rather than literal; it is not the result of the compositional function of the parts. Idioms stand for specific meaning that written into different forms to create a different image and it will create a more interesting part for the reader itself, after idioms will exaggerate the basic meaning.

Thus, it is quite a problem when idioms are used in the SL. Sometimes the TL does not provide the precise equivalent of the SL idioms. It might be caused by the difference in meaning between the SL and TL that makes cultural and lexical gaps in the translation. If the source language is directly translated into target language, there might be loss in the meaning, and sounds awkward. For the example, a sentence "he passed with a flying color mark". Flying color here doesn't mean "warna yang terbang" but more likely "nilai yang sangat bagus". In this case, the knowledge of idioms and its meaning is a must for a translator.

Considering those difficulties, there is a need for appropriate strategy to translate idioms found in the novel. Baker (2001: 63) stated that in translating idioms: "The translator has two main concerns: the ability to recognize and interpret idiom correctly; and the difficulties involved in rendering the various aspects of meaning that an idiom or a fixed expression conveys into the target language".

These problems arise when the translator faces a difficulty in finding the appropriate word or meaning in the target language, the translator must do some modifications in their translation without ignoring the norms. Baker offers four different translation strategies, as follows:

1. Using an Idioms of Similar Meaning and Form: This strategy involves using an idiom in the target language which conveys roughly the same meaning as that of the source-language idiom and, in addition, consist of equivalent lexical items. This kind of match can only occasionally be achieved.
2. Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form: Find an idiom or fixed expression in the target language which has a meaning similar to that of the source idiom or expression, but which consists of different lexical items.
3. Translation by Paraphrase: The most common way of translating idioms when a match cannot be found in the target language or when it seems inappropriate to use idiomatic language in the target text because of differences in stylistic preferences of the source and target languages.

4. Translation by Omission: An idiom may sometimes altogether in the target text. Because it has no close match in the target language, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reasons.

In addition, the writer also classified the idioms type based on Fernando (1996), which are:

1.1 Transparent Idioms

In this category, idiomatic expressions have a very close meaning to that of the literal one. Furthermore, transparent idioms are usually not to difficult to understand and translate, because their meanings can be easily inferred from their meaning of their constituents

Example: back and forth -> moving forward and backward

1.2 Semi Transparent Idioms

The idioms usually brings a metaphorical sense that could not be known only through common use, and the meaning of its parts has a little role to play in understanding the meaning itself.

Example: break the ice -> relieve the tension

1.3 Semi-Opaque Idioms

This type refers to idioms which the figurative meaning is not joined to the constituent words of the idiom. Furthermore, the expression is separated into two parts: a part of the phrase has a literal meaning, while the other part has a figurative sense.

Example: to know the ropes -> to know how a particular job should be done

1.4 Opaque Idioms

This type of idioms is the most difficult idioms; because of the meaning is not the sum of the literal meanings of its parts. In other words, it would be hard and to infer the actual meaning of the idioms. It is because of the presence of items having cultural references. These culture-specific items have a great influence on the comprehensibility of idiomatic expressions.

Example: Kick the bucket -> die

1.5 Culture-Free and Loaded Idioms

The main difficulties in translating idioms are their culture specificity. An, idioms, as the writer writes the definition from oxford dictionary above, is "a form of expression peculiar to a language". The term peculiar, in this definition, means that idioms are meaningful in only specific culture or language. Some idiom, however, have direct equivalences and can be easily translated into others languages.

The writer conducted a research on J.K Rowling's novel, entitled *"Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows"* to find the idioms in the series as the data of the study in order to find what types of translation strategies used in translating those idioms found. By doing this study, the writer intended to describe and analyze translation strategies of idioms expression found in the novel by using qualitative method. Qualitative method is appropriate for this study because it is considered to result a detailed description about the translation strategies in translating idioms expression.

Categories	Number of Items	Percentage (%)
Transparent Idioms	178	42.58%
Semi Transparent Idioms	97	23.20%
Semi Opaque Idioms	62	14.83%
Opaque Idioms	81	19.37%
Culture Free and Loaded Idioms	0	0%
TOTAL	**418**	**100%**

Table 1 The Classifications of Idioms Expressions found in *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows*

Table 1 illustrates the type of idioms found in the SL text. The table shows the total number of collected idioms from the SL text, based on Fernando (1996). It is obvious that transparent idioms is the most frequently appear idioms in the novel.

One example of transparent idioms found in the novel is illustrated below.

SL	TL
Mrs. Weasley was wearing a brand-new set of amethyst colored robes	Mrs. Weasley memakai jubah baru berwarna kecubung

Table 2 Example of transparent idioms

According to David Holmes in "*Idioms and Expression*" the phrase "a brand-new" refers to a brand-made product comes off the assembly line, ready for purchase and use. The idiomatic expression "a brand-new" belongs to transparent idiom. Ttherefore we can easily depict the inferred meaning from the idiom and it has a very close meaning to the literal one.

In the TL, idioms "a brand-new" is translated into "baru";. According to Baker's translating strategies, the SL here is translated by paraphrase. The translator paraphrasing the "brand-new" definition to create a perfect description about the SL idioms into TL; although the word "baru" has a decreased level of meaning than the SL, the whole meaning of the SL text is successfully conveyed.

While an example of semi transparent idioms is elaborated below.

SL	TL
One by one, out of nowhere at the distant boundary of the yard	Satu demi satu, di batas perlindungan di padang di kejauhan.

Table 3 the example of semi-transparent idioms

The expression "out of nowhere" in table 3, according to Holmes, refers to sudden and unexpected happening. The expression "out of nowhere" usually brings a metaphorical sense that could not be recognized only through common use, and the meaning of its parts has a little role to play in understanding the meaning itself. In the TL, the expression "out of nowhere" is omitted, so that the translation strategy used is translation by omissions. Baker stated that omission occur to keep the stylistic meaning of the context. Therefore, although there is an omission, the message still delivered beautifully and the reader still get the inferred meaning.

For an example of semi-opaque idioms, below is the expression that belong to this category.

SL	TL
A few of the books had been shaken roughly enough to part company with the covers	Beberapa buku diguncang cukup kasar sehingga terlepas dari sampulnya

Table 4 Example of semi-opaque idioms

The expression "Part company" consists of two parts: literal meaning in "part", and figurative sense in "company". This idioms is classified as a semi-opaque idiom, an idioms which the figurative meaning is not joined to the constituent words of idiom and the expression is separated into two parts:

In the TL, the expression "part company" is translated into "terlepas" and the strategy used is translated by paraphrase because it is inappropriate to use idiomatic language in the target text due to differences in stylistic preferences of the source and target languages. Based on the definition of "part company", the translation is "terlepas" which incomply with the SL context. As stated in the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia, the word "terlepas" is defined as "sudah lepas, sudah lepas (ikatannya), copot";Thus, the emphasize on the object described, in this part is the book; is successfully depicted the SL text to the TL text.

The example of opaque idioms found in the novel is as follow.

SL	TL
Then resumed her own deadpan stare at the opposite wall	Kembali melanjutkan pandangannya yang tanpa ekspresi ke dinding d seberangnya

Table 5 Example of opaque idioms

The expression "deadpan stare" in the SLaccording to David Holmes "Idioms and Expressions", refers to showing no emotion, expressionless, poker face, blank, unreadable, straight-faced. The expression "deadpan stare" is classified as opaque idioms because of the meaning is not the sum of the literal meanings of its parts. In the TL the translation is "pandangannya yang tanpa ekspresi" and the strategy used is translated by paraphrase. The translation elaborates and emphasizes the condition of the subject (Narcissa) when she looked at her son's. Rather than using "pandangannya yang kosong", "pandangannya yang tanpa ekspresi" is more accurate in the context and has similar nuance.

While in relation to the translation strategies, using Baker's theory, this study maps the frequency of application of the strategies as follow.

Translation Strategies	The number of the data which apply the strategies	Percentage (%)
Using and Idioms of Similar Meaning and Form	26	6.22%
Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form	39	9.33%
Translation by Paraphrase	334	79.90%
Translation by Omission	19	4.54%
TOTAL	**418**	**100%**

Table 6 List of the applied Translation Strategies

Table 6 above illustrates the frequency of applied translation strategies based on Baker (2001) in the TL text.

The translation strategies indicated in table 6 are using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form, Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar in form, Translation by Paraphrase, and Translation by Omission. The most frequently applied translation strategies are translation by paraphrase (79.90%). Paraphrase could be seen as an appropriate strategy for stylistic reasons and idiomatic reason,, to keep the context of the SL form but acceptable by the TL readers.

Translation by paraphrase might also be used for obtaining the fairness and naturalness in the target language. The fairness and naturalness is required to ensure that the translation makes a good sense and a good understanding for the expression. Thus, the translation result could be read easily for the reader and successful in transferring the whole meaning.

On the other hand, the writer found the most common type of idioms in *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows.* The most common type of idioms found is transparent idioms (42.58%) and semi-transparent idioms (23.20%). Mostly, both of the idioms translated by paraphrase, after the idioms itself it easy to understand and inferred the message. The idioms itself, acted as a part of language which bring a stylistic to the language and to emphasize the intended object in the text.

Comparing the SL text with the TL text, the writer did not find any mismatch for the accuracy, readability and clarity. All of the idioms have translated correctly to the Indonesian language as the TL. The translator successfully maintained the stylistic meaning and obtained the fairness of SL translation.

2. Conclusion

The discussion and the interpretation of the result lead to some general conclusion about the translation strategies applied of the idioms expression in *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows.* The result of the study shows that four of translating strategies of translating idioms proposed by Baker (2001) are used in translating idioms found in the novel entitled *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows.* They are Using an Idioms of Similar Meaning and Form, Using and Idioms of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form, Translation by Paraphrase, and Translation by Omission. These strategies are applied to obtain the main aim of translation, which is to convey the message from SL to the TL text in order to produce readable result.

From the discussion of the data, it is discovered that translation by paraphrase is the most commonly applied strategy for traslating idioms expression Paraphrasing enable the translator to produce an equivalent result in Indonesian as TL.

Furthermore, all types of idioms as proposed by Fernando are present in the novel, except for culture free and loaded idioms. The most commonly occurs idioms is transparent idioms. The function of this idioms is emphasizing the language style as well as conveying meaning of the text

Finally, the translation strategies, as the tools that are used to transfer the meaning of an SL into TL text, have a significant role in the process of translation. The translation strategies must be applied by considering several factors such as: cultural differences, stylistic problems, lexical meaning, and the principal of Indonesian grammar. It is expected that by choosing appropriate translation strategies, the translation will be understandable and readable for TL readers.

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