

Research article

Translation Strategies of Idiomatic Expression in the Translation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes into Indonesian

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Abstract.

Translation is a bridge of language, and a bridge that is connecting one language to another and conveying messages from various angles. People share information, express their ideas and interact with others. This research was aimed to identify the types of idiomatic expression found in the novel and to analyse the strategies used in translating the idiom from English into Indonesian. This research applied qualitative method. The result of the analysis showed that from 53 data which have been analysed, there were similes with the occurrence of 7 data, binomials with the occurrence of 2 data, proverbs with the occurrence of 6 data, euphemisms with the occurrence of 2 data, clichés and fixed statement with the occurrence of 35 data and other language with the occurrence of 1 data. It showed that clichés and fixed statement are the most used idiom categories in the novel because they are easier to express rather than the other types of idioms. There were three strategies applied in the translation. They were an idiom of similar meaning and form, an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form and translation by paraphrase. The result showed that there are 9 idioms use the similar meaning and form, 19 idioms use similar meaning but dissimilar form and 25 idioms use the strategy of translation by paraphrase. The result showed that the translator mostly uses the strategy of translation by paraphrase because it is more understood for the readers.

Keywords: idiom, types of idioms, translation strategies

1. INTRODUCTION

Translation is a bridge of language, and a bridge that is connecting one language to another and conveying messages from various angles. People share information, express their ideas and interact with others. Recently, translation process is very essential to be discussed as it is the way to understand books, novels, newspapers or even movies which support the daily life of people in the world (Ardhiani, 2018). However, one of those is published in foreign languages which cannot be understood by the

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people who do not use that language and moreover, there are idioms in it. In the process of translation, there are some units that cause a problem of transferring the text to its full meaning in the TL (Kamisa, 2013). One of the units is idioms, this unit has been an interesting issue in translation. According to Hornby (1995; 589), an idiom is a phrase or sentence whose meaning is not clear from the meaning of its individual words and which must be learnt as a whole unit, for instance, the idiom *on my own hook* in SL from the novel which means someone does something the help from others and translated into *dengan caraku sendiri* in TL which can represent the meaning of the idiom (Bradbery, 2015). If it is used in everyday language, they have other meaning than the basic one that you would find in the dictionary. Idioms are used in daily conversation and can also be found in novel (Bell, 1991). Since novel has a written form of language, then the problem that needs to be analysed is how the translator translates the idioms from SL into TL. To solve the problems, translation activity is needed. (Molina Baker, 1998) summarized the difficulties involved in translating idioms, such as: an idiom or fixed expression may have no equivalent in the target language, an idiom or fixed expression may have a similar counterpart in the target language, but its context of use may be different. Therefore, proposed four idiom translation strategies in her book "In Other Words: A Course Book on Translation. They are the idiom translation strategies that are using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, and translation by omission.

Based on the background, there are several previous studies are used as references in this study. (Rubianti, 2019) conducted a study entitled "*Translation Strategies of Idiomatic Expressions in The Subtitle Transcript of "How to Train Your Dragon Movie"*", the second is Ardhiani (2018) also conducted a study which entitle "*Translation Strategies of Idiomatic Expressions in Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little*

House on the Prairie in Djokolelono'S Translation of Rumah Kecil di Padang Rumput". The last is Habizar (2019) also doing similar study entitled "*The Strategies Applied in the Translation of Indonesian Idioms Into English in Novel Ziarah"*.

Moreover, In this research, a novel entitled *Sherlock Holmes Volume 1; A Study in Scarlet* (Doyle, 1986) was used as the data source. *Sherlock Holmes* is a novel with mystery genre in which they deal with crimes and murder scene, thus, its detective and deduction story line is mostly appeared in the form of idioms (Hornby, 1976). Therefore, *Sherlock Holmes* is the most analysable to find the types of idiomatic expression and the types of strategy used in translating idioms, in the purpose of giving the more understandable story line for the readers (Catford, 1965). In addition, this reseach analyze what types of idiomatic expression are found in a novel entitled *Sherlock*

Holmes Volume 1; A Study in Scarlet by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and what strategies are used by the translator to translate idiomatic translation in a novel entitled *Sherlock Holmes Volume 1; A Study in Scarlet* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle into Indonesian. This research was aimed to identify the types of idiomatic expression found in the novel and to analyse the strategies used in translating the idiom from English into Indonesian.

2. METHOD

In determining the data source, the novel entitled *Sherlock Holmes* was chosen as the data source. In collecting the data, the researcher used the library method. The researcher in this research used the method of descriptive to analyze the data. Descriptive qualitative research is defined as the qualitative research, a type of research which does not include any calculation or enumerating, where descriptive qualitative research seeks to provide this picture or the sentence is using data in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. First steps, the researcher scanned the data through the novel and read it repeatedly in order to get certain idioms comparison, after that the researcher underlined the data based on the idiomatic expression. Then, the researcher identified, classified and listed those data based on the types of idiom and translation strategies of idiom expression stated in the theories by using note-taking technique. The data that have been collected from the data source were analysed by using descriptive method. Presenting the data is the last step in the method of research. Formal and informal method were used in presenting the data, formal method was applied by using some symbols such as ST to represent source text, TT to represent target text. Therefore, informal method was applied by providing explanation to express the problems of idiom found in the data source.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researcher found 53 data of idiomatic expression in the novel entitled *Sherlock Holmes Volume 1; A Study in Scarlet* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Those idiomatic expressions were classified into some types. The classification of the types is based on O'Dell and Mc Carthy's theory of types of idiomatic expression which is divided into six types. There are similes, binomials, proverbs, euphemism, clichés and fixed statement and other language. From out of 53 data of idiomatic expression, they are classified into each types. They were similes with the occurrence of 7 data, binomials with the occurrence of 2 data, proverbs with the occurrence of 6 data, euphemisms with the

occurrence of 2 data, clichés and fixed statement with the occurrence of 35 data and other language with the occurrence of 1 data. The discussion of types of idiomatic expression and translation strategies is explained in the analysis as presented below.

3.1. Similes

Similes are expression which compare two things; they always include the word *as* or *like*. You can use similes to make your spoken and written English more colorful and your comparison more powerful.

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

Example:

ST: "Ha! Ha!" he cried, clapping his hands, and looking *as delighted as a child* with the new toy. (Page 8)

TT: Tampak *sama gembiranya dengan anak kecil* yang mendapatkan mainan baru. (Page 15)

Based on the data above, the type of idiomatic expression in ST is classified into similes. The translator translated the idiom by using an idiom of similar meaning and form's strategy. The data above, the idiom "*as delighted as a child*" in ST was translated into "*sama gembiranya dengan anak kecil*" in TT has similar meaning and form, because according to *Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary*, the word "*delighted*" which means *very pleased* and according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI)*, the word "*gembira*" means *bahagia; senang*. Therefore, both in ST and TT have similar meaning of having a happy thought like a child and have similar form of comparison.

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

Example:

ST: You are *as thin as a lath* and as brown as a nut. (Page 4)

TT: Kau tampak *kurus* dan cokelat sekali. (Page 12)

The type of idiomatic expression on the data above in ST is categorized into similes. Thus, the idiom "*as thin as a lath*" in ST was translated into "*kurus*" in TT has similar meaning but dissimilar form, because according to *English Idiom Dictionary Online*, the idiom in ST means *someone or something has a thin shape like lath* and according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI)*, the word "*kurus*" means *kurang daging; tidak gemuk* which both in ST and TT has similar meaning of having a thin shape but the form is dissimilar, because the word "*kurus*" in TT does not describe a comparison as

in ST. Therefore, the idiom in ST is translated into TT by using the strategy of similar meaning but dissimilar form.

Translation by Paraphrase

Example:

ST: They are *as sharp as needle*, too. (Page 47)

TT: Mereka juga *sangat cerdas*. (Page 49)

The data above shows that the type of idiomatic expression in ST belongs to similes. Based on the data above, the idiom “*as sharp as needle*” in ST was translated into “*sangat cerdas*” in TT has different stylistic preference but the meaning is still equivalent, because according to *English Idiom Dictionary Online*, the idiom “*as sharp as needle*” which means *intelligent and quick-thinking* and according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI)*, the word “*cerdas*” means *tajam pikiran*. Thus, in order to be more understanding, translator paraphrased the idiom in ST because there is no connection among the words *sharp and needle* and *intelligent*. Therefore, the translator paraphrased the idiom and the meaning is still equivalent.

3.2. Binomials

Binomials is a type of idiom in which two words are joined by a conjunction (linking word), usually *and*. The order of the two words is fixed. For example: managing climate change is not *black and white* issue (separate and clear). The word can be synonyms (neat and tidy), opposites (hit and miss), the same word (neck and neck), rhyming (wear and tear), alliterative (black and blue) and joined by words other than *and* (bumper to bumper).

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

Example:

ST: The right track! Why, sir, we have the man under *lock and key*. (Page 48)

TT: Jalur yang benar! Bukan hanya itu! Kami sudah *menangkap dan menahan* pelakunya! (Page 49)

The type of idiomatic expression in ST is categorized into binomials. Based on the data above, the idiom “*lock and key*” in ST was translated into “*menangkap dan menahan*” in TT has similar meaning and form because according to *Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary*, the idiom “*lock and key*” which means *locked up safely somewhere; in prison* and according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI)*, the word

“menangkap” means *mendapati (orang berbuat jahat, kesalahan, rahasia dan sebagainya)* and “menahan” which means *mengurung (memenjarakan) untuk sementara*. Therefore, both in ST and TT have similar meaning of having someone locked out in prison and have similar form of having a conjunction “and” in order to join two words.

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

Example:

ST: *Arm-in-arm*. (Page 33)

TT: Mungkin malah *bergandengan tangan*. (Page 37)

The type of idiomatic expression in ST is categorized into binomials. Thus, the idiom “*arm-in-arm*” in ST was translated into “*bergandengan tangan*” in TT has similar meaning but dissimilar form, because according to *English Idiom Dictionary Online*, the idiom in ST means *of two people, having linked arms, typically at the elbows, as a romantic gesture or one of friendship* and according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI)*, the word “*bergandengan*” means *berpegangan (tangan)* which both in ST and TT has similar meaning of having a linked arm as a one of friendship but the form is dissimilar, because the phrase “*berganden gantangan*” in TT does not describe any conjunction (linking word) as in ST. Therefore, the idiom in ST was translated into TT by using the strategy of similar meaning but dissimilar form.

3.3. Proverbs

Proverbs is short sentences which refer to something most people experienced and which give advice or warnings. Like idioms, their form is fixed and it is not always possible to guess the meaning from looking at the individual words in the proverb.

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

Example:

ST: Having done thus easier in his mind, and returned home *with a lighter heart*. (Page 85)

TT: Setelah melakukan hal itu Ferrier merasa bebannya berkurang, dan ia pulang *dengan hati yang lebih gembira*. (Page 84)

Based on the data above, the type of idiomatic expression in ST is classified into proverbs. Based on the data above, the idiom “*with a lighter heart*” in ST was translated into “*dengan hati yang lebih gembira*” in TT has similar meaning and form, because according to *English Idiom Dictionary Online*, the idiom “*with a lighter heart*” which means *with a feeling of happiness or relief* and according to *Kamus Besar*

Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI), the word “*gembira*” means *suka; bahagia; bangga; senang*. Therefore, both in ST and TT have similar meaning of feeling a happiness after doing something in big pressure and have similar form of having comparative degree “*lighter*” in ST and “*lebih gembira*” in TT.

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

Example:

ST: its *heads I win, and tails you lose*. (Page 46)

TT: Bagaimana pun akhirnya nanti, kedua detektif itu akan *selalu menang*. (Page 48)

The data above shows that the type of idiomatic expression in ST is categorized into proverbs. The idiom “*heads I win, and tails you lose*” in ST was translated into “*selalu menang*” in TT has similar meaning but dissimilar form, because according to *English Idiom Dictionary Online*, the idiom in ST means *no matter what the outcome is, I still win or benefit* and according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (KBBI), the word “*selalu*” means *tidak pernah tidak* and “*menang*” means *dapat mengalahkan* which both in ST and TT has similar meaning of someone always win whatever the outcome is, but the form is dissimilar, because in ST is a sentence, meanwhile in TT is a phrase. Therefore, the idiom in ST was translated into TT by using the strategy of similar meaning but dissimilar form.

Translation by Paraphrase

Example:

ST: I shall work it out *on my own hook*. (Page 22)

TT: Aku akan menyelidikinya *dengan caraku sendiri*. (Page 28)

The type of idiomatic expression in ST belongs to proverbs. Based on the data above, the idiom “*on my own hook*” in ST was translated into “*dengan caraku sendiri*” in TT has different stylistic preference but the meaning is still equivalent, because according to *English Idiom Dictionary Online*, the idiom “*on my own hook*” which means *without requiring or having been given instruction, prompting, or guidance from others; by one’s own effort or energy* and according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (KBBI), the word “*cara*” means *melakukan (berbuat dan sebagainya) sesuatu* meanwhile the word “*sendiri*” means *tidak dibantu (dipengaruhi) orang lain*. Thus, in order to be more understanding, translator paraphrased the idiom in ST. Because there is no connection of stylistic preference between the phrases *on my own hook* and *dengan caraku sendiri*. Therefore, the translator paraphrased the idiom and the meaning is still equivalent.

3.4. Euphemisms

Euphemisms is type of idiom used to avoid saying words which may offend or be considered unpleasant. They are useful to learn, as they will help you communicate using language which is appropriate for the situation you are in. For example: I saw the car heading straight for me and I thought *my number was up* (I was about to die).

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

Example:

ST: Let me see, what are *my other shortcomings*? (Page 9)

TT: Hmm... apa *keburukanku yang lain*? (Page 16)

Based on the data above, the type of idiomatic expression in ST is categorized into euphemisms. Based on the data above, the idiom "*my other shortcomings*" in ST was translated into "*keburukanku yang lain*" in TT has similar meaning and form because according to *Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary*, the idiom "*my other shortcoming*" which means *a fault in somebody's character, a plan, a system, etc* and according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI)*, the word "*keburukan*" means *keadaan (sifat dan sebagainya) yang buruk; kejelekan*. Therefore, both in ST and TT have similar meaning of someone that have something bad in themselves and have similar form of having possessive adjective "*my other shortcomings*" in ST and "*keburukanku yang lain*" in TT.

3.5. Clichés and Fixed Statement

A cliché is a comment that is often used in certain common, everyday situations. It is a comment that is most people are familiar with and it is therefore not original. Clichés and fixed statement are often used in everyday conversation and they are also frequently played with in advertising, slogans and newspaper headline. For example: *it's not over until the fat lady sing* (you cannot be sure what will happen until the very end of something).

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

Example:

ST: *By Jove!* (Page 5)

TT: *Kebetulan sekali!* (Page 13)

Clichés and fixed statement are often used in everyday conversation. Thus, the type of idiomatic expression in ST is categorized into clichés and fixed statement. Thus,

based on the data above, the idiom “*by jove!*” in ST was translated into “*kebetulan sekali*” in TT has similar meaning and form because according to *Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary*, the idiom “*by jove!*” which means *used to express surprise or to emphasize a statement* and according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI)*, the word “*kebetulan*” means *keadaan yang terjadi secara tidak terduga*. Therefore, both in ST and TT have similar meaning of expression that used to say something in state of surprise and have similar form of having a phrase “*by jove*” in ST and “*kebetulansekali*” in TT.

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

Example:

ST: I had neither *kith nor kin* in England. (Page 4)

TT: Aku tidak memiliki *kerabat* di Inggris. (Page 12)

Based on the data above, the type of idiomatic expression in ST belongs to clichés and fixed statement. The idiom “*kith nor kin*” in ST was translated into “*kerabat*” in TT has similar meaning but dissimilar form, because according to *Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary*, the idiom “*kith nor kin*” in ST means *friends and relatives* and according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI)*, the word “*kerabat*” means *keluarga; sanak saudara* which both in ST and TT has similar meaning of someone that close or family and relative, but the form is dissimilar, because in ST is a phrase meanwhile in TT is a word. Therefore, the idiom in ST was translated into TT by using the strategy of similar meaning but dissimilar form.

Translation by Paraphrase

Example:

ST: One of the articles had a pencil mark at the heading, and I naturally began to *run my eye* through it. (Page 15)

TT: Salah satu artikel dalam majalah tersebut judulnya ditandai dengan pensil, maka wajarlah kalau aku pun *membacanya*. (Page 22)

Clichés and fixed statement is categorized as the type of idiomatic expression in ST. Thus, the idiom “*run my eye*” in ST was translated into “*membacanya*” in TT has different stylistic preference but the meaning is still equivalent because according to *English Idiom Dictionary Online*, the idiom “*run my eye*” which means *to examine or review something quickly or perfunctorily* and according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI)*, the word “*membaca*” means *melihat serta memahami isi dari apa yang tertulis (dengan melisankan atau hanya dalam hati)*. Thus, in order to be more understanding, translator paraphrased the idiom in ST because there is no connection of

stylistic preference between the phrases *run my eye* and the word *membaca*. Therefore, the translator paraphrased the idiom and the meaning is still equivalent.

3.6. Other Language

As you probably know, English include many words from other languages. The idiomatic expressions in this unit all come from Latin or French. For example: the conservatives favored maintaining the *status quo*, while the liberals hoped for change (the present situation).

Translation by Paraphrase

Example:

ST: I have left everything in *status quo* until I hear from you. (Page 22)

TT: Aku sudah memerintahkan agar *TKP tidak disentuh* sebelum kami mendapat-kabar darimu. (Page 27)

Based on the data above, the type of idiomatic expression in ST is classified into other language. Based on the data above, the idiom "*status quo*" in ST was translated into "*TKP tidak disentuh*" in TT has different stylistic preference but the meaning is still equivalent, because according to *English Idiom Dictionary Online*, the idiom "*status quo*" which means *the present situation* and according to the context of the sentence in TT, the phrase "*TKP tidak disentuh*" can be assumed that *the crime scene is not allowed to be in touch or let it is in the present situation*. Thus, in order to be more understanding, translator paraphrased the idiom in ST, because there is no connection of stylistic preference between the phrases *status quo* and *TKP tidak disentuh*. Therefore, the translator paraphrased the idiom and the meaning is still equivalent.

4. CONCLUSION

After analysing the data, it is found that there are six types of idiomatic expression in the ST which include similes, binomials, proverbs, euphemisms, clichés and fixed statement and other language. The result of the analysis shows that from 53 data which have been analysed, there are similes with the occurrence of 7 data, binomials with the occurrence of 2 data, proverbs with the occurrence of 6 data, euphemisms with the occurrence of 2 data, clichés and fixed statement with the occurrence of 35 data and other language with the occurrence of 1 data. It shows that clichés and fixed statement are the most

used idiom categories in the novel because they are easier to express rather than the other types of idioms. There are three strategies applied in the translation. They are an idiom of similar meaning and form, an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form and translation by paraphrase. The result shows that there are 9 idioms use the similar meaning and form, 19 idioms use similar meaning but dissimilar form and 25 idioms use the strategy of translation by paraphrase. The result shows that the translator mostly uses the strategy of translation by paraphrase because it is more understood for the readers.

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