

Analysis Of Strategies Used To Translate Idiomatic Sentences From Indonesian To English Found In Folklore's Book Of Malin Kundang

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Abstract

This descriptive qualitative study mainly describes the translation idiomatic sentence found in Folklore's book of Malin Kundang. However, the process of translating is not as simple as switching the meaning of word for word based on the literal context. Idioms are one of the most problematical components of language. Idioms cannot be easily to translate because their meaning is unpredictable. This study is aimed (1) finding out the idiom expressions in Folklore's book of Malin Kundang, (2) finding out the meaning of the idiom expressions in Folklore's book of Malin Kundang, and (3) the kinds of strategies which are used in translating the idiomatic expression in Folklore's book of Malin Kundang. The data were collected by reading the Folklore's book of Malin Kundang in Indonesian version and listing all the idioms found in the source text and their translation in the target text, displaying each of them into tables.

Kata Kunci: *Idomatic expression, translation strategies, Folklore's book of Malin Kundang*

Abstrak

Penelitian kualitatif deskriptif ini terutama mendeskripsikan terjemahan kalimat idiomatis yang terdapat dalam buku Cerita Rakyat Malin Kundang. Namun, proses penerjemahan tidak sesederhana mengganti arti kata demi kata berdasarkan konteks literal. Idiom adalah salah satu komponen bahasa yang paling complex. Idiom tidak dapat dengan mudah diterjemahkan karena artinya tidak dapat diprediksi. Penelitian ini bertujuan (1) menemukan ungkapan-ungkapan idiom dalam buku Cerita Rakyat Malin Kundang, (2) menemukan makna ungkapan-ungkapan idiom dalam buku Cerita Rakyat Malin Kundang, dan (3) jenis strategi yang digunakan dalam menerjemahkan ungkapan idiomatis dalam buku Cerita Rakyat Malin Kundang. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan membaca buku Cerita Rakyat Malin Kundang versi bahasa Indonesia dan mencantumkan semua idiom yang terdapat dalam teks sumber dan terjemahannya dalam teks sasaran, menampilkannya masing-masing ke dalam tabel.

Keywords: *Ungkapan Idomatik, Strategi Penerjemahan, Buku Cerita Rakyat Malin Kundan*

INTRODUCTION

Translation is a written form of transforming source language to target language, while interpretation is a process of transferring spoken languages. (Musyoka & Karanja, 2014) said that an interpreter is not only transferring the meaning of a text but also interpret the meaning to meet the

context of other languages. In order to reach the equivalent meaning, there are two certain aspects that need to be considered, linguistics aspects and culture. An inconsiderable use of those two aspects might cause mistranslation of source texts language components, such as grammar, semantic, and lexical, as well as culture, might interfere with the result of translation. Translation is the process of converting written or spoken content from one language (the source language) into another language (the target language) while preserving its meaning, tone, and intent as closely as possible. Translators carefully analyse the source text, understand its context and cultural nuances, and then render an equivalent expression in the target language. The primary goal of translation is effective communication between speakers of different languages. It allows people from diverse linguistic backgrounds to access information, literature, and ideas from around the world. Translation plays a crucial role in various fields, including literature, business, diplomacy, technology, medicine, and international relations. There are different translation techniques, such as literal translation (word-for-word), idiomatic translation (preserving meaning while adapting to the target language's idiomatic expressions), and free translation (conveying the general idea without sticking to the exact wording). The choice of technique depends on the context, purpose, and target audience of the translation. Professional translators often possess linguistic expertise, cultural knowledge, and subject matter proficiency to produce accurate and culturally appropriate translations. With the advancement of technology, machine translation has also become increasingly prevalent, but it may lack the nuance and context awareness that human translators can provide. The data obtained were analysed by comparing the idiomatic expression on both languages, English and Indonesian. The result showed that there are five translation strategies used to translate idiomatic expressions, namely: (1) Using idiom of similar meaning and form, (2) using idiom of similar meaning but Different Form, (3) paraphrase, (4) omission, and (5) literal translation. This study is interested in analysing the strategy of idiom translation because even though research on translation has been widely but the one which focuses on translating idioms is still limited, consequently the researcher is challenged to know more about idiom translation and analyse the strategies used when translating it. The data are collected from Folklore's book of Malin Kundang.

IDIOM

Idiom is a phrase which something different from the meanings of the separate words from which it formed. Furthermore, Baker (2000: 67) defines idiom as frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components. It can have a literal meaning in one situation and a different idiomatic meaning in another situation.

An idiom is a fixed expression or phrase that has a figurative meaning different from the literal meaning of its individual words. Idioms are unique to each language and culture and are often used to convey a specific idea or message more effectively. They are considered a form of figurative language and play an essential role in adding colour, depth, and cultural significance to communication.

Idioms can be found in everyday language, literature, and various forms of communication. They are commonly used in spoken language and can add humour, emphasis, or a touch of local flavour to conversations. For example, the English idiom "**break a leg**" is often used to wish someone good luck, especially in a performance or before a presentation. While the literal interpretation of "breaking a leg" would be negative, the idiom's intended meaning is positive and encouraging. Understanding idioms can be challenging for language learners and non-native speakers because the

meanings are not always apparent from the individual words. As idioms are deeply rooted in the culture and history of a language, they require context and familiarity to interpret correctly. Idioms can be influenced by historical events, geography, folklore, and social customs, making them an interesting aspect of language study and a reflection of a community's values and beliefs.

THE DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATING IDIOMS

1. Cultural Differences:

Example: The English idiom "raining cats and dogs" (meaning heavy rain) might not have a direct equivalent in some other languages, as the cultural reference to cats and dogs falling from the sky is specific to English-speaking cultures.

2. Figurative Nature:

Example: Bite the bullet: To bite the bullet means to face a difficult or unpleasant situation with courage. Example: "I know surgery is scary, but you have to bite the bullet and do it." Translating this figurative meaning can be challenging without losing its essence.

3. Language-Specific Nuances:

Example: Butter someone up: To "butter someone up" means to flatter or compliment them to gain favor. The origin is often traced back to the Middle Ages, where people believed that rubbing butter on a cat's paws would encourage it to lick the person's hand gently. This whimsical reference may not be directly transferable to other cultures. Regional Variations:

Example: The Spanish idiom "estar en las nubes" (literally "to be in the clouds") means to be absent-minded. This idiom might have variations or different expressions in different Spanish-speaking countries.

4. Multiple Meanings:

Example: Let the cat out of the bag: Meaning 1: To reveal a secret or confidential information accidentally. Example: "She let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party." Meaning 2: It can also be used in a broader sense to mean disclosing any hidden or undisclosed information. Example: "The leaked documents let the cat out of the bag about the company's plans."

5. Lack of Equivalents:

Example: Italian: "Non avere peli sulla lingua"

Literal Translation: "Not to have hairs on one's tongue."

Meaning: This idiom means to be frank, straightforward, and not afraid to speak one's mind.

6. Audience Understanding:

Example: English Idiom: "Break a leg"

Meaning: This idiom is commonly used to wish someone good luck, especially before a performance or important event.

Audience Understanding: English-Speaking Audience: In English-speaking cultures, the idiom "break a leg" is widely known, and the audience would understand its intended meaning of wishing good luck.

Non - English speaking Audience: If the same idiom were directly translated and used in front of a non-English speaking audience, they might not comprehend the figurative meaning and could interpret it literally, leading to confusion or misunderstanding.

THE STRATEGIES IN TRANSLATING IDIOMS

Translating idioms can be challenging, but here are some strategies that Baker (2011:75-84) can help you effectively translate them:

1. Using an idiom of similar meaning and form,

This strategy involves using an idiom in a way that the TL idiom conveys exactly the same meaning by the use of the same equivalent lexical items to the SL ones. The point to be mentioned here is that the more two cultures are identical to each other the more cases of such equivalents are possible.

Example: English Idiom: "Piece of cake."

Meaning: Something that is very easy or straightforward.

Equivalent Idiom (Indonesian): "Gampang seperti membalik telapak tangan."

Literal Translation: "Easy as turning the palm of the hand."

Meaning: This Indonesian idiom has a similar meaning and form to the English idiom, describing something as extremely easy.

2. Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

This strategy includes using an idiom in the target language that is similar in meaning to the SL idiom, but differs in form (Baker, 2011)

Example : English Idiom: "To kill two birds with one stone."

Meaning: To accomplish two tasks with a single action.

Equivalent Idiom (Indonesian): "Sekali ayam dua telur."

Literal Translation: "One chicken, two eggs."

Meaning: This Indonesian idiom shares a similar meaning to the English idiom, emphasizing efficiency in accomplishing multiple tasks at once.

3. Translating an Idiom by paraphrasing

According to Baker (2011), the strategy of translating idioms by paraphrasing is the process of restating the meaning of idioms by changing the form of the SL idioms into non idiomatic expressions in the TL text.

Example: SL : The movie was entertaining and kept me on the edge of my seat.

TL : Film tersebut menghibur dan membuat saya tegang.

The sentence conveys that the film was enjoyable and thrilling, capturing the viewer's attention and keeping them in suspense. The phrase "tegang" refers to a feeling of tension, suspense, or being on the edge, suggesting that the movie was so engaging that it held the viewer's interest throughout.

4. Translation by omission

According to Baker (2011, as cited in Lafta, 2015, p.97), there are three reasons for the translator to use the omission strategy in translating idiomatic expressions:

- 1). if no apparent equivalent exists in the TL text,
- 2). if the idiom is hard to paraphrase, and
- 3) the idiom is omitted for style-related reason

English Source Text: "Please bring a pen, a notebook, and a calculator to the exam."

Translation by Omission (Indonesian): "Harap bawa pena, buku catatan, dan kalkulator ke ujian."

Omitted "Please " as it is commonly implied in Indonesian.

5. Literal Translation

Literal translation, also known as word-for-word translation, is a translation approach where the translator renders the text from the source language directly into the target language, adhering strictly to the order and structure of the original words. This method does not consider the nuances, idiomatic expressions, or cultural differences between the two languages. While it can be useful in some cases, literal translations may lead to awkward or unnatural-sounding results.

Example: English Source Text: "I love you."

Literal Translation (Indonesian): "Saya cinta kamu."

(Note: The literal translation maintains the word order and structure, but a more common and natural way to express "I love you" in Indonesian is "Aku cinta kamu.")

METHODS RESEARCH

This research used the qualitative method that means in this research the researcher uses the textual data which found in Folklore's book of Malin Kundang. So here the researcher tries to analyze written material in a way which will produce reliable evidence about translation strategy of idioms by taking the data in the form of translation of idioms with various types which are identified entirely as systematically and presented in the form of word and furthermore, the scripts were in Indonesian version, which were taken from Folklore's book.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, the researcher analyzed the data based on the original text (Folklore's book of Malin Kundang), called SL (source language) and the translated text (Folklore's book of Malin Kundang was written in Indonesian version), called TL (target language). The findings are shown below:

Table 1: The Idioms Expression Translation of *Folklore's book of Malin Kundang*

No	Strategy	Amount
1	Using an idiom of similar meaning and form	4
2	Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form	4
3	Translation by paraphrase	-
4	Translation By Omission	33

Based on the findings in table 1, the idioms expression translations are divided into several strategies as follows:

No	Idiom Sentences In Indonesia	In English	Strategy
1	Merubah mata pencaharian	switching one's occupation	Similar meaning and form
2	Jaga Malin baik baik	Take care of Malin	Omission
3	Sang suami berangkat dengan hati lapang	The husband leaves with a free heart	Paraphrasing
4	Mande rubiyah membanting tulang dengan berjualan kue	Mande Rubiyah works hard by selling cakes	Paraphrasing
5	Nyawa Malin hampir melayang	Malin's life was nearly lost."	Paraphrasing
6	Hasilnya lumayan juga	the result is quite good	Paraphrasing
7	Cukup untuk dimakan dia anaknya	It is enough for	Omission

		him/her, the child."	
8	Hasil didikan ayahnya masih membekas dan mengakar dalam dirinya	The results of his father's upbringing still linger and deeply rooted within him	Paraphrasing
9	Apakah karena engkau sudah akir baliq?	Is it because you have reached the age of maturity?"	Paraphrasing
10	Aku akan merantau	I will go abroad (to work or live)."	Paraphrasing
11	Mengadu Nasib untuk mencari rejeki	Seeking one's fortune through hard work."	Paraphrasing
12	Sungguh mulia cita citamu	our aspirations are truly noble	Paraphrasing
13	Sewaktu waktu kau boleh pergi		
14	Sang ibu melepasnya dengan cucuran air mata dan iringan doa	The mother bid farewell to him/her with tears and accompanied by prayers."	Paraphrasing
15	Malin jatuh cinta pada seorang gadis	Malin fell in love with a girl."	Similar meaning and form
16	Tubuhnya semakin tua dimakan usia	Her body is getting older	Omission
17	Pertemuanlah ia denganku sebelum ajal menjemput	Bring him/her to meet me before death takes (him/her)	Paraphrasing
18	Kapal itu mulai merapat	The ship is beginning to approach/dock	Paraphrasing
19	Bersusah payah mande rubiah mendekati kapal	Mande Rubiah approached the ship with great effort.	Paraphrasing
20	Malin terpana melihat Wanita tua renta yang berpakaian compang camping itu	Malin was amazed to see the old, wearing ragged clothes	Paraphrasing
21	Melihat Wanita itu beringsut hendak memeluk kakinya	The woman was crawling to hug his/her feet	Paraphrasing
22	Setegah itukah hatimu?	'Is that all you have in your heart?'"	Paraphrasing
23	Mande rubiah terhenyak	Mande Rubiah was startled	Paraphrasing
24	Hatinya benar benar hancur	His/her heart is truly broken	Paraphrasing

25	Sepasang matanya berkilat kilat	Very Angry	Similar meaning and form
26	Dan kubesarkan dengan cucuran air susu	And I raised him/her with the nourishment of my breast milk	paraphrasing
27	Anak durhaka ini	an ungrateful child	Paraphrasing
28	Anak yang telah mencaci maki ibunya sendiri	a child who has cursed his/her own mother	Paraphrasing
29	Terbersit rasa sesal didalam hatinya	The feeling of regret crosses his/her heart	Paraphrasing
30	Nasi Telah menjadi bubur	cry over spilt milk (to feel sorry or sad about something that has already happened; used to emphasize that this is not helpful)	Similar meaning and form
31	Terdengar suara halilintar membelah langit	The sound of thunder roared through the sky	Paraphrasing
32	Gelombang besar mengamuk tiada henti	Huge waves rampage relentlessly.	Paraphrasing
33	Celakalah kita kali ini	we are in trouble this time	Paraphrasing
34	Gemuruh ombak dan petir sahut sahutan	The thunder of the waves and lightning echoing in response	Paraphrasing
35	Menerjang lambung kapal malin kundang	Crashing against the hull of Malin Kundang's ship	Paraphrasing
36	Emak, ampuni aku, cabut kutukanmu		
37	Suara gemuruh ombak menelan suara anak manusia	The thundering sound of waves engulfing the sound of human voices	Omission
38	Terdengar lolongan suara manusia	The sound of human voices wailing can be heard	Paraphrasing
39	Sungguh memilukan hati yang mendengarnya	Truly heartbreaking for those who hear it	Paraphrasing
40	Air susu dibalas dengan air tuba	To cherish a viper in one's bosom	Similar meaning and form

		(kindness is replaced by wickedness)	
41	Konon itulah suara malin kundang	Supposedly, that is the voice of Malin Kundang	Paraphrasing

STRATEGIES USED TRANSLATE IDIOMATIC SENTENCES FROM INDONESIAN TO ENGLISH FOUND IN FOLKLORE'S BOOK OF MALIN KUNDANG

According to the information that the researcher had already looked into, there were three methods of translation that the translator utilized while translating Indonesian legends: comparable meaning and form, paraphrase, and omission. The following points would completely demonstrate each tactic

1. Translation using the same form and similar meaning

Reviewing the definition of the same meaning and similar form technique that was used to translate the idiomatic expressions reveals that its main goal was to translate the ST's idiomatic statements into the same construction of idiomatic expressions in TT. Additionally, this study found that only four idiomatic expressions could be translated using this method

2. Translation using Paraphrase

When there is no equivalent in the target language or it seems inappropriate to employ idiomatic language in the target text due to stylistic differences between the source and target languages, paraphrasing is utilized when translating idioms. The researcher discovered 33 out of 41 instances of translation by paraphrase in Indonesian Folklore's book of Malin Kundang after analyzing the idiomatic language.

3. Translation using Omission

When an idiom doesn't have a close translation in the target language, its meaning cannot be simply explained, or for stylistic reasons, omission is utilized. The researcher discovered four idiomatic idioms translated using the omission technique after analyzing the data. The researcher discovered 4 out of 41 cases within the entire body of folklore's book of Malin Kundang. See the table below for the whole data.

DISCUSSION

The researcher was about to explain some ideas linked to the findings after analyzing the data concerning the idiomatic language discovered in Indonesian folklore's book of Malin Kundang. The researcher discovered total of 41 idiomatic idioms, all of whose literal meanings diverged significantly from their colloquial ones. This was due to the fact that idiomatic statements frequently have figurative connotations, making it necessary for the translator to be able to determine their equivalent meanings

In order to achieve the goal of discovering the equivalent meanings of idioms, translators must urgently prepare technical translations of these idioms. Based on the theory proposed by Baker, (2011), there are five strategies used to translate idioms. However, this study revealed that translators used only three techniques to translate forty-one idioms; they interpret, similar to mean similar form and omission.

The research found that among the other five strategies, the most common in idiom translation was interpretive translation. It has been further investigated that the option of translating by paraphrasing is mainly chosen because it is more flexible than any other strategy and the translator may not be able to find an appropriate idiom in the target language. Furthermore, it is also consistent

with Baker's view that interpretive translation is the most common idiomatic translation (2011)

In addition, there are idiom translation strategies proposed by Baker and applied in the translation of idioms from Bahasa Indonesia to English. However, only three of the five strategies are found in Bahasa Indonesia's translation of the five Indonesian legends into English. At the same time, Paraphrasing translation is the most adopted strategy (33 cases out of 41 cases). Then the strategy of translating by omission was the second most common strategy (four cases out of forty-one). In addition, Translation using the same form and similar meaning translation strategies are uncommon (four cases out of forty-one).

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