

English to Indonesian translation of the Idiomatic Expressions Used in Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister Novel by Gregory Maguire

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Abstract

This research focused on analyzing the type of idiomatic expressions found in the novel "Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister" and the translation strategies used to translate the idiomatic expressions. This research aims to identify the types of idiomatic expressions and translation strategies used to translate the idioms found in the novel. This research used a descriptive-qualitative method with expert opinions. The researcher uses the document analysis method to collect and analyze the data. The researcher found 200 idiomatic expressions in the novel. To analyze the data, the researcher uses Fernando's theory of idioms classifications and Baker's theory of translation strategies. The result shows three idiomatic expressions: 76 pure idioms, 80 semi-idioms, and 44 literal idioms. Furthermore, three strategies are used in translating the idiomatic words: 44 using an idiom of similar meaning and forms, 19 using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, and 137 paraphrasing.

Keywords: Idiomatic words, translation

1. INTRODUCTION

Many information comes from all around the world. The differences of languages and cultures make it difficult to understand new information, which is why translation is important. Translation according to Newmark (1998) is an activity providing the interpretation of a text to another language in the way the author proposed the text. Meanwhile, Larson (1984) stated that translating is delivering the meaning of a text from the original language into target language by paying attention to the semantic structures from the original text into target language without changing the meaning, as the meaning is crucial aspects in translation process.

One of the problems that comes with translating process is idioms. Idiom, defined by Cooper (1986), is an expression whose meaning cannot always be easily understood from the regular meaning of its constituent elements. The idiom's meaning can be different from the meaning of each word that forms the idiom because if the words stay as the individual meaning, the idiom can be illogical.

This study wants to analyze the types of idioms and the translation strategy used to translate idiomatic expressions. The researcher used a novel written by Gregory Maguire titled "Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister" and its translation in Indonesian

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with the same title "Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister" translated by Khairi Rumantati. The reason why the researcher decided to analyze this novel is because there are a lot of idiomatic words found in the novel. The researcher conducts the research entitled English to Indonesian Translation of The Idiomatic Expressions Used in Confessions of An Ugly Stepsister Novel by Gregory Maguire.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Translation is the general term that refers to the transfer of thoughts and ideas from one language (source) to another (target), regardless of whether the languages are in written or oral form, regardless of whether the languages have established orthographies or do not have such standardization; and regardless of whether one or both of the languages is based on signs, such as with sign languages of the deaf." When we translate, we need a strategy. Mollanazar, (2004) defines translation strategy as "translator's potentially conscious plans for solving concrete translation problems in the framework of a concrete translation task, and he believes that there are at least three global strategies that are utilized by translators. These strategies are as follows: (i) translating without interruption for as long as possible; (ii) correcting surface errors immediately; and (iii) leaving the monitoring for qualitative or stylistic errors in the text to the revision stage.

A translation strategy is a conscious procedure for solving a problem in translating a text or any segment. In addition, consciousness is essential when differentiating the tactics utilized by those learning a language or translating it. According to), "the element of consciousness distinguishes strategies from these processes that are not strategic. This is significant in light of the previous statement.

According to Azabdaftari, (1997), a strategy is a series of competencies, a set of steps or processes that favour acquiring, storing, and utilizing information. He thinks strategies are "heuristic and flexible in nature, and their adoption implies a decision influenced by amendments in the translator's objectives.

3. METHODS

This research is descriptive-qualitative. the subjects of this research are the idiomatic words found in the novel "Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister" and its translation in Indonesian. The idioms found in the novel are identified using the document analysis method. The idiomatic words that have been listed and coded both from the English version and the Indonesian version are then analyzed using the theory of idioms proposed by Fernando and the translation strategy proposed by Baker. The researcher uses expert opinion to test the validity of the data.

4. RESULTS

After analyzing the data, the finding of the study is divided into two subchapters: (1) the types of idiomatic words, and (2) the strategy used in translating idiomatic words. The findings are follows:

The Types of Idiomatic Words

Based on the data, it was found that there are three idiomatic types found in the novel. They are pure idiom, semi-idiom, and literal idiom. Pure idiom is an expression which the meaning cannot be inferred by the individual meaning of each word that forms the idioms. To understand the idiom, the reader needs to understand the context of the idiom. There are 76 pure idioms found in the novel. Here is a sample of pure idiom:

ST: If magic was present, It moved under the world's skin.

TT: Kalaupun ada sihir, ia bergerak di balik lapisan dunia.

The word "skin" means a layer that covers the outside of something. This literal meaning of each word does not entirely make any sense because it is not physically move under the world's skin. This idiom means that it happened silently without being noticed by anyone that it's happening. According to Fernando's theory, this is pure idiom because the literal meaning of part of the expression has little to do with the actual sense of idiom.

Semi-idiom is an idiom with at least one literal meaning and one non-literal meaning. The meaning can be understood from one part of the idiom. The researcher found 80 semi-idioms found in the novel. Here is a sample of semi-idiom:

ST: Even turning a blind eye to the secret chapels, the market for sacred art has disappeared.

TT: bahkan menutup mata terhadap kapel-kapel rahasia, pasar seni suci sudah hilang.

"Turn" means to move or make something move around a central point. "Turning a blind eye" mean acting ignorant or doesn't want to get involved in that matter. It's easy to understand this because the word eye indicates the real meaning of the idiom, so it is categorized as semi-idiom.

Literal idioms are less complex semantically and easier to be understood. Their meaning can be understood from the meanings of their constituent parts. There are 44 literal idioms found in the novel. Here is a sample of a literal idiom:

ST: We wander aside into the daylight.

TT: kami mengeluyur keluar, menyongsong siang hari.

“Into the daylight” means going outside, going out of the building. It is categorized as a literal idiom because it is easy to understand. After all, the meaning can be pulled from just its constituent words.

Strategy Used in Translating Idiomatic Words

Based on the data, there are 3 strategies used by the translator to translate the idiomatic words found in the novel, they are translation using idiom of similar meaning and form, using idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, and paraphrase. The first strategy uses an idiom in the target language that has the same meaning as the idiom in the source language and consists of equivalent lexical items. In the novel, there are 44 idiomatic expressions translated using this strategy.

ST: “Iris, Don’t show such hunger in your eyes”

TT: “Iris, Jangan pasang mata kelaparan begitu”

Iris, Ruth, and her mother were tired and exhausted from the long trip, and they did not have any money or food with them. Iris, who cannot hold her hunger, cannot resist the temptation when they arrive at the market and ask her mother to get some leftover food from people. Margarethe, the mother, scolds her under her breath to control herself because she does not want to be seen begging the first time they arrive there. The translator translated the idiom literally from the source language. This translation is acceptable because the translator uses the idiom in the target language that conveys the same meaning and form as the source language.

The second strategy is to find an idiom of fixed expression in the target language that has a meaning similar to the source idiom or expression but is made up of different lexical items. In the data, there are 19 idiomatic expressions translated using this strategy.

ST: “Just mend your ways and watch your tongue”

TT: “Jalan saja terus dan jaga bicaramu”

Iris told her mother that Ruth was tired and they needed to rest, but Margarethe brushed it off and told her to keep walking and stop talking about unnecessary things. “Watch your tongue” means being careful with what we want to say. In Indonesia, “Jaga bicaramu” has the same meaning as the idiom. The translator uses an idiom of similar meaning but a different form of lexical item in translating the idiom from the target language. It is acceptable because it still conveys the meaning of the source text very well and maintains the dynamic of the text.

The third strategy used is paraphrasing. In this type of strategy, the translator conveys the idiom's meaning using a single word or phrase that approximates the idiom's meaning but is not itself an idiom. There are 137 data translated using this strategy.

ST: “And how do you busy yourself while your sisters work their fingers to the bone?”

TT: “Dan kau sibuk apa sementara para saudarimu bekerja keras?”

The prince asks Iris why her sister does not come to the party, and she answers that she must stay in the house to care for their father. The translator translated “work their fingers to the bone” as “bekerja keras” because there is no similar phrase in Indonesia, so she paraphrased it with the idiom's meaning.

5. DISCUSSION

The finding of this study supported the study done by Ardita (2017) who found that the translation strategy used to translate idiomatic words is using the same form and meaning, same form but different meaning, and paraphrase. Different from the researcher, Ardita also found omission as the strategy used to translate the idiomatic words; meanwhile the researcher did not find omission in the data.

The previous Iskandar (2016) study showed that translators mostly used paraphrases, idioms with similar meanings and forms and omitted entire idioms. This statement is similar to what the researcher found except for the omission, which the researcher did not find in the data.

This research supported the study by Winarto & Tanjung (2015), who found that paraphrasing is the most strategy the translator uses to translate idiomatic words.

Based on the research, the finding contrasts the study done by Kurniawati (2007), who classified the idioms using Hockett's theory of idiom classification, and they are substitution, proper name, abbreviation, English phrasal compound, the figure of speech, and slang.

6. CONCLUSION

Firstly, three types of idiomatic expressions are found in the novel based on Fernando's theory: pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms. The finding shows that semi-idioms are the novel's most common types of idiomatic expressions. Followed by pure idiom, the most minor idiomatic word found in the novel is a literal idiom. Semi-idioms are the most common idioms used in the novel, with 80 data, 40% of total idioms found. Then followed by pure idioms with 76 data (38%). The least is a literal idiom with 44 data (22%).

Secondly, out of four strategies proposed by Baker, three strategies are found in the novel: using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, and paraphrasing. The most common strategy the translator uses is paraphrasing, followed by using an idiom of similar meaning and form, and the least is using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. In addition, the translation is accurate, even though some expressions were not correctly translated.

The most common strategy used by the translator to translate the idiomatic expressions in the novel “Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister” with 137 data is 68,5% of the total data—later followed by using idioms with similar meaning and form with 44 data (22%) and using idioms with similar meaning but dissimilar form 19 data (9,5%).

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