

TRANSLATION STRATEGIES OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN LAURA INGGALLS WILDER'S *LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE* IN DJOKOLELONO 'S TRANSLATION OF *RUMAH KECIL DI PADANG RUMPUT*

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Abstract

The objectives of this research are (1) to describe what the translation strategies used by the translator to translate the idiomatic expressions in the novel *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder, and (2) to describe the degree of meaning equivalence in the translation of idiomatic expressions in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie*. This study used descriptive qualitative research. The data of this study are the idiomatic expressions in English and its translated version in Bahasa Indonesia. The first instrument of this study is the researcher herself and the second instrument of this study is the data sheets which are used to record and classify the data. To gain the trustworthiness of the research, this research applies triangulation. The finding of this study shows that most of the idiomatic expressions are translated by using paraphrase strategy (74 out of 141 or 52.5%). The less strategy used in translating the idiomatic expressions are translation by using an idiom of similar meaning and form strategy and translation by omission (6 out of 141 or 4.25%). In terms of the degrees of meaning equivalence, there are 110 idiomatic expressions out of 141 or 77.92% results in equivalent meaning and there are 31 data out of 141 or 21.95% results in non-equivalent meaning. Therefore, it can be concluded that most of the idiomatic expressions are translated in equivalent meaning.

Keywords : *idiomatic expressions, translation strategies, meaning equivalence*

INTRODUCTION

Translation is an activity of transferring meaning from the source language to the target language to make target readers easily understand. At least in translating, it needs two or more different languages. However, a translator needs to master in two or more languages in order to make a good translation. Translation is popular in this era. Modernisation and globalization era make many translated texts needed. People around the world need to

access information widely. It can be seen from a good translation can be transferring the message and meaning to the readers. There are some translations which are difficult to be understood and confusing the readers. It happens because the translator does not master both languages and cultural aspects yet. In a novel, sometimes some phrases will not produce the meaning, they are translated word by word. To know the meaning, people can use a special dictionary, such as an idioms dictionary.

This is one of the problem in translating a text or novel. Therefore, the translator should translate a text in the appropriate methods to make a good translation. The translator is also not only changing every word to another word in different language but they also are transferring the meaning to readers. *Little House on the Prairie* Novel by Laura Ingalls Wilder is one of the novels which contains many idioms. This novel is including children story. One of the characteristics in children story is the use of simple language. The message of the story is easily understood by children. Many idioms in the novel do not decrease the essence of the children stories. It makes the novel special.

In this research, the researcher confines idiomatic expressions in the novel. The researcher uses translation strategies to analyse the problems in idiomatic expressions. Hence, the researcher picks the topic up to present in-depth examinations of the controversial issues. The researcher chooses Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie* and Djokolelono's *Rumah Kecil di Padang Rumpit* as the data sources.

This research has two objectives: to describe the translation strategies used by the translator to translate the idiomatic

expressions in the novel *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder, and to describe the degrees of meaning equivalence in the translation of the idiomatic expressions in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie*.

To answer the two objectives, some theories are used. The first objective is answered by applying Baker's theory. Baker (1992: 72-77) proposes four strategies in translating idioms and fixed expressions: using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, by paraphrase, and by omission. Then, the second objective is answered by applying Bell's theory (1991: 6), stating that texts in different languages can be equivalent in different degrees (complete meaning or partly equivalent meaning), in respect of realization and ranks. Based on this view, the researcher makes a classification into equivalent and non-equivalent meanings which are then classified into fully and partly equivalent and non-equivalent.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a descriptive-qualitative method which is used to describe ways to translating the idiomatic expressions and to know the strategies used by the

translator. Since it is descriptive-qualitative, the data and the analysis are in the form of words and descriptions. In conducting this study, the writer collected, rewrote, classified, analyzed the data and made some conclusions.

The data sources are the original novel and the translated Bahasa Indonesia versions. The original novel is written in English as the source text and the title is *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder, published in New York in 1959 by HarperCollins Publisher. The translated version in Bahasa Indonesia as the target language is *Rumah Kecil di Padang Rumput* translated by Djokokelono, published in 1980 at Jakarta by PT BPK Gunung Mulia. The data of this research were the idiomatic expressions in the source text and their translation in the target text in the form of phrases, and the context of data is sentence.

The first instrument of this study is the researcher herself. According to Lincoln and Guba (in Vanderstoep and Johnston, 2009:188) the best instrument for qualitative naturalistic inquiry is the human. Moreover, qualitative research involves collecting qualitative data by way of in-depth interviews, observation, field notes, open-ended. The researcher is the key instrument

of collecting, measuring, and analyzing the data. The researcher collected the data by reading the original novel and the translated version. The researcher also analyzed the data to find the result. The second instrument of this research is a data sheet. Data sheets are used to record the idiomatic expressions. The idiomatic expressions in the original novel are written down to be analyzed together with the translated version based on the parameter of the meaning equivalence. In analyzing the data, the researcher applied the table.

In the process of collecting the data, the researcher used several procedures. First, the researcher observed the source of the data by reading the original and the translated versions of the novel carefully. Second, the researcher recorded the data from the original and the translated version of the novel and last, the researcher gathered and sorted the data out to find those that were compatible with the criteria established.

In the process of the data analysis, the researcher conducted multiple methods. First, the researcher compared the idiomatic expressions in both versions; English and Bahasa Indonesia versions. Second, the researcher analyzed and classified the collected data based on their translation

strategies. Third, the researcher made the classification of the data to make it easier to be analyzed. Last, the researcher encoded each of the data.

To achieve the trustworthiness, the researcher applied triangulation. Moleong (2014:178) states that triangulation is a technique to crosscheck data trustworthiness by using outside of the data to verify them. The data findings of this research were triangulated by two students of translation program. The result of triangulated data findings were discussed and consulted with the two supervisors.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

There are 141 idiomatic expressions found in the original novel. Those idiomatic expressions are translated by using some strategies. The classification of the strategies is based on Baker's theory of strategies in translating idioms which is divided into four strategies. They are using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission. Table 2 below shows the finding of the translation strategies used by the translator in translating the idiomatic expressions in *Little House on the Prairie* novel. the translation strategy by paraphrase

is one of the strategy which is most used by the translator in translating the idiomatic expressions with the occurrence of 74 or 52.5%. Translation by paraphrase is the strategy which is mostly used by the translator to translate the idiomatic expressions in this novel than other strategies. Translation by paraphrase is used when equivalent cannot be found in the target language. It happens because there are stylistic differences. The second strategy which is mostly used by the translator in translating the idiomatic expressions is using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form with occurrence of 55 or 39 %. There are 55 data which use similar meaning in the source language but different lexical item in the target language. The difference of lexical items are used to express more or less the same idea in the source language. There are 6 or 4.25% data which are translated by omission. These the idiomatic expressions are omitted in the target language because they have no equivalents in the target language and they cannot easily to be paraphrased. Therefore, the translator does not translate the idioms by using an idiom of similar meaning and form strategy, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form or translation by paraphrase strategy in

the target language. The purpose is to maintain the meaning.

Translation using an idiom of similar meaning and form has the same accuracy with translation by omission strategy. There are 6 or 4.25% data which are translated by using this strategy. This strategy shows that the meaning is the same as the source language and in addition it consists of equivalent lexical item.

In term of degree meaning equivalent, the translation of the idiomatic expressions in *Little House on the Prairie* novel and their translation in Bahasa Indonesia *Rumah Kecil di Padang Rumput* is mostly equivalent meaning. The result shows that the equivalence mostly falls in the equivalent meaning (110 or 77.92 %), followed by non-equivalent meaning (31 or 21.95 %). The degree of equivalence is indicated by the frequent occurrence of the complete meaning, followed by partly equivalent meaning categories (increased meaning and decreased meaning). Meanwhile, for the non-equivalent meaning categories (different meaning and no meaning), the result shows that 17.7% is different meaning and 4.25% is no meaning.

1. Translation Strategies

In the discussion from translation strategies, the researcher uses Baker's theory

in translating idiom. It consists of four strategies. The strategies are presented below.

a. Using an Idiom 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, consists of equivalent lexical items (Baker, 1992: 72). The examples are presented below.

(Datum 29)

SL : Pa told to me and Laura when he **fell in love** with Ma.

TL : *dan Pa mengenang masalalunya ketika ia mulai **jatuh cinta** pada Ma.*

The English idiomatic expression *fell in love* is translated into Bahasa Indonesia idiomatic expression *jatuh cinta*. According to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*, *jatuh cinta* means *menaruh cinta kepada*. These two idioms are completely equivalent because they have precisely the same meaning and form.

b. Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

This strategy uses different lexical items to express more or less the same idea. It is often possible to 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 (Baker, 1992: 74).
The examples are presented below.

SL: "You can't ever tell," Pa replied, "**Better be safe than sorry.**"

TL: " Kita tidak tahu apa yang akan terjadi, kata Pa, "**lebih baik berjaga-jaga dari pada kecewa nanti.**"

According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* most idioms containing *better* are at the entries for the nouns and verbs in idioms. The idiom *better be safe than sorry* is used to express an attitude of carefulness before doing something. In lexical item, it cannot be said equivalent because translation between SL and TL has different in lexical. The phrase *be safe* translated into *berjaga-jaga* and *sorry* translated *kecewa nanti*. Although it different in lexical, but it still refers in the same meaning.

c. Translation by Paraphrase

This is by far the most common way of translating idioms when an equivalent 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 language (Baker, 1992: 74). The examples are presented below.

(Datum 56)

SL : "**Stand still**, just as you are. Don't move!" she said.

TL : " **Diam** semua! Sama sekali jangan bergerak!" Perintah Ma

The English idiom *stand still* is replaced by *diam* in the target language. *Stand still* means unmoving. These two idiomatic expressions are refers to the same meaning. The word *diam* means *unmoving*. The form of the idiomatic expression in the source language is phrase and in the target language, it paraphrases into a word.

d. Translation by Omission

As with single words, an idiom may sometimes be omitted altogether in the target text. It happens because there is no equivalent in the target language, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reasons (Baker, 1992: 77). The examples are presented below.

(Datum 97)

SL : **Right away**, he and Ma began to unload the wagon

TL : Pa dan Ma sibuk mengangkut semua barang dari dalam gerobak

In this datum the translator applies the omission strategy by letting the idiom *right away* does not translated. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, the idiomatic translation *right away* means immediately; without delay. It makes the meaning lose.

2. Degree of Meaning Equivalence

According to the description in the findings, most of the translation strategies of the idiomatic expressions are translated in equivalent meaning whether complete meaning or partly equivalent meaning (increased meaning and decreased meaning). Furthermore, the occurrence of equivalent meaning categories are divided into complete meaning and partly equivalent meaning. Non-equivalent meaning which is divided into different meaning and no meaning. Moreover, partly equivalent meaning is divided into increased meaning and decreased meaning.

a. Equivalent Meaning

In equivalent meaning, there are discussion about fully equivalent meaning (complete meaning) and partly equivalent meaning. Moreover, partly equivalent meaning is divided into increased meaning and decreased meaning. The discussions are presented below.

1. Complete Meaning

Complete meaning occurs when the meanings in the source language text are completely transferred in the target language text. The examples are presented below.

(Datum 19)

SL : Wouldn't wonder if the ice **broke up** today.

TL : *Paginya Pa berkata, "Untung sekali kita menyeberang kemarin, Carolin. Es mulai **berpecahan** malam tadi.*

The example in this datum is translated using paraphrase strategy. The English idiom *broke up* is translated into *berpecahan*. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, *broke up* means *to make something separate into smaller pieces; to divide something into smaller parts*. Therefore, both expressions in the source language and its translation in the target language refer to the same meaning.

2. Partly Equivalent Meaning

The translation of the idiomatic expressions in *Little House in the Prairie* novel and its Bahasa Indonesia version *Rumah Kecil di Padang Rumput* is not only result in complete meaning but also it results in partly equivalent meaning. Partly equivalent meaning classifying into increased meaning and decreased meaning. The discussions are presented below.

a) Increased Meaning

Increased meaning occurs when there is an addition of information realized by new meaning which is not found in the source language. Below is the example.

(Datum 73)

SL : Mary got up and turned around so that Ma could unbutton her But Laura **jumped up and stood still.**

TL : *Mary berdiri dan berpaling agar Ma dapat membuka kancing gaunnya yang ada di punggung. Tetapi Laura melompat terkejut dan berdiri kaku.*

The idiomatic expression *jumped up and stood still* is translated *melompat terkejut dan berdiri kaku* in Bahasa Indonesia. This idiomatic expression means expression of curiosity. According to *Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, *jumped up* means *thinking you are more important than you really are, particularly because you have risen in social status*. Besides, based on *Idiom Free Dictionary*, it states that *jump up* means to leap upward from something. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, *stood still* means to get up onto your feet from another position. According to *Cambridge Dictionary*, *stand still* means a condition in which all movement or activity has stopped. By translating the idiomatic expression into *melompat terkejut*, the translator has added more information, *terkejut*, which is not found in the source language. This additional information has increased the meaning of the translation.

b) Decreased Meaning

Decreased meaning occurs when a part of the meaning in the source expression is omitted in the target language. It makes the meaning is decrease. The examples are as follows.

(Datum 78)

SL : " Now, Patty, keep your own end of the box," said Pa. "This is for Pet."

TL : *Kau juga, Patty, ini bukan bagianmu. Ini untuk Pet.*" Kata Pa lagi.

According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, *keep your end up* means to continue to be cheerful in the difficult situation. *Keep your own end of the box* is the expression to focus in yours. In this context, Pa said to Patty to eat his meals. The idiomatic expression *keep your own end of the box* is translated into *ini bukan bagianmu*. The meaning decreases because a part of the meaning is not transferred in target language, *ini bukan bagianmu* does not explain the meaning in the source language. To achieve a complete equivalent meaning, the idiom in the source language should be translated into *makanlah bagianmu*.

b. Non-equivalent Meaning

The translation is not equivalent when it has different meaning and no meaning. Non-equivalent meaning is classifying into different meaning and no meaning. The deep discussions are presented below.

1) Different Meaning

Different meaning occurs when the translator changes the information contained in the source language by using words

which have different meaning in the target language. The examples are presented as follows.

(Datum 48)

SL : All along the creek banks the trees **hung over** it and made it dark with shadows.

TL : *Pepohonan di tepinya **condong ke arah** air, memberi bayang-bayang gelap pada air di tepian.*

Hung over is an idiomatic expression which means something that continues from an earlier time. It is translated into *condong ke arah* which has similar meaning with gravitate toward in English. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, *hung over* means *the headache and sick feeling that you have the day after drinking too much alcohol*. This definition does not make sense based on the context. The second definition states that *hung over* is a feeling, custom, idea that remains from the past, although it is no longer practical or suitable. When it is translated literally *hung over* means *menggantung diatas*. Thus, *hung over* and *condong ke arah* have different meaning.

2) No Meaning

No meaning occurs when the translator omits to translate the words or expression in the source language text so that the target language text loses all

information contained in the source language text.

(Datum 109)

SL: Drowsily Laura heard a long wolf howl rising from far away on the prairie, but only a little shiver went up her backbone and she **fell asleep**.

TL: *Sayup-sayup Laura mendengar lolongan serigala, jauh di tengah padang rumput, tapi kini ia tak begitu ketakutan lagi.*

According to *Cambridge Dictionary*, *fall asleep* means *to start to sleep*. The idiomatic expression *fall asleep* is not realized in the target language together with the whole expression in source language. This causes the target language to lose the information about what the expression of Laura after hearing wolf howl.

CONCLUSION

There are four strategies used by the translator in translating the idiomatic expressions in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie* novel in its Bahasa Indonesia translated version *Rumah Kecil di Padang Rumput*. They are (1) using idiom of similar meaning and form (4.25%), (2) using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form (39%), (3) translation by paraphrase (52.5%), and (4) translation by omission (4.25%). In the analysis, it is found that most of the idiomatic expressions occurring

in the novel are translated by using paraphrase strategy (52.5%).

The second objective of this study is to describe the degrees of meaning equivalence in the translation of the idiomatic expressions. In term of meaning equivalence, most of the idiomatic expressions in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie* results equivalent meaning. In this research, the researcher found that most of the strategies results in complete meaning and less frequency of non-equivalent meaning. It is indicated by the frequency of the equivalent meaning (77.92%) compared to non-equivalent meaning (21.95%). The translator maintains the meaning of the idiomatic expressions and he has minimized the frequency in non-equivalent meaning. Therefore, the message of the text can be understood by the readers.

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