AN ANALYSIS OF IDIOMS IN NABOKOV'S *LOLITA* AND THEIR TRANSLATION IN KURNIA'S *LOLITA*

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Abstract

This research focuses on the idioms in Nabokov's *Lolita* and their translation. The purposes of this research are (1) to describe the types of English idioms, (2) to identify the translation strategies used by the translator in translating the idioms, and (3) to describe the degree of meaning equivalence.

This research uses a descriptive-qualitative research method. The data of this research are the idioms found in the source text and their translation in the target text. The collected data are in the form of phrases. The instruments of this research are the researcher and the data sheets. To achieve trustworthiness of the data, this research applies triangulation.

The findings of the research show that all the three types of English idioms are found in the source text, they are literal idioms, semi idioms, and pure idioms. Semi idioms are the most dominant type of idioms found in this research. This indicates that semi idioms are more likely to be used due to their transparency and flexibility. There are five translation strategies used by the translator, they are translation by using an idiom of similar meaning and form, translation by using an idiom of similar meaning but different form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission, and literal translation. Most of the idioms are translated using paraphrase strategy. It happens when there is no exact match in the target text or to make it more understandable to the readers. This also indicates that most of the idiomatic expressions in the source text are translated into non-idiomatic expressions in the target text. Most of the idioms in the source text are translated into equivalent meaning. This is because most of the idioms are translated by paraphrase and as the result, the meanings of idioms can be successfully transferred into target language.

Keywords: idioms, types of idioms, translation strategy, meaning equivalence

INTRODUCTION

One of the important aspects in human communication is language. Language enables people to express their inner thoughts and emotions, exchange feelings and ideas with the others, and establish rules and culture in the society. Communication is important in maintaining and developing the society. However, the existence of different language through the contact with different societies is a hurdle in communication. People need a method to overcome this hurdle; a method to enable them to understand foreign languages. Translation acts as a bridge to enable people to communicate with each other regardless of language difference.

Translation is a process of transferring information from source language (SL) to target language (TL). Because of the difference in language

system and structure, translator must excel in source language and target language. Translator should also understand the cultural background and terms in both languages in order to avoid misinterpretation on the target text.

There are three types of written translation according to Jakobson in Venuti (2000:114), they are: intralingual translation, interlingual, and intersemiotic translation. Intralingual translation refers to a translation in which verbal signs are interpreted into verbal signs of same language. Interlingual translation refers to a translation in which verbal signs are interpreted into verbal signs of different language. Intersemiotic translation refers to an interpretation of a verbal signs using other signs from non-verbal sign system.

Interlingual translation can involve two or more languages. It depends on the number of languages involved in the activity. One of the examples of interlingual translation is novel translation from English to Bahasa Indonesia. Because of interlingual translation, people can read and understand the literature texts without even mastering the original language.

In translation process, the transfer of meaning is important. The change in meaning of the source text into target text could cause change in information. In interlingual translation of literary text, translators are often faced with culture related terms which often have no equivalence in TL. Idiom is one of these.

Idioms can often be found in literary texts. Idioms are usually used in conversation and important aspects in the language. Idioms can help to breathe life into the conversation; to avoid awkwardness in daily conversation. English has lots of idioms that are often used in daily conversations, as well as in scientific articles or manuscripts.

Based on the explanation above, the use of idioms in literary texts in scope of translation strategies and the meaning behind them is interested to be analyzed. Vladimir Nabokov's novel Lolita uses a lot of idioms to build the nuance of life in it. It is interesting to analyze how the English idioms are translated into Bahasa Indonesia, and how they affect the meaning equivalence in both novels.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses descriptive-qualitative method. The sources of the data of this research are *Lolita* written by Vladimir Nabokov, published by Penguin Book in 2000 as the source text, and its Bahasa Indonesia version *Lolita* translated by Anton Kurnia, published by Serambi Ilmu Semesta in October 2011. The collected data are in the form of phrases. The data are all the type of idioms found in the source text and their translated expressions in the target text.

The research used the technique of content analysis to examine the data. The data in the forms of idioms in both source texts were compared and classified based on the types of idioms. The data were then classified based translation strategies and compared to determine the degree of meaning equivalence. The researcher also conducted triangulation of the data with the consultant and peers.

There are two instruments in this research. The first instrument is the researcher as the planner, the data collector, the observer, the analyst, and

the reporter of the findings. The second instrument includes data sheet, tables, dictionaries, books, electronic books and computer. The data sheets are used to record the data which will be transferred into analysis table to be analyzed. Observation method is used to collect the data. The data then transferred and categorized into the table. The data were then analyzed based on the research objectives of the research.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS
A. Findings
The types of English idioms that are found in the SL are (1) literal idioms, (2) semi idioms, and (3) pure idioms.

Table 2**: The Description of Frequency and Percentage of the Types of English Idiom**

No	Types of Idiom	Frequency	Percentage
1	Literal Idioms	44	27.2%
2	Semi Idioms	77	47.5%
3	Pure Idioms	41	25.3%
	Total	**162**	**100%**

Most of the idioms found in the SL are semi idioms, with the occurrences of 77 times out of 162 idioms or 47.5%.

The translation strategies are classified into five classifications, they are (1) using an idiom of similar meaning and form, (2) using an idiom of similar meaning but different form, (3) translation by paraphrase, and (4) translation by omission. However, in the analysis process, it shows that the

translator uses another translation strategy that is literal translation. For this reason, the researcher added literal translation in the list of the translation strategies used to translate the idioms.

Table 3**: The Description of Frequency and Percentage of the Translation Strategies**

No	Translation Strategies	Frequency	Percentage
1	Using an idiom of similar meaning and form (ISMF)	16	9.8%
2	Using an idiom of similar meaning but different form (IDF)	6	3.7%
3	Translation by paraphrase (TP)	116	71.1%
4	Translation by omission (TO)	18	11.1%
5	Literal translation (LT)	7	4.3%
	Total	**162**	**100%**

The most common strategy used by the translator is translation by paraphrase, with 116 out of 162 or 71.1% of idioms found in the SL are translated using this strategy. As the result, the rest strategies have low degree of frequencies and percentages of occurrence.

The degree of meaning equivalence are classified into two

categorizations, they are equivalent meaning and non-equivalent meaning. The equivalent meaning degree of the idioms are further classified into two, they are completely equivalent meaning and partly equivalent meaning (decreased meaning and increased meaning). Meanwhile, the non-equivalent meaning degree of the idioms are also further classified into two, they are different meaning and no meaning. The following table 4 presents the frequency and the percentage of the meaning equivalence.

Table 4: **The Description of Frequency and Percentage of the Meaning Equivalence**

No	Meaning Equivalence	Frequency	Percentage
1	**Equivalent meaning**	**126**	**77.8%**
	a. Completely equivalent	108	66.7%
	b. Partially equivalent		
	1) Increased meaning	7	4.3%
	2) Decreased meaning	11	6.8%
2	**Non-equivalent meaning**	**36**	**22.2%**
	a. Different meaning	18	11.1%
	b. No meaning	18	11.1%
	Total	**162**	**100%**

Most of the idioms are translated equivalently from SL to TL. Out of 162 idioms found in the SL, 126 or 77.8% of them are translated equivalently in the TL.

B. Discussions
1. Types of English Idioms

a. Literal Idioms

Literal idiom is the forms of idioms that are semantically less complex than other two idioms. This kind of idioms is easier to understand even if one is not familiar with the expressions. The following are the example of phrasal verbs found in the SL text:

Datum 008/LI/TP/DM

SL : I leaf <u>again and again</u> through these miserable memories…

TL : Aku membuka-buka <u>lagi</u> kenangan-kenangan menyedihkan ini…

According to *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*, the idiom *again and again* means repeatedly. This idiom counted as literal idiom in Fernando's classification because the meaning of the idiom is understood from the meaning of its lexical components. The meaning of this idiom is less complex than pure and semi idioms as it has a literal meaning which can clearly be understood.

b. Semi Idioms

Semi idioms are idioms in which in their combination involving words that have their usual literal meaning, while the other words have non-literal meanings that are peculiar to that particular structure. The following are the example of semi idioms found in the SL text.

Datum 027/SI/ISMF/CM

SL : In the good old days, by merely twisting fat Valechka's brittle wrist (the one she had fallen upon from a bicycle) I could make her <u>change</u> her <u>mind</u> instantly…

TL : Pada masa lampau, dengan sedikit saja memuntir pergelangan tangan Valeria gendut yang rapuh (yang terkilir saat jatuh dari sepeda) aku bisa <u>mengubah pikiran</u>nya dalam sekejap.

According to *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*, the idiom *change someone's mind* means to cause a person to think differently (about someone or something). This idiom counted as semi idiom in Fernando's classification because it has literal and non-literal elements. The word *change* has its literal meaning, while the word *mind* has non-literal meaning of representing about opinion on someone or something.

c. Pure Idioms

Pure idiom is an idiom in which the meaning cannot be predicted at one glance. This is because the meaning of the lexical components of the idiom do not refer to the meaning of the idiom as a whole. The following are the example of total idioms found in the SL text.

Datum 025/PI/TP/Dif

SL: I do not know if the pimp's album may not have been another link in the <u>daisy-chain</u>…

TL: Aku tahu apakah album foto milik Mademoiselle Edith

berhubungan dengan <u>hal-hal buruk lainnya</u> atau tidak…

According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms by Christine Ammer*, the idiom *daisy-chain* means a series of connected events, activities, or experiences. The words *daisy* and *chain* which constructed this idiom do not refers to any part of the meaning, as *daisy* means a kind of plant and *chain* means a flexible series of links made of metal. Therefore, this idiom is considered as pure idiom.

2. Translation Strategies

a. Translation by Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

This translation strategy involves using an equivalent idiomatic expression in the TL that expresses similar meaning with the idiomatic expression in the SL and also consist of equivalent lexical item and structure. The following are examples of translation by using an idiom of similar meaning and form.

Datum 017/SI/ISMF/CM

SL: I knew I had <u>fallen in love</u> with Lolita forever…

TL: Aku tahu aku telah <u>jatuh cinta</u> kepada Lolita untuk selamanya…

According to *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*, the idiom *fall in love* means to become enamored of each other or become enamored of something. It has similar meaning to the idiom *jatuh cinta*. According to *Kamus Ungkapan Bahasa Indonesia*, the idiom *jatuh cinta* means *hatinya telah tercuri oleh*. This

translation also uses equivalent lexical items in similar structure. The word *fallen* is lexically equivalent with *jatuh*, while the word *love* is lexically equivalent with *cinta*. If the idiom *jatuh cinta* is translated back into English, it will be *fall in love*. For this reason, the translation of the aforementioned idiom into TL can be considered as using an idiom with similar meaning and form.

b. Translation by Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Different Form

This translation strategy involves using an equivalent idiom in the TL that expresses similar meaning with the idiom in the SL but consist of different lexical items and structure. This strategy can be used when there is no equivalent idiom with similar meaning and equivalence in lexical items and structure. The following are examples of translation by using an idiom of similar meaning but different form.

Datum 033/SI/IDF/CM

SL: I answered, perhaps a bit testily, that my wife was <u>safe and sound</u>…

TL: Aku menjawab, mungkin dengan sedikit tersinggung, bahwa istriku <u>baik-baik saja</u>…

According to *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*, the idiom *safe and sound* means unharmed and whole or healthy. It has similar meaning to the idiom *baik-baik saja*. According to *Kamus Ungkapan Bahasa Indonesia*, the idiomatic expression *bermain-main* means *tak ada*

kesukaran or *semua berjalan seperti biasa.*

In term of form, both of these idioms have different forms. The idiom *safe and sound* is a binominal expression which consist of two words and a conjunction *and* with the word *safe* refers to the literal meaning of being unharmed and the word *sound* refers to non-literal meaning of free from defect or damage. The idiom *baik-baik saja* consist of word *baik* which means good or undamaged and the word *saja* which means just. For this reason, the translation of the aforementioned idiom from SL to TL is considered to be using an idiom with similar meaning but different form.

c. Translation by Paraphrase

This translation strategy is the most common way of translating idioms into another language when the equivalent expression cannot be found in the TL, or when an idiom deemed inappropriate to be used in the TL text due to difference in stylistic background. This translation strategy also makes the translated expression more understandable to the readers of TL text because the translated expression is made based on the explanation of the idiom in the SL text. However, there is a possibility that the essence of the idiom's meaning might be lost in the process. Unlike the previous translation strategies, the result of the translation using this strategy is a non-idiomatic expression. The following are examples of translation by paraphrase.

Datum 001/SI/TP/CM

SL: Mrs. "Richard F. Schiller" died in childbed, <u>giving birth</u> to a stillborn girl…

TL: Nyonya "Richard F. Schiller" meninggal dunia saat <u>melahirkan</u> seorang bayi perempuan yang terlahir selamat…

According to *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*, the idiom *giving birth* means to birth a baby or to bring something into existence. The expression *melahirkan* is the meaning of the idiom in the SL. The translator did not translate the word *giving* and only translate the word *birth* into TL because if the former is translated, it will make no sense in the TL. This idiom is translated into a non-idiomatic expression because there is no equivalent idiom found in Bahasa Indonesia.

d. Translation by Omission

In some situations, idioms may sometimes be omitted altogether in the TL text without any translated expressions. This is due to the idiom having no close match in the TL, because the meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, for stylistic reasons, or if the omission of the expression does not significantly affect the meaning of the text. The following are examples of translation by omission.

Datum 074/LI/TO/NM

SL: Her girlfriends, whom I looked forward to meet, proved <u>on the whole</u> disappointing.

TL: Teman-teman perempuannya, yang tadinya ingin kutemui, ternyata terbukti mengecewakan.

The expression *on the whole* is not translated in the TL. According to *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*, the idiom *on the whole* means generally or considering everything. Because of this idiom is not translated in the TL text, the information about the scale of situation in the SL text is not presented in the TL text. This expression may give significant meaning since it shows the scale the expectation that Humbert felt toward Lolita's friends. In Bahasa Indonesia, this idiom can be translated into *secara keseluruhan.*

e. Literal Translation

In literal translation, the grammatical structure in the SL are converted to the nearest TL equivalence and the lexical items are translated word by word. This translation strategy may happen when the translator cannot find the equivalent idiom in the TL or the translator cannot perceive the idiomatic meaning of the idiom in order to paraphrase it into TL. The following are examples of literal translation.

Datum 014/PI/LT/Dif

SL: …and all the while I was mortally afraid that some <u>act of God</u> might interrupt me…

TL: Sementara, aku setengah mati ketakutan ketakutan jika ada <u>tindakan Tuhan</u> yang bakal menghentikanku…

According to *Farlex Dictionary of Idioms*, the idiom *act of God* means A natural disaster, or any similar large-scale event beyond human control. This idiom is translated literally to TL using exactly similar lexical items and words order. The word *act* is translated into *tindakan,* while the word *God* is translated into *Tuhan*. The translated expression is representing the literal meaning of the idiom. The idiom *act of God* should be translated into *bencana* to retain its idiomatic meaning in the TL.

1.   Meaning Equivalence

a. Equivalent Meaning

1) Completely Equivalent

Completely equivalent meaning occurs when the meaning of the expression in the SL is completely transferred to the TL. The following are the examples of translation of idiomatic expressions with completely equivalent in meaning.

Datum 030/SI/TP/CM

SL: …neither tomorrow, nor Friday, nor any other day or night, could I make myself put her to death.

TL: …entah esok atau lusa, etah siang atau malam, tak akan mampu aku membunuhnya.

This example is translation by paraphrasing the idiom from the SL into non-idiomatic expression in the TL. According to *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*, the idiom *put (someone or some creature) to death* means to kill someone or some creature. Both the idiom in the SL and the translated expression in the TL have similar meaning, because the word *membunuhnya* means killing her.

2) Partially Equivalent
a) Increased Meaning

Increased meaning occurs when there is an additional of message or information inserted in the translation of SL expression. This additional message or information cannot be found in the SL expression. The following are the examples of translation of idiomatic expressions with increased meaning.

Datum 042/SI/TP/IM

SL: …the enchanted hunters were sound asleep…

TL: …para pemburu liar itu sepertinya terlelap.

This example is translation by paraphrasing the idiom from the SL into non-idiomatic expression in the TL. According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs*, the idiom *sound asleep* means completely asleep or in a deep sleep. The idiom can be translated into *tidur terlelap* or just simply *terlelap.* However, in this particular case, the translator added additional message when translating the expression. The additional word *sepertinya* which means *probably* increases the meaning of the translated expression as *sepertinya terlelap* means probably sound asleep.

b) Decreased Meaning

Decreased meaning occurs when there is a part of the meaning in the SL is omitted in the TL. This means, a part of

the information is lost in the translation. The following are the examples of translation of idiomatic expressions with decreased meaning.

Datum 046/SI/TP/DM

SL: …but by six she was <u>wide awake</u>…

TL: Namun, pukul enam dia sudah <u>bangun</u>…

This example is translation by paraphrasing the idiom from the SL into non-idiomatic expression in the TL. According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms by Christine Ammer*, the idiom *wide awake* means fully awake or very alert. The *wide* in this idiom alludes to the eyes being wide open. This idiom can be translated into *bangun sepenuhnya.* The meaning of the translated expression decreased because the meaning of wide is not transferred in the TL text.

a. Non-Equivalent Meaning

1) Different Meaning

Different meaning occurs when there are changes of the information contained in the SL text when it is translated into the TL. These changes happen when the words used in the TL text carry no similarities in meaning to the SL text but contain other lexical meanings. The following are the examples of translation of idiomatic expressions with different meaning.

Datum 016/PI/TP/Dif

SL: On second thought, I may as well give those imaginations <u>a kick in the pants</u>.

TL: Aku berubah pikiran, <u>kutendang jauh-jauh</u> semua imajinasi itu.

According to *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*, the idiom *a kick in the pants* means a strong message of encouragement or demand. Meanwhile, the translated expression *kutendang jauh-jauh* means to kick something away in literal way. It is obvious that both expressions do not have equivalent meaning. This idiom should be translated into *memberi semangat pada.*

2) No Meaning

No meaning occurs when the translator omits the words or expression in the SL text so that the TL text loses all the information conveyed in the SL text. The following are the examples of translation of idiomatic expressions with no meaning.

Datum 083/SI/TP/NM

SL: <u>Making up</u> her <u>mind</u> she rubbed, fold on fold, her dark gray flannel skirt at the knee…

TL: Dia menggosok-gosok bagian lutut bagian lutut rok flunel panjang kelabunya…

According to *Farlex Dictionary of Idioms*, the idiom *makes up one's mind* means to make a final decision after a period of consideration or to become convinced of a particular course of action. In this case, the translator chooses to omit the idiom and not translate it into TL.

Because of this, there is a loss in the information conveyed in the TL text since this expression may give significant meaning because it shows about the state of mind of the character.

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion shows that the three types of English idioms are found in Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*. They are literal idioms (LI), semi idioms (SI), and pure idioms (PI). Semi idioms have the most occurrence idioms found in this research. Semi idioms are used in large number because this type of idiom carries meaning that is salient and transparent enough to be understood at one glance without having to draw metaphorical connection with the context to predict the meaning of the idiom. There are also five translation strategies used by the translator. They are using an idiom of similar meaning and form (ISMF), using an idiom of similar meaning but different form (IDF), translation by paraphrase (TP), translation by omission (TO), and literal translation (LT). The most common strategy used by the translator is translation by paraphrase. It can be concluded that most of the idioms in the SL is translated into non-idiomatic translations in the TL. This strategy is chosen by the translator to translate large number of idiomatic expressions because there are often no equivalent idioms found in the TL or because the equivalent idioms in the TL are deemed inappropriate to be used. In terms of equivalency, most of the idioms found in the SL are translated into equivalent expressions compared to non-equivalent meaning. The translator translated the idioms mostly into completely equivalent meaning. This also indicates that the translator has successfully transferred the meanings of SL expressions into TL expressions as equivalent as possible, instead of omitting or adding a part of the meaning or even the whole expressions in the TL.

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