

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN THE ENGLISH *PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES* AND THEIR TRANSLATED EXPRESSIONS IN THE BAHASA INDONESIA SUBTITLING TEXT

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Abstract

This study aimed to analyze the types of English idioms, the strategies used by the translator in translating idiomatic expression, and the degree of meaning equivalence of the translated idiomatic expressions compared to the English idioms in *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*. This study was a descriptive qualitative type of research. The findings show that the English idioms that are found in the movie text of *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* are phrasal verbs, partial idioms, and total idioms. In terms of strategies used by the translator in translating idioms, there are four strategies used; translation by using an idiom of similar meaning and similar form, translation by using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase and translation by omission. Most of idiomatic expressions that are found in the movie text of *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* are translated by paraphrasing. In terms of degree of meaning equivalence, the translation of idiomatic expressions in the text of *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* has high degree of equivalence compared to the non-equivalent

Keywords: idioms, meaning equivalence, translation strategies

INTRODUCTION

Translation has become an essential need for many people in many countries. It has a significant role in allowing people from many countries and with different languages to communicate and share their

thoughts, ideas, information and many things in an efficient way. Even people have been building translation machines to cover the people's need of translation instantly. However, the translation products from a machine are often unsatisfying as translation

machine have more weakness than man-made in delivering messages from source to target languages.

Translation has been used mostly in printed media such as newspapers, magazines, novels, and many others. It keeps on improving as every era has its own issues and needs to be fulfilled. Many fields of business need translation in order to get improved. However, the activity of translation in audio-visual media such as TV and movies is essentially needed to transfer information and knowledge through both spoken languages and motion pictures on screen. The role of translation in movies is to translate the movie's dialogue from its original language into many languages then it helps people who are in certain countries and do not master the language used in the movie to understand in an equal meaning text.

To fulfill the demand from people of various foreign movies, many movies were translated into Bahasa Indonesia. One of the best movies which got huge respond and many awards is *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*. This movie is

originally using English. Therefore, in order to help people to understand, a subtitle in Bahasa Indonesia is provided in its original DVD.

In the translation of *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*'s movie text into Bahasa Indonesia, many issues are found regarding the linguistic aspect such as form, meaning, style, proverb, and idiom. This movie is originally using English thus idioms cannot be avoided in the dialogue. There are many idiomatic expressions found in the movie and it obliges the translator to be more careful in determining the proper strategies to translate them.

Recognizing an idiomatic expression becomes an essential problem for a translator. A translator should have the ability to spot an idiomatic expression before determining the most appropriate strategy to translate them. This aims to prevent the translator to treat an idiom and non-idiomatic expression incorrectly. Idioms demand a translator to translate them in a special way and treat them as a single unit, thus translating them literally or word-for-word is avoided. After the translator

successfully recognizes idiomatic expressions in the text, interpreting them properly is important as well. It requires the translator to comprehend both source language and target language.

Besides those essential difficulties, finding the expressions from target language in completely equal meaning is another hard task for the translator especially dealing with idioms. The translators should try to translate idioms into idioms. However, since it is hard to translate idioms to idioms, a translator may choose to translate them into 'normal' expressions. It is done in order to preserve the meaning from source into target language. Otherwise, the translator may omit an idiom if it has no equivalent or its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased in the target language.

The large number of the types of idiom becomes one more problem to the translator. Idioms take many different forms and structures. They can be very short or relatively long and have a regular or an irregular structure and even a grammatically incorrect structure. Along with those

natures of idiom, the translator must be very sharp in determining the right strategy to face them.

There are three objectives in this study; to describe the types of English idioms found in the *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* text, to describe the strategies used by the translator in translating the idiomatic expressions in the translation of the English *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* text and their translated expressions in the Bahasa Indonesia subtitling text, and to describe the degree of meaning equivalence of the translated idiomatic expressions in the Bahasa Indonesia subtitling text compared to the English idioms in *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*.

To analyze the type of English idiomatic expressions found in *Pirates of Caribbean Sea: On Stranger Tides*, the researcher used Palmer's (1981: 80-2) classification of idioms. Those types are phrasal verbs, partial idioms, and total idioms. Next, to analyze the strategies used by the translator in translating the English idiomatic expressions into

Bahasa Indonesia, the researcher adopted Baker's (1992: 72) translation strategies;

- (1) translation by using an idiom of similar meaning and similar form,
- (2) translation by using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form,
- (3) translation by paraphrase, and
- (4) translation by omission.

The researcher applied Bell's (1991: 6) classification of degree of meaning equivalence. The degrees are equivalent and non-equivalent meaning translation. Equivalent meaning translation is divided into completely equivalent meaning and partly equivalent meaning, the partly equivalent meaning includes increased and decreased meaning. The non-equivalent degree of meaning translation is divided into completely different meaning and completely no meaning.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study was a descriptive-qualitative type of research. This research presented natural data. This research was accomplished by collecting the data, rewriting them into data sheets, classifying them

according to their types, their translation strategies and degrees of meaning equivalence, then analyzing the data and making some conclusions. Since this study was descriptive-qualitative research, the data and analysis were presented in the form of descriptions. However, in order to support the analysis of the data, a little bit number might appear in this research.

The data in this research were all the idiomatic expressions in *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* and their Bahasa Indonesia translated expressions. The sources of the data in this research were the movie script of *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* which is served in English and *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*'s original Bahasa Indonesia subtitle.

There were two instruments in this research. The first instrument was the researcher herself. The researcher played an important role in the research regarding the need of reading and writing, related to the research. Moreover, the researcher had some roles as the planner, the data collector, the data analyst, and the reporter of

the result of this research. The second instrument was the data sheet. It was used to record and classify the data. The English idiomatic expressions in the source language were written down to be analyzed together with their translated expressions in Bahasa Indonesia.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The types of English idioms that are found in the English text of *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* movie are phrasal verbs, partial idioms, and total idioms. From the total 60 English idioms which are found, 29 idioms which are classified as phrasal verbs, 15 idioms are classified as partial idioms, and 16 are classified as total idioms. Meanwhile, in terms of translation strategies, all of the four strategies are found in the translation of English idiomatic expression of *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* into Bahasa Indonesia subtitling text.

In this research, the degree of meaning equivalence of the translation of idiomatic expressions from English into Bahasa Indonesia shows a very satisfying result. The

translation of idiomatic expressions from English into Bahasa Indonesia are frequently equivalent. Out of 60 English idioms, 65% or 45 idioms were translated equivalently in the target language text. Thus, only 15 or 25% idioms which are translated as non-equivalent meaning. However, the 45 idioms which were translated equivalently from English into Bahasa Indonesia were not always classified as fully equivalent meaning. Since the translator can add or omit some certain information from source language to target language, the translation becomes partly equivalent (increased or decreased in meaning).

1. Types of English Idioms

a. Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are idioms which consist of verb and adverb or preposition or a combination of both. These adverbs and prepositions are often called *particles* when they are used in phrasal verbs. Phrasal verbs are very common in English. Therefore, they can be found in many occasions. The finding has also presented that out of 60 idioms, phrasal verbs has the frequency of 29

or 48.3% which is the highest among the types. The example is presented below.

Datum 17

SL : As long as my sailors get their money, they're willing to *put up with* any number of peculiarities.

TL : Selama anak buahku dibayar, mereka bersedia *melakukan apa saja*.

(00:24:45/PV/NI/CM)

The expression above happened when a character of the movie named Angelica offers Jack Sparrow to sail with her and take her to *The Fountain of Youth*. Angelica tries to coax him by saying this, and she uses a phrasal verb type in her words. The phrasal verb type which she uses is *put up with*. It consists of verb and two particles; adverb and preposition. The meaning of this expression is very different from the meanings of the verb they are formed from. According to *Cambridge-Advanced Learner Dictionary*, this idiom means to accept or continue to accept an unpleasant situation or experience or someone who behaves unpleasantly.

b. Partial idioms

Partial idioms are the idioms which in their combination involving a word

that has its usual meaning and the other has a meaning that is peculiar to the particular sequence.

The following datum is presented as an example of partial idiom.

Datum 32

SL : Fight *to the bitter end*, you cack-handed deck apes!

TL : Lawan *sekuat tenaga*, keparat!

(00:41:33/PI/IDF/ DIFF)

The sentence above appears when the main character named Captain Jack Sparrow leads a group of sailors to take Blackbeard's ship and then they have a fight with Blackbeard's crew. The idiom *to the bitter end* refers to a certain end but it has no relation with bitter as an unpleasant sharp taste. According to *Oxford Dictionary of Idioms*, to the bitter end means persevering to the end, whatever the outcome. Therefore, since bitter is the word that has the peculiar meaning and the word end has its usual meaning, this idiom is categorized as partial idiom.

c. Total idioms

Total idiom is an idiom whose meaning cannot be completely predicted. Each word which

constructs the whole expression does not directly refer to the meaning. The example is presented below.

Datum 6

SL : Last I heard, you were *hell bent* to find the Fountain of Youth.

TL : Terakhir aku dengar, kau sedang mencari Mata Air Awet Muda.

(00:08:18/TI/OM/NM)

The idiom above is stated by Gibbs to Jack when they are on their way to get out from London after escaping from the courthouse. Gibbs and Jack are friends yet this is the first time they meet and talk after a long time. According to *Cambridge-Advanced Learner Dictionary* this idiom means to be extremely determined to do something, without considering the risks or possible dangerous results. However, the words *hell* and *bent* which construct the idiom do not refer to any part of the meaning and this make this idiom is considered as total idiom.

2. Strategies to Translate Idioms

a. Translation by using an idiom of similar meaning and form

This strategy encompasses not only using an equivalent idiom from target language which expresses the similar meaning from the idiom in the source language but it should also consist of equivalent lexical item. Therefore, this kind of match is occasionally to find. The example is presented below. Based on the data findings, there is only one datum which is translated uses this strategy.

Datum 50

SL : Ah, you pretended to love her, then you left her and *broke her heart*.

TL : Kau pura-pura mencintainya, lalu kau pergi dan menghancurkan hatinya.

(01:30:44/PI/ISF/CM)

The idiom above occurs when Jack Sparrow tells Gibbs that he is falling in love with a girl whose feeling had been hurt by him previously. According to *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, the idiom break somebody's heart means to make someone who loves you very sad, usually by telling them you have stopped loving them. This idiom has been translated into menghancurkan hatinya in Bahasa Indonesia which

has similar meaning to making someone very sad. This translation also uses equivalent lexical item and similar form/structure, the word *broke* or *break* is lexically equal with *hancur*, and the word *heart* is lexically equal with *hati*. The word 'her' is optional in nature, according to the context of the sentence and it means *dia* or in Bahasa Indonesia it can be replaced by '-nya' after the noun. If the idiom *menghancurkan hatinya* is translated back into English, it will be *break her heart*. Therefore, the idiom from source language above has been translated with an idiom in the target language which has similar meaning and form.

b. Translation by using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form

This strategy can be used when there is no equivalent idiom of target language which consists of equivalent lexical items with the idiom from source language. This kind of strategy results in an idiom with different form but stylistically close to the idiom in the source language text.

The following datum is presented as an example of how this strategy is applied.

Datum 34

SL : Yes, though I see it as a bit
of a long shot.

TL : Benar. Meskipun sepertinya
butuh *usaha keras.*

(00:45:45/TI/IDF/CM)

The idiom above occurs when Blackbeard asks a cleric if his soul can be saved or not and then the cleric states the dialogue above which contains an idiom. According to *Cambridge-Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, the idiom *a long shot* means something you try although it is unlikely to be successful. This idiom is translated into *usaha keras* which means a large amount of effort to make something happen, especially for a long time or against difficulties. If the idiom '*long shot*' are translated into Bahasa Indonesia, it would be '*usaha panjang*'. Thus, In terms of form both idiomatic expressions from SL and TL are not equivalent.

c. Translation by paraphrase

This is by far the most common way of translating idioms when there is no equivalent in the target language. It is

also one of the strategies that can help the translator to save time if he/she is not familiar with the expression or has less knowledge of idiomatic expressions in the target language. Unlike the two previous translation strategies which involve idiom as the result in the target language, the result of the translation of the idiom using this strategy is a non-idiomatic expression. The translator can check the meaning of the idiom in a dictionary and make the translation based on the explanation.

There is another reason for its frequency. The translator decided to use this strategy since it is stylistically neutral, thus it comes to be convenient when an idiom seems inappropriate to be used due to differences in stylistic preferences of the source and target languages. The example of the data which uses the translation strategy by using a non-idiomatic expression of similar meaning but dissimilar form can be seen below.

Datum 22

SL : *You must lie in your bed the way you made it.*
 TL : *Kau harus menanggung*

akibat perbuatanmu.

(00:28:43/TI/NI/CM)

The idiom above occurs when Barbossa threat Gibbs who would not tell him where Jack Sparrow is running away to. According to *Oxford Dictionary of Idioms*, this idiom means somebody must accept the consequences of their own actions. By using a non-idiomatic expression with similar meaning but dissimilar form, the translator has translated it equivalently into *kau harus menanggung akibat perbuatanmu* since he/she cannot find the idiomatic expression in Bahasa Indonesia with similar meaning.

d. Translation by omission

As with single words, an idiom may sometimes be omitted altogether in the target text. This is due to there is no close match in the target text, it is difficult to paraphrase or there are certain stylistic reasons for omitting the idiom altogether. In terms of audio-visual translation, this strategy is often used by the reason of time and space limits, especially if the omission does not significantly affect the meaning of an utterance. The

further discussion can be seen in the example below.

Datum 33

SL : If I don't kill a man *every now and then* they forget who I am.

TL : Jika aku tidak membunuh seorang pun, mereka akan melupakan aku.

(00:44:52/TI/OM/CM)

This idiom occurs when Angelica prevents Blackbeard to kill the crews who want to take the ship and then Blackbeard says those words. The idiom “*every now and then*”, according to *Cambridge-Advanced Learner's Dictionary* means sometimes, but not very often. The translator chooses to omit the expression as it has no significant affects to the meaning of the whole sentence. Also, by using this strategy, the translator makes the translation in the target language become more effective and easy to understand. However, it might be better to translate it into *sekali sekali*, to make it more equivalent in meaning.

3. Degree of the Meaning Equivalence

a. Equivalent Meaning

1) Completely Equivalent Meaning

It occurs when the meanings of the source language text are completely transferred in the target language text. When a text is translated in completely equivalent meaning, the readers will also have complete information about the text. According to the findings, the result of the analysis is showing a satisfying number of complete meanings. Out of 60 idioms there are 39 which are translated into complete meaning. It indicates that the translator has successfully transferred the meaning from SL into TL. The example is presented below

Datum 8

SL : I shall taste those waters, Master Gibbs. *Mark my words!*

TL : Aku harus mencicipi air itu, Tuan Gibbs. *Camkan itu!*

(00:08:37/TI/ NI/CM)

Jack and Gibbs are talking about the plan of finding the Fountain of Youth

in their way of escaping from the court. Although Jack has no ship and crew right now, he tells Gibbs that he will not stop trying to find it. The idiom above is considered as total idioms. The idiom *(You) Mark my words!* is an old fashioned expression to be told to someone about something that the speaker certain will happen in the future. This idiom is translated into a non-idiomatic expression *Camkan itu!* which has similar meaning with to have someone remember and pay attention to what the speaker says that something will happen in the future or is happening in the present time. Since the meanings of both expressions are relatively similar, this translation is classified as completely equivalent meaning.

2) Partly Equivalent Meaning

A translation is considered as partly equivalent when the meaning of a certain expression in the source text is partly transferred into target text. All translations are expected to be completely equivalent, yet this aim cannot always be achieved. When the

meaning of an expression from source text is partly transferred into target text, the readers from target text may get the incomplete message. A translation might be partly equivalent because of an addition or omission of information realized in the source language text. Partly equivalent meaning is divided into two types; increased and decreased meaning.

a) Increased Meaning

It occurs when there is an addition of information in the translation of source language expression. This new information which is inserted in the target language is certainly not found in the source language. Based on the findings, there are only 2 data which are classified into increased meaning. The following datum is presented as the example of increased meaning translation.

Datum 23

ST : *Hand it over*

TT : *Serahkan padaku.*

(00:29:36/PV/NI/IM)

The idiomatic expression above occurs when Barbossa forces Gibbs to give the map that he hides. This idiom is classified as phrasal verbs. According to *Cambridge-Advanced*

Learner's Dictionary, the idiom of *hand something over* means to give something to someone else. The word *serahkan* has similar meaning with give, that indicates the translator has transfers the meaning from SL into TL well. However, as it is seen on the datum above, there is an addition in the translated version. The equal meaning of the word *padaku* which is added in the TL is not found in the SL. Therefore the meaning of the idiom has increased along with the addition that the translator put in the translation.

b) Decreased meaning

It occurs when a part of the meaning in the source language text is omitted in the target language text, which also means that a part of information is lost in the translation. The following example is presented to describe the decreased meaning.

Datum 44

SL : *Pray tell*

TL : Katakan

(01:23:06/PI/NI/DM)

Pray tell is an idiom which means “*please tell*” or asking somebody to tell about something but in sarcastic

manner. The word *katakan* refer to the expression *do tell*. There is no more word added which refers to please. Yet, in order to achieve completely equivalent, this idiomatic expression should be translated into *tolong katakan* since *tolong* has similar meaning to the word *please*.

b. Non-Equivalent Meaning

1) Completely Different Meaning

It occurs when the translator changes the information contained in the source language text by using words which have different meaning in the target language text. Since the translation does not reflect the similar meaning as the source language does, the readers of target text might get different information about the meaning of source language text. The datum below is the example.

Datum 35

SL : *Show a leg*, sailor.

TL : Bersiap, pelaut!

(00:30:11/TL/NI/DIFF)

This idiom is stated by Barbossa to his sailor when he finally knows where to find Jack Sparrow and the Fountain. According to *Oxford Dictionary of Idioms*, this idiom means to get out of

bed or get up. Since there is no equivalent idiom in Bahasa Indonesia with the one from English, it is impossible to translate it with an idiom; therefore the translator translates it by using non-idiomatic expression. However, this translation cannot be said as equivalent since *bersiap* has different meaning with get up. If *bersiap* is translated into English it will be *get ready*. Since the idiomatic expression and its translated expression have completely different meanings, this translation is considered as non-equivalent meaning translation.

2) Completely No Meaning

It occurs when the translator omits the words or expression in the source language text so that the target language text loses all the information contained in the source language text. However, idiomatic expressions which are translated by omission strategy will not always be non-equivalent since the idiom might not give a significant meaning to the context and another expression might have represented the meaning of that idiom. The example can be seen below.

Datum 52

- SL : Every plank, every rail,
every spar, *all at once*, began
to creak.
- TL : Semua bagian kapal mulai
berderak.

(01:37:05/PI/OM/NM)

This idiom occurs when Barbosa tells Jack the chronologist of how he lost Black Pearl when they were off the coast of Hispaniola. This idiom according to *Cambridge-Advanced Learner's* means suddenly and unexpectedly, and according to *McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verb* besides this idiom means suddenly, it also means all at the same time. In this case, not only the idiom which is omitted but also the former expressions before it are also omitted and simplified in the target language. This idiom is considered has significant meaning as it explains how something is actually happened. In Bahasa Indonesia, this idiom can be translated as *tiba-tiba or pada saat yang sama*. The translator should at least translate this expression since it is important and he or she better not

omitted some information from the source language.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data findings and discussion of the research, there are some conclusion that can be made. There are three types of English idioms found in the movie text of *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*. Those types are phrasal verbs, partial idioms, and total idioms. The high frequency of phrasal verbs that appear in the movie can imply that this type of idiom is more commonly used by English speakers compared to the partial idioms and total idioms. In terms of strategies used by the translator in translating English idioms into Bahasa Indonesia, there are four strategies. The strategies used by the translator involves translation by using idiom of similar meaning and form, using idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, using a non-idiomatic expression of similar meaning but dissimilar form and omitting the idiom. From the result of the research, it implies that translation by using a non-idiomatic expression

of similar meaning but dissimilar form is the most suitable and frequent strategy which is used by the translator to translate idiomatic expression from English into Bahasa Indonesia in this movie. On the other hand, translating idiom with similar meaning and form has the lowest frequency as seen on the result of the research, out of 60 idioms there is only one datum which is translated using this strategy. It means that this strategy is hardly applied by the translator. And in terms of degree of meaning equivalence, the degree of meaning equivalence of the English idioms in *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* compared to the translated idiomatic expressions in the Bahasa Indonesia subtitling text, complete meaning has the highest frequency among degrees of meaning equivalence of the idiomatic expressions found in the movie. The high degree of equivalent meaning of the translation implies that the translator has successfully translated the idiomatic expressions in *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* movie text into Bahasa Indonesia.

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