

TRANSLATION OF IDIOMATIC PHRASAL VERBS IN HOSSEINI'S *AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED* AS REALIZED IN NUGRAHANI'S *DAN GUNUNG - GUNUNG PUN BERGEMA*

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to describe the types of idiomatic phrasal verbs found in Hosseini's novel *And the Mountains Echoed*, the translation strategies employed in translating the idiomatic phrasal verbs, and the meaning accuracy of the translated expressions. This research employs a descriptive-qualitative research. The data are in the form of idiomatic phrasal verbs in Hosseini's *And the Mountain Echoed* and their translated expressions in Nugrahani's *Dan Gunung – Gunung pun Bergema*. The instruments of this research were the researcher, the data sheets, and the questionnaire. To achieve data trustworthiness, the data were carefully and repeatedly checked by the peer debriefers as well as the researcher. The results were also discussed with the supervisors in order to get a correct analysis. The findings of this research indicate that all of the idiomatic phrasal verbs proposed by Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman are found in the source text. They are inseparable idiomatic phrasal verbs, separable idiomatic phrasal verbs, and idiomatic phrasal verbs that are always separated. The most dominant type is inseparable idiomatic phrasal verbs. The strategies employed include translation by using paraphrase which is most frequently used, using similar meaning but dissimilar form, using similar meaning and form, omission of the play on idiom, and omission of the entire idiom. In terms of meaning accuracy, most of the translated expressions are considered accurate.

Keywords: idioms, idiomatic phrasal verbs, translation strategy, meaning accuracy

INTRODUCTION

Idioms are multi-word expressions that can be found in any languages. They are important parts of people's daily use of language. It has been understood that people have used idioms since long time ago. However, it does not mean that they no longer exist today. From time to time, people keep using them in their everyday conversation as the language itself develops.

Idioms are not old and static. Some of them develop and keep being productive until today. One type of idioms which are still productive is phrasal verbs. In relation to this, Wierszycka (2013: 84) states that "*the number of such PVs to be 'discovered' will remain unknown, and the number of coinages that will see the light of day will most probably remain a mystery.*" This makes phrasal

verbs interesting parts of language. They add flavor to the languages they belong.

It can be said that phrasal verbs are unique features of language. They belong to multiword expressions consisting of two components – verbs and particles – which form a unit. In grammar, this unit functions as a single word positioning as the verb of the sentence. In other words, phrasal verbs can be understood as word combinations that function as single words.

Although phrasal verbs are formed from the combination of verbs and particles, the meaning of the whole expressions is not necessarily derived from the meaning of the combination. This is because most phrasal verbs contain meaning which are idiomatic.

Such condition raises an assumption that idiomatic phrasal verbs are difficult to learn. Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman (1999:425) claim that phrasal verbs are difficult for non-native speakers of English. This statement shows that phrasal verbs, particularly idiomatic phrasal verbs, are difficult to understand for those who learn English.

The difficulties are also faced by translators, particularly those whose mother tongues do not have phrasal verbs. In translating idiomatic phrasal verbs, the translators' duty is to deliver the expressions into the target text. However, idiomatic phrasal verbs have some characteristics which deter them from rendering the accurate meaning.

There are some reasons why translators face difficulties in translating idiomatic phrasal verbs. The common reason is that they are not aware of

idiomatic phrasal verbs construction found in the source text. They assume that the components of phrasal verbs – the verbs and the particles – are separate words, and therefore they translate the phrasal verbs by word-for-word. Instead, the components should be seen as a unit.

Their lack of awareness of phrasal verbs construction might be influenced by the difference of grammatical structure. As what stated earlier, phrasal verbs are unique language features. It means that only few languages having phrasal verbs construction. It will be difficult if the source language and the target language have different grammatical structures. Consequently, it might cause a gap of meaning when phrasal verbs are translated into a target language that does not have phrasal verbs construction.

Furthermore, the use of context is very influential in determining the meaning of phrasal verbs. Most idiomatic phrasal verbs have more than one meaning. Therefore, different contexts used in sentences will carry different meanings.

This research has three objectives: 1) to describe the types of idiomatic phrasal verbs found in Hosseini's novel *And the Mountains Echoed*, 2) to describe the translation strategies employed in translating the idiomatic phrasal verbs in the English novel, and 3) to describe the meaning accuracy of the translation of the idiomatic phrasal verbs.

In analyzing the types of idiomatic phrasal verbs, this research applies Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman's theory (1999) on the syntactic

features of phrasal verbs focusing on their separability. According to this theory, idiomatic phrasal verbs are divided into inseparable idiomatic phrasal verbs, separable idiomatic phrasal verbs, and idiomatic phrasal verbs that are always separated.

In regard to translation strategies employed in translating the idiomatic phrasal verbs, Baker (2011) proposes six strategies in translating idioms, including: using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, borrowing of the source language idiom, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission of a play on idiom, translation by omission of the entire idiom.

In brief, idioms can be translated in various ways as long as the meaning remains similar. For that reason, meaning accuracy becomes an important aspect of translation quality assessment to make sure that the meaning of the source text intended by the author are rendered as accurate as possible in the target text.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is conducted using descriptive-qualitative approach. It aims to describe the phenomena found by interpreting the data. The data included in this research are idiomatic phrasal verbs found in the dialogues and the narration of the novel *And the Mountains Echoed*. The idiomatic phrasal verbs taken as the data are those which are used in the context of clauses and sentences. They were collected and transcribed along with their translations found in the translated novel *Dan*

Gunung - Gunung pun Bergema. The instruments of this research included the researcher herself, the data sheet, and the questionnaire. The data collection of this research was conducted in many steps, including: reading the original novel *And the Mountains Echoed* and its translated novel *Dan Gunung - Gunung pun Bergema* carefully and repeatedly, selecting all expressions containing idiomatic phrasal verbs in the original novel and their translated expressions in the translated novel, transferring the selected expressions into the data sheet, rereading the selected expressions in order to make sure the data taken were relevant, coding the selected data, designing the questionnaire, and administering the questionnaire to the respondents in order to assess the meaning accuracy of the translation of the idiomatic phrasal verbs. After that, the result of the questionnaire were analyzed, the data findings were interpreted and discussed according to the theories applied, and finally conclusion were drawn in order to answer the formulations of the problem. In addition, to enhance the trustworthiness, the data were carefully and repeatedly checked by the peer debriefers as well as the researcher. The results were also discussed with the supervisors in order to get a correct analysis.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

According to the data that have been collected and analyzed, the findings show that there are 260 expressions in the novel *And the Mountains Echoed* containing idiomatic phrasal verbs. This research shows that all of the types of idiomatic

phrasal verbs according to Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman's classification are found in the source text. From the total data, inseparable idiomatic phrasal verbs (217 or 83.46% data) are found most frequently. Then, in the second place, there are idiomatic phrasal verbs that are always separated with 25 (9.62%) data. The third place is occupied by separable idiomatic phrasal verbs with 18 (6.92%) data, which are the least frequently found.

In regard to the translation strategies in translating the idiomatic phrasal verbs, out of six translation strategies proposed by Baker, five strategies are employed in translating the English idiomatic phrasal verbs. They include translation by using similar meaning and form, using similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission of a play on idiom, and translation by omission of the entire idiom. It shows that more than half number or percentage of the translation strategies is occupied by translation by paraphrase, which occurs 223 times (85.77%). The second largest number or percentage is occupied by translation using similar meaning but dissimilar form consisting of 22 (8.46%) data. It is followed by translation by omission of the entire idiom with 6 (2.31%) data. Then, the fourth position is translation by using similar meaning and form, which consists of 5 (1.92%) data. It is followed by translation by omission of a play on idiom, which consists of 4 (1.54%) data. Translation by borrowing is the least

frequently used strategy. There is no Bahasa Indonesia expression translated using this strategy.

Finally, in regard to the meaning accuracy, the findings indicate that most of the translated expressions of the idiomatic phrasal verbs are considered accurate. The accurate level represents 214 (82.31%) data from the total amount. Twenty-nine (11.15%) data are in less accurate level, and the rest 17 (6.54%) data are in inaccurate level.

Discussion

The discussion section presents more detailed explanation about the types of idiomatic phrasal verbs found in the novel *And the Mountains Echoed*.

A. Inseparable Idiomatic Phrasal Verbs

These idiomatic phrasal verbs have the characteristic that only allow the position of verbs and particles adjacent or contiguous to each other.

SE: In the States, Timur **goes by** "Tim."

TE: Di Amerika, Timur **dipanggil** "Tim".

(D114/Ins/Par/Less)

The datum above is taken from the description about Timur Bashiri. He is described as an outgoing man who can mingle easily among people from different walks of life. He wants everyone to call him "Tim". *Oxford Phrasal Verbs Dictionary for Learners of English* lists one of the definitions of 'go by' as 'to call yourself a particular name, which may not your real name'. In the target text, the phrasal verb is realized as 'dipanggil'. It is translated using paraphrase, which influences the meaning accuracy. The meaning

accuracy is considered less accurate as there is some meaning of the idiomatic phrasal verb omitted in the translated expression. In addition, 'dipanggil' is still too general word that needs more explanation indicating that he calls himself with such name and wants people to call him so. Therefore, in order to make a more accurate translation, the translator needs to add more details to the word 'dipanggil'. Alternatively, she may translate the idiomatic phrasal verb into 'menamakan dirinya'.

B. Separable Idiomatic Phrasal Verbs

This type is characterized by the flexibility of the components being constructed. The verbs and the particles can be put contiguously or separated by other words (typically the objects of the sentence) without changing the meaning.

SE: Madaline's stories **stirred up** an old restlessness in me, an urge I'd always had to strike out headlong into the world, to be dauntless.

TE: *Cerita- cerita Madaline menggugah kegelisahanku, dorongan yang selalu kurasakan untuk menjelajahi dunia, bertingkah gagah berani.*

(D199/Sep/Par/Acc)

This datum is found in the scene when Markos was listening to his mother's friend's stories about the places she had been traveling. Since he was child, he was always wanted to travel around the world – being a photographer or volunteer in some foreign country. However, knowing her mother's strong dislike about moving out of home, he had to bury deep all those dreams.

Hearing such stories brought restlessness in him. On the one hand he was encouraged to chase his dreams that he had always struck out, but on the other hands he dreaded knowing his mother's reaction would be.

The example above uses an idiomatic phrasal verb classified as separable idiomatic phrasal verb. 'Stir up' can be constructed more flexibly because the object 'an old restlessness' can be positioned after the idiomatic phrasal verb or between the verb and the particle. Therefore, both clauses 'Madaline's stories **stirred up** an old restlessness in me...' and 'Madaline's stories **stirred** an old restlessness **up** in me...' are acceptable.

Oxford Phrasal Verbs Dictionary for Learners of English defines 'stir up' as 'to encourage somebody to do something; to make somebody feel they must do something'. In the Bahasa Indonesia text, it is represented by 'menggugah' which in *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* is defined as 'membangkitkan'. The meaning accuracy of the translated expression is considered accurate because the expression 'menggugah' conveys similar meaning to the idiomatic phrasal verb 'stir up'.

C. Idiomatic Phrasal Verbs that Are Always Separated

This type of idiomatic phrasal verbs has restricted construction. The verbs and the particles are always separated by objects. Therefore, the objects always appear in the middle of the components of the idiomatic phrasal verbs.

SE: "Mama **looked** me **up**?" I say.

TE: "Mama **mencari tahu kabarku**?" kataku.

(D226/A-Sptd/Par/Acc)

The example above is found in a conversation between Markos and his mother. She tells him about all of his pictures and articles she has compiled neatly in her bedroom to remind her of him, her only son. This makes him happy, and therefore he asks such question.

The idiomatic phrasal verb used in the source text is always separated because the verb 'look' and the particle 'up' need to be separated by another word 'me', which functions as the object of the sentence. Meanwhile in the target text, this idiomatic phrasal verb is translated into a non-idiom 'mencari tahu kabarku' using translation by paraphrase. This strategy results in an accurate translation.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

This research shows that all types of English idiomatic phrasal verbs according on Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman's classification are found in Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed*. These types include inseparable idiomatic phrasal verbs, separable idiomatic phrasal verbs, and idiomatic phrasal verbs that are always separated. Among them, idiomatic phrasal verbs are found most frequently. From these findings, it shows that most of the idiomatic phrasal verbs share a characteristic as parts of idioms, which are inseparable in construction; even though, in the case of idiomatic phrasal verbs, the elements need not be contiguous

to each other (Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman: 1999).

From the six strategies in translating idioms proposed by Baker (2011), five strategies are employed by the translator to translate the idiomatic phrasal verbs. They include translation by paraphrase, using similar meaning but dissimilar form, using similar meaning and form, omission of the play on idiom, and omission of the entire idiom. Among them, translation by paraphrase has the highest occurrence. By employing this translation strategy, the translator tries to make accurate translation with the help of good understanding to the context in which the idiomatic phrasal verbs are used.

In regard to the meaning accuracy, this research illustrates that the translated expressions of the idiomatic phrasal verbs of Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed* are mostly accurate, in which 214 (82.31%) data fall into this level. Meanwhile, the translations categorized as less accurate consist of 29 (11.15%) data. In addition, there are 17 (6.54%) data considered inaccurate. From these findings, it can be said that the translator of the novel *And the Mountains Echoed* successfully translated the idiomatic phrasal verbs with accurate meaning in the Bahasa Indonesia translated novel *Dan Gunung – Gunungpun Bergema*. There are several translated expressions having less accurate meaning and inaccurate meaning. However, as there are more than 80% of the total data having accurate translation, it indicates that overall translation of the idiomatic phrasal verbs in Hosseini's novel

And the Mountains Echoed is considered accurate.

Suggestions

It is suggested for the translators of idiomatic expressions, especially idiomatic phrasal verbs, to understand the components of the expressions as one unit. In the case of idiomatic phrasal verbs, the translator should know that the components are verbs and particles that form one unit and have idiomatic meaning. Therefore, it is advisable to employ an effective translation strategy by avoiding translating them by word-for-word.

The translators also need to take context into consideration when translating the idiomatic phrasal verbs. Most idiomatic phrasal verbs are polysemous so their meanings are determined by the contexts. Only assuming their meanings without paying a close attention to the appropriate contexts will lead to wrong translation. In addition, vast knowledge of the setting, register and culture of the source language is really helpful to deliver accurate translations. Some phrasal verbs, including the idiomatic ones, are only used in formal situation, some are used casually in daily conversations, and some others are used as profanities which are considered as strong language. Therefore the translators also need to consider these things in order to deliver the similar meanings in which the idiomatic phrasal verbs are used.

Unavoidably, this present research has some limitations due to the lack of supporting theories and the researcher's knowledge. Therefore those

who want to conduct researches with the same topic are suggested to provide more comprehensive theories particularly about the Bahasa Indonesia expressions of idiomatic phrasal verbs. In addition, regarding the data source, the researchers can use questionnaire administered to some translators and/or translation students to translate idiomatic phrasal verbs. By using this kind of questionnaire, it is expected that the findings will more represent the objectives of the researches. It is also suggested that more theories about accuracy or any other translation quality are needed in order to achieve better future researches.

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