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Instructional Practices in Language Education

Volume 3 No.1 Januari-Juni (2024)

INSPIRATION

Instructional Practices in Language Education

Vol. 3 No. 1 Januari - Juni 2024

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Daftar Isi

DELIBERATING TRANSLATION STRATEGIES FOR IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS ON THE LITERARY WORK

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Abstract. It is challenging to analyze the translation of idiomatic expressions since these are common to use in any kind of literary works. In translating those expressions, the translators may encounter several problems since they cannot be translated literally. To solve the problems, an appropriate translation strategy is needed. Therefore, the objective of this current work is to investigate the translation strategy of idiomatic expressions used in the literary work. To achieve such an objective, qualitative content analysis was used for this study. Data of the research were collected from The Maze Runner novel written by James Dashner (published in 2009) and its Indonesian version which was translated by Yunita Chandra (published in 2011). The data collecting technique used for this study was documentation. The result of the study proves that the strategies used by the translator for the novel are (1) similar meaning but with dissimilar form (17%), (2) translation by omission (17%), and (3) translation by paraphrase (66%). The uses of those strategies are required to result in accuracy for translation version of literary work which focuses on the naturalness of nuances of meaning and the context.

Keywords: translation strategy, idiomatic expression, novel

INTRODUCTION

As a global language used to deliver information, English becomes the main media of many types of information. Unfortunately, there are still many people that do not master English. It will make them difficult to comprehend the information in English. In this case, translation is needed to reproduce information from one language to another to make communication among people becomes possible.

The translation is an effective way to understand another language. To understand the message from another text accurately, a translator, at least, should master of both source and target languages and the topic or genre of the text itself

(Baihaqi, 2017). A deep understanding of such areas will help translators in producing an equivalent translation text.

In translating literary works, for example, a translator need to know how to deliver the context and the message accurately and naturally. The translators must restate the story in acceptable and understandable version in the target language. The translators need to replace or reproduce the versions in the source language with whatever versions in the target language accurately. Nevertheless, there will be a probability that the translators mislead in reproducing the real meaning of the words. Since it happens, the translator will convey unequaled meaning.

As a matter of fact, a translator may encounter many problems in his work. As Munday (2004) stated that one of the main problems for the analyst was in actually determining whether the source text's meaning had been reproduced into the target text. It is obvious that meaning is the crucial problem, whether or not, the meaning of the source language text is precisely transmitted into the target language text. These problems may be encountered when translating literary works that detailed proverbs, figurative languages, technical terms, and even idioms.

It is challenging to analyze the translation of idiomatic expressions since idioms are often found in the novel and it is also used in other literary works. An idiom consists of two or more words. It is quite problematic since it cannot be translated word by word or literally. As Adelnia and Dastjerdi (2011) argued that translating idioms are the most complex and problematic task for translators. The total meaning of its parts cannot be decided as the meaning of the idiomatic expressions. Thus, idiomatic expressions cannot be translated into another language literally.

Since the focus of the research is the translation of idiomatic expression, the term idioms itself is quite tricky to understand. Idioms are frozen forms that permit little or no variation in form and often convey meanings that cannot be comprehended from their parts. As Baker (2011) argued that idioms did not have the flexibility of patterning and transparency of meaning. Therefore, to get an accurate result, an appropriate strategy is needed. Since an idiom has been acknowledged and inferred accurately, the next step is to choose how to convert it into the target language.

Furthermore, Baker (2007) also asserted that the main problem posed by idiomatic and fixed expressions for translators related to two principal areas, there was

the ability to identify and understand an idiom correctly, and the problems involved in interpreting the various facets of meaning that an idiom or a fixed expression delivers into the target language. The above reason declares why this recent study is conducted. A literary work of novel entitled *The Maze Runner* written by James Dashner is chosen for this research due to its good popularity as New York Times Best-selling Series. The novel also had been published in Indonesia for both English and Indonesian languages.

Since the novel is well accepted and has been translated into the Indonesian Language, some previous works had been analyzed the novel. As Anindya and Sutrisno (2019); Anindya, Sutrisno, Poedjosoedarmo, and Ricahyono (2020); and Putra and Nababan (2019) who had studied the novel on macro-level, that was on its translation ideology and equivalence. This work, meanwhile, tries to analyze the novel on its micro-level, which is a translation strategy. Therefore, the problem of this study is formulated as follows: how are translation strategies used by the translator in translating idiomatic expressions of James Dashner novel's *The Maze Runner*? Finally, it is hoped that this study can accomplish an in-depth understanding of both the macro and micro-level translation for this literary work.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Translation Strategy

In translating literary works which commonly detailed by figurative languages and idioms, the translators could be false in losing the tone or meaning of idioms in translating them as they think of the idioms as ordinary expressions (Machali, 2004). Therefore, to reproduce the meaning of idioms correctly, the translator must decide the most appropriate strategy. Due to translation strategies, Baker (2007) offered four strategies for translating idioms and idiomatic expression as explained below.

The first strategy is using the idiom of similar meaning and form. This intends to reproduce idioms by using an idiom very similar in its form and meaning to the source language idiom. It must deliver unevenly the same meaning and be of equal lexical items.

SL : Nobody expected him to be **a cold-blooded murderer**.
TL : *Tak seorangpun menyangka dia adalah* **pembunuh berdarah dingin**.

The expression of *a cold-blooded murderer* is translated literally into *pembunuh berdarah*

dingin. This is suitable since *pembunuh berdarah dingin* is the equivalent version of *cold-blooded murderer*. *Pembunuh berdarah dingin* is an accepted idiom in the Indonesian version. The example shows that the translator effectively discovers the idiom of similar meaning and form. This strategy seems the most appropriate strategy to be implemented in translating idiom. This is not always true. In translating an idiom, it requires to think through the register, style, and rhetorical effect that the idiom has.

The second strategy is using the idiom of a similar meaning but dissimilar form. Many idioms in one language have their equivalent versions in another language in different form. The translator is acceptable to use different lexical items to reproduce idioms on the assumption that the meanings are the same.

SL : Jack the Ripper was famous for his cruelty as a **serial killer**.
TL : *Jack the Ripper dikenal karena kekejamannya sebagai seorang **pembunuh berantai**.*

Serial killer means a person who kills three or more people in separate times that mainly for psychological reason. This has equal meaning to *pembunuh berantai* in the Indonesian version. The version seems usual and natural among Indonesian readers. This is an instance of how an idiom has the same meaning but dissimilar in lexical items.

The next strategy is a translation by paraphrase. This is the most common strategies in translating idioms. When it is difficult to find the accurate version of any idiom in the target language, a translator may use this version. This strategy allows a translator to transfer the meaning of an idiom or idiomatic expression using a single or a group of words, which unevenly matches to the meaning of the idiom itself.

SL : This is not the time to **lie down on the job**.
TL : *Sekarang bukan saatnya untuk **mengabaikan tugas**.*

Lie down on the job has no equal meaning in Indonesian version as the instance above. The translator needs to transform the idiom with different version. *Mengabaikan tugas* is not an idiom; however, it is acceptable since it delivers the same meaning as the original has. This strategy is used to avoid misinterpretation of the target language readers. The readers may certainly understand the meaning, and it makes the translation natural.

The last is a translation by omission. An omission is allowed (1) when there is no equivalent version; and (2) when it is hard to paraphrase. Since these occur, an idiom may be omitted.

SL   : I kick my bike again **for good measure**.
TL   : *Aku menendang motorku lagi.*

The idiom *for good measure* is removed in the Indonesian version. There is no equivalence version for such idiom in the Indonesian language. As the shown above, the expression cannot be easily paraphrased since this may affect the style of writing. It is problematic to translate idioms into idioms. A translator, thus, may use non-idiomatic translation to sustain the meaning of the translated expressions in the target language. Since it has no equivalent meaning or it cannot be easily paraphrased, every translator has an alternative way not to realize an idiom in his works.

Idiomatic Expression

An idiom can form on a phrase, clause, or sentence. As Fernando (1996) defined an idiom as three-fold; firstly, as conventionalized multiword expressions; secondly, they are almost always non-literal; the last, they are indivisible units whose parts cannot be varied or varied only within definable limits. O'Dell and McCarthy (2010) further stated that idioms are fixed combinations of words whose meaning is often difficult to guess from the meaning of each word. Motallebzadeh   and   Tousi (2011) also argued that idioms are fixed phrases consisting of more than one word, and their meaning cannot be worked out by knowing the meaning of the individual words. All these views conclude that idiom or idiomatic expressions are the expressions in which the meaning cannot be inferred from the literal meaning and the organization of its parts.

Furthermore, idiomatic expressions are figurative expressions that do not mean what they literally state (Cooper, 1998). Even, Cacciari and Tabossi (2014) claimed that these expressions can be only understood by combining ordinary language processing with pragmatic interpretation in discourse contexts. Since they are often encountered in both discourses of source and target languages, comprehending and producing idioms are quite problematic since they cannot be translated literally.

As well as the translatability of idioms and idiomatic expression, both source and target language cultures also have a great effect on its comprehensibility. As Baihaqi (2017) argued that every translation work will face to such linguistic and cultural

asymmetry. There are no language and culture are the same, or nearly the same. Better understanding in using idioms and idiomatic expressions need both knowing the situational background and familiarity of both source and target language context and cultures.

METHODOLOGY

This research employed qualitative content analysis. Content analysis is a detailed and systematic examination of the contents of a particular body of materials to identify patterns, themes, or biases (Leedy and Ormrod, 2001). Since the data were textual forms of idiomatic expressions stated on the novels, the method was deliberated suitable for the aims and the nature of the study.

The sources of data of this study were idiomatic expressions found in the original novel of *The Maze Runner* and its Indonesian Language version. *The Maze Runner* was a novel written by James Dasnher. The original work was published by Delacorte Press in October 2009. The Indonesian version has 476 pages and is divided into 62 chapters. It was translated by Yunita Chandra and published by Mizan Fantasi in November 2011. To limit the data, the researchers analyzed the novel from chapter one to five.

Regarding the data collecting technique, the researchers used documentation. The documentation was used to classify and highlight the idiomatic expressions found in both novels to be compared. The procedures are as follow (1) comparing idiomatic expressions used on both novels; (2) coding and classifying idiomatic expressions from both novels; (3) determining and discussing the translation strategies used for such idiomatic expressions; and (4) concluding and interpreting the result.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Findings

Based on the classification of the translation strategy from Baker's work (2011), the researchers found three translation strategies used for idiomatic expressions as classified from chapters one to five. The following are the result of these translation strategies.

Using an Idiom with Similar Meaning and Form

The definition of using an idiom with similar meaning and form is when the translator using an idiom in the target text to translate an idiom in the source text. The meaning

and the form of lexical items of both idioms are the same. In this work, the researchers did not find the data which belongs to this strategy.

Using an Idiom with Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

The meaning of using an idiom with a similar meaning but the dissimilar form is when the translator using an idiom in the target text to translate an idiom in the source text. The idiom here is different in terms of lexical items. There is only a datum that shows the strategy in translating idiomatic expressions in the novel.

SL : Thomas refused to break eye contact but decided to say nothing. Panic ate at him once again. Would things ever stop getting worse?
"Griever got ya wettin' yourself?" The boy said through a sneer. "A little scared now? Don't wanna get sting, do ya?"

TL : *Thomas berusaha tetap memandangnya, tetapi memutuskan tak mengatakan apapun. Kepanikan sekali lagi melandanya. Kapan semua ini berhenti menjadi semakin buruk?*
"Griever berhasil membuatmu berkeringat dingin?" Anak itu berkata sambil menyeringai. "Sedikit takut sekarang? Tak ingin disengat, kan?"

The researchers categorized the above data as a translation that used an idiom with a similar meaning but dissimilar form. These was because of three consideration. First, in the source language, the expression *wettin' yourself* means *to accidentally urinate in your underwear,* which is equally in meaning with the expression in target language *berkeringat dingin, cemas, gugup, dan takut karena menghadapi kesukaran*. It can be said that the meaning is equal since there is one similar outline, *fear*. Secondly, the form of both expressions are different, if *wettin' yourself* is translated literally, the meaning would be *pembasahan diri*, so does with *berkeringat dingin*, if it is literally translated, the meaning would be *cold sweating*. Thus, the form is different, which means those expressions have dissimilar forms. Nevertheless, the two expressions are idioms in both source and target language. This makes them include in a strategy of using idiom with similar meaning but dissimilar form.

Translation by Paraphrase

Translation by paraphrase is a strategy where a translator uses another phrase than an idiom in the target language. This strategy was done since there is no version in the target language that can render the idiom in the source language, both in terms of meaning and form. This strategy is the most common strategy that is used by the translator because the availability of idiom of both source and target language are

different. In this work, the researchers found four data that are included in this strategy as an example below.

SL   : "Look at the Greenbean," a scratchy voice said; Thomas couldn't see who it came from. "Gonna break his shuck neck checkin' out the new dig." Several boys laughed.
"Shut your hole, Gally," a deeper voice responded.

TL   : *"Lihat anak bawang itu," terdengar sebuah suara parau; Thomas tak dapat melihat asal suara itu. "Lehernya bakal patah gara-gara celingukan." Beberapa anak tergelak.*
"Tutup mulutmu, Gally," tegur sebuah suara berat.

The above data shows the translation by paraphrase. What is meant by translation by paraphrase is when there is no equal utterance in the target language that can convey the meaning as in the source language. In the example above, the source language has an idiomatic expression *shut your hole* which means *a rude way of telling somebody to be quiet or stop talking.* In this version, the translator used the utterance *tutup mulutmu* which is not an idiom in the target text. It is claimed, nevertheless, the version is the right equivalent for target language which corresponds to the meaning of an idiom.

Translation by Omission

Translation by omission occurs since the translators do not find any equivalence meaning in the target language or when it is difficult to paraphrase. This strategy is aimed to keep the meaning of the idiom of source language rendered in the target language. This is also to avoid some kind of misunderstanding for the target language readers. There is a datum as follows.

SL   : Thomas said nothing, his head sunk, his eyes staring at the cracked, rocky ground. A line of small-leafed weeds ran along the edge of one of the stone blocks, tiny yellow flowers peeping through as if searching or the sun, long disappeared behind the enormous walls of the Glade.
"Chuck'll be a good fit for ya," Newt said. "Wee little fat shank, but nice sap when all's said and done. Stay here, I'll be back."

TL   : *Thomas tak mengatakan apa-apa lagi, kepalanya penat, matanya menatap tanah yang retak-retak dan berbatu. Sebuah jalur rumput berdaun kecil membujur di sepanjang tepi salah satu bagian yang berbatu, bunga-bunga kuning kecil menyembul dibeberapa bagian seolah mencari sinar matahari, setelah lama tersembunyi dibalik tembok-tembok raksasa Glade.*

"Chuck kayaknya cocok buatmu," kata Newt. "Agak gendut, sih, tapi lumayan patuh. Tunggu disini, aku akan segera kembali."

The version of idiomatic expression above is categorized as a translation by omission. The idiomatic expression *when all's said and done,* which means *when everything is considered done* is not translated. In this case, the translation version is omitted in the target language.

Discussion

In categorizing the translation strategy of idiomatic expressions, it refers to a theory from Baker (2007), which classified into (1) using idiom with similar meaning and form, (2) using idiom with similar meaning but dissimilar form, (3) translation by paraphrase, and (4) translation by omission. The picture below presents the finding of the translation strategy used in the novel.

Picture 1. Translation Strategies Used in the Novel
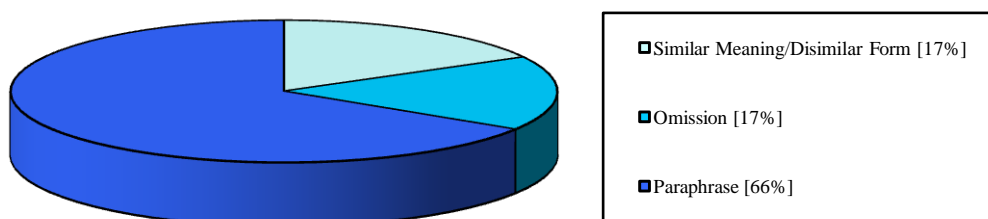
The result above shows that the translation strategies used in the *Maze Runner* novel are using similar meaning but the similar form (17%), translation by omission (17%), and translation by paraphrase (66%). There is no translation strategy of using idiom with similar meaning and form since the absence of such data in the novel.

It is realized that in translating a literary work, a translator is required to produce an equivalent version that is not only accurate in terms of meaning but also corresponds to the context of the situation and culture of the target language. This can be seen from previous works which proved that the translation strategies and procedures used for literary works were different from scientific works had. Previous works as Baihaqi (2018), Baihaqi and Oktaviani (2019), and Carolia (2019) show that strategies and procedures used for scientific works commonly refer to direct

translation (using similar meaning and form). Other studies such Kembaren (2018), Nuranisa (2019), and Pahamzah and Syariifah (2019) show the translation strategies and procedures for literary and other works, such as translating the holly book, commonly use indirect procedures (using a different form).

The result of this research also proves that translation strategies for literary works generally use equivalent versions in different forms, through similar meaning but the dissimilar form, translation by omission, and translation by paraphrase. This result shows that the translation strategies for literary works seek to find the equivalences for both meaning and context of the situation and culture of the target language. In other words, it can be said that the uses of translation strategies for literary work are required to result in the accuracy of the translation version which focuses on the naturalness of nuances of meaning and context.

CONCLUSION

This recent work concludes that the translation strategies used for idiomatic expression on *The Maze Runner* novel are using similar meaning but the dissimilar form, translation by omission, and translation by paraphrase. The research also accomplishes that the common strategy used for the novel is the translation by paraphrase. The translator transfers the meaning which roughly corresponds to the meaning of an idiom, and not to an idiom itself; nevertheless, the version is the right equivalent for target language which corresponds to the meaning of an idiom.

Finally, since the discussion is only limited to chapters one to five of the novel, further research is highly recommended. It is suggested an overall exploration of the novel to get further discussion and interpretation. Besides, further discussions and explanations of both micro and macro-level of translation for the novel are also recommended.

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