

TRANSLATION STRATEGY USED IN TRANSLATING IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN DEAD POETS' SOCIETY MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

There has been growing interest in studying a translation regardless of the use of translation strategy. Researchers have discussed how each type of translation employs a different strategy for translating books, novels, and legends. Even though several studies have been exploring the area of translation, they have yet to concentrate on translation strategy, especially in translating idiomatic expressions. Therefore, to fill this void, this study aims to identify the types and strategies used to translate the idiomatic expressions in Dead Poets Society subtitles.

The qualitative method involves scrutinizing and explaining spoken data using content analysis. This method employs idiomatic phrases found in subtitles. The researcher examined the subtitles in English and Indonesian and listed the idioms with the help of a dictionary. To analyze the data, the researcher sorted the types of idioms according to Lim's theory (2004), classified the translation strategies according to Baker's framework (1992), interpreted the results, and reached conclusions.

The researcher found that the idiom types aligned with the six types presented by Lim (2004), with the phrasal verbs being the most common. The translation strategies found are also compatible with the theory explained by Baker (1992), with the most commonly used strategy paraphrasing the translation. The researcher recommends that future researchers learn more about translation strategies to conduct more effective research.

Keywords: *Dead Poets Society Movie, Idioms, Subtitle, Translation Strategies*

1. INTRODUCTION

The process of translating involves comprehending the grammar and linguistic structure of the source text, performing a semantic analysis, and having a deep understanding of the source text to identify any idioms used. Additionally, English idioms are subject to frequent changes, so translators must consult an idiom dictionary or the internet to determine their definitions.

English is a language that heavily relies on idiomatic expressions to retain its diversity in written and spoken communication (De Caro, 2009). According to Halliday (2007), an idiom is any expression that lacks an equivalent in the speaker's native language. Idioms are commonly defined by linguists as fixed expressions whose meaning cannot be inferred literally and are not present in standard dictionaries. As stated by Howard and Amvela (2000), an

idiom is "a phrase that cannot be understood by the meanings of its individual morphemes."

While some English idioms may have a corresponding equivalent in Indonesian, this is not always the case. Idioms that appear to be clear and straightforward can be misleading as they can have an idiomatic interpretation that is not immediately apparent. This means that a translator who is unfamiliar with the idiom may misunderstand its intended meaning and interpret it literally. Additionally, the idiomatic meaning of an expression may only be implied in the context of the surrounding text. A translator must carefully consider the context of an idiom and the way in which it is used, including the collocation environment and how certain idiomatic features are manipulated by speakers and writers. The translator must also be aware of any potential for confusion that may arise from similarities between source and target expressions. In cases where a source language idiom has a target language equivalent that appears similar on the surface, the translator must ensure that the intended meaning of the expression is accurately conveyed.

After recognizing and understanding the meaning of an idiom, a translator must decide how to translate it into the target language. However, translating an idiom poses different challenges than interpreting it. The translator may encounter difficulties such as the lack of an equivalent idiom in the target language, the existence of a similar idiom but with different contextual usage, the usage of the idiom in both literal and idiomatic senses in the source text, the use of idioms convention in written discourse, and the difference in frequency and context of usage of idioms between the source and target languages.

The digital advances made internet users increase, and the occurrence of the Covid-19 pandemic in the world at the beginning of 2020 strengthened this so that people had to stay home and enjoy online entertainment because many were still afraid of watching movies live in theatres and refrained from going to the cinema and choose to enjoy the entertainment of watching movies from home to avoid the chain of spreading the virus from getting more expansive. The author adopts a fresh approach by incorporating information from a well-known Indonesian streaming service, Disneyplus, to conduct research on the translation strategies employed in rendering idiomatic expressions found in the movie Dead Poets Society. The research is based on Lim's theory presented in his book Advance English Idioms (2004), which is the latest and most comprehensive work on idiomatic expressions.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Idiomatic Expression

Idiomatic expressions unique to a language, known as idioms, serve a crucial function in communication. They are frequently employed across different settings and forms of discourse, whether informal or formal. Idioms are present in all languages spoken on Earth, and in English, they assume a significant position in day-to-day interactions. One can hear idioms being used in conversations, broadcast media, and printed materials. Instead of inventing new terms, individuals often combine established words to create fresh connotations.

According to Denoun (2000), "there is no known language that does not have an idiom." An idiom, according to Hornby (1995), is "a phrase or sentence whose meaning is not clear from the meaning of its words and must be learned as a whole unit; for example, the idiom *spill the beans* means to reveal secret information, especially without intending to do so."

The equivalent idiomatic expression in the target language is used to translate the idiom. Idiomatic expressions have a fixed structure and meaning, and while they may not always be grammatical, they are accepted and commonly used by native speakers. As such, they have played a crucial role in the English language for a long time. According to Martinez (2011), there are numerous phrases in the language that cannot be predicted based on individual words and are referred to as idioms or idiomatic phrases.

2.2 Translating Idiomatic Expression

The act of translating a message or context from one language to another is known as translation. There are numerous explanations of the term provided by scholars and specialists. Newmark (1988) defined translation as "the conversion of a text's sense into another language, in the way that the writer meant it to be." By means of translation, the text's meaning is conveyed from the source language to the target language.

Munday (2004) stated translation as the procedure of transforming a source text from one language into a target text in another. This process necessitates the use of at least two languages. The translator converts the message from the source language into the target language while retaining the original meaning. The translator's role is crucial in the translation process.

Baker (1992) pointed out that identifying and distinguishing between idiomatic and non-idiomatic expressions is the primary obstacle a translator must overcome when translating idioms. It is a challenging task to recognize an idiom. The translator defines an idiom as an expression that is perplexing and has little meaning in the context of the text (Baker, 1992). Baker (1992) clarified that idiomatic phrases or expressions may remain untranslatable in the target language, and an idiom may be used in both a literal and idiomatic sense in the source text. Furthermore, the usage of idioms in written discourse, their contextual appropriateness, and their frequency of use may differ between the source and target languages.

2.3 Translating Strategy in Translating Idioms

When translating difficult-to-translate idioms, the translator must use or apply a strategy or technique to achieve the equivalent meaning in the target language. Translators employ a variety of strategies to overcome this difficulty, whether consciously or unconsciously. Baker (1992) proposes four strategies for translating idioms: translating idioms with similar meaning and form, translating idioms with similar meaning but different form, paraphrasing idioms, and omissions.

3. METHODS

3.1 Research Design

In this study, the descriptive qualitative approach was used as the research design. Creswell (2017) defined a qualitative case study as the investigator focusing on one or more cases over time through detailed, in-depth data collection involving multiple sources of information. Because the analyzed data is explained descriptively, this study will employ the qualitative method. The information to be analyzed is presented in the form of words, phrases, and clauses. Because the researcher describes and analyzes the translation strategies used in translating idiomatic expressions in the subtitle transcript of the movie "Dead Poets Society," the descriptive qualitative research approach was used in this study.

3.2 Research Instrument

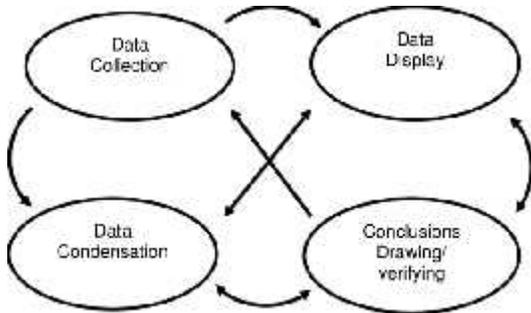
In qualitative research, a primary instrument is used when the researcher collects data on himself or herself (Donald:2010). According to the statement, the researcher used himself or herself as the most important instrument in this study because the researcher can decide the focus of the research, choose information as a data source, collect data, analyze data, and draw conclusions based on data analysis. When collecting data, the researcher will require a document as a secondary instrument.

To better understand the phenomenon under investigation, the researcher consults documents (Donald:2010). Documents include novels, journals, records, budgets, letters, e-mail messages, videos, and so on (Donald, 2010, p. 442); thus, document analysis is used in this study.

3.3 Method of Data Analysis

The researcher utilized the techniques of data analysis developed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014:31-33) to avoid plagiarism detection. The data analysis process consists of three steps, namely organizing, condensing, and making inferences, as depicted in the schema provided by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana. In organizing the data, the researcher chooses and arranges the data from the notes taken into a data table, which is essential for the data condensing process to proceed seamlessly. After the data is condensed, the researcher selects the relevant expressions associated with the idiomatic expressions to be examined. Ultimately, the researcher concludes the types of idiomatic expressions used in the movie "Dead Poets Society" subtitle transcript, as well as the translation strategies employed.

Picture 1 Adapted from: Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, (2014: 33)



4. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

4.1 Types of Idiomatic Expression in the Dead Poets Society

Six types of idioms were identified in the movie script, organized into groups that were readily available. This classification was in line with Tan Cheng Lim's Advanced English Idioms. Among these groups, the six types of idioms were the most prevalent in the movie script.

4.1.1 Phrasal verb

Phrasal verbs are composed of two parts: a verb and a particle, which can be one or more prepositions. When combined, these parts often convey a distinct meaning that differs from the meaning of each individual part. Therefore, phrasal verbs usually do not have a literal meaning. Non-native speakers need to learn the meaning of phrasal verbs just like they learn new vocabulary words. The movie script of Dead Poet Society provides an example of a phrasal verb, such as "Let us settle down, boys." This type of idiom is common in English, and researchers found 43 idioms of this type in the data.

4.1.2 Prepositional Phrase

A prepositional verb is a type of verb that follows a preposition, and when used together, their meaning is usually closely related to the original meaning of the verb. For instance, "out of life" is an example of a prepositional verb. In these types of verbs, a noun or pronoun typically follows the preposition, making them transitive. The data analysis revealed that five idioms of this type were present in the data.

4.1.3 Verb as keyword

This type of idiom highlights the verb to emphasize its meaning. A verb is a term or phrase that explains an action, situation, or event (Cambridge, 2015). An example of this type of idiom is "Be a good boy." In the movie script, the researcher found many idioms of this type that use the verb as a keyword. The data analysis revealed that there were 29 idioms of this type present in the data.

4.1.4 Noun as Keyword

In this type of idiom, the keyword is a noun, which describes a person, place, thing, event, substance, or quality (Cambridge, 2015). Examples of this type of idiom are "a blessing in disguise" and "child's play." Another example is "golden opportunities." After analyzing the data, it was discovered that two idioms of this type with a noun as a keyword were present in the Dead Poets Society movie script.

4.1.5 Adjective as Keyword

In this type of idiom, adjectives are utilized to highlight the idiom itself. An adjective is defined by Cambridge (2015) as a word that describes a noun or pronoun. For example, "like father like son" is an idiom of this type. Upon examining the data, it was revealed that there were ten idioms in the Dead Poets Society movie script of this type that use a noun as a keyword.

4.1.6 Idiomatic Pairs

According to Wyatt (2006), an idiomatic pair is composed of adjectives, nouns, or adverbs that are combined to form an idiomatic sentence. For example, "more lovely and more temperate" is an idiom of this type that uses two adjectives that are linked together. After analyzing the data, it was discovered that there were six idioms of nouns used as keywords in the Dead Poets Society movie script.

4.2 Translation Strategy used in Dead Poets Society

4.2.1 Similar Meaning and Form

The data for this approach was obtained by identifying idioms with comparable meanings and structures. This method involves using idiomatic expressions in the target language that have equivalent meanings and are composed of the same lexical items as the source

Table 2 Similar Meaning and Form

language. Table 2 presents the similar meanings and forms used for translating idiomatic expressions.

English	Like father like son
Indonesian	Seperti ayah, seperti anaknya
Context	Mr. Danbury states Knox's resemblance to his father

Table 2 shows a description from part of the movie when Mr. Danbury states Knox's resemblance to his father. Based on table 2, the idiomatic expression was translated using a similar meaning and form with which the meaning and the stylistic effects were still maintained in the target language. The idiom "like father, like son" was translated into Bahasa Indonesia and became "seperti ayah, seperti anaknya" which still held a similar structure. The meaning of the idiom was kept constant.

4.2.2 Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

This data-driven strategy was translated using an idiom with a similar meaning but different form. It is common to come across an

idiom in the target language that has a similar meaning to the source idiom or expression but contains different lexical items. Table 3 presents similar meanings but a different form in translating idiomatic expressions.

Table 3 Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

English	My father though I should get ahead
Indonesian	Menurut ayahku sebaiknya aku belajar lebih dulu .
Context	Neil invites Todd to join the study group but he refuses due to his father's strictness. The idiom <i>is</i> used to express to make progress in your work and become successful.

Table 3 presents an example where the idiom "gets ahead" is translated into the target language as "*belajar lebih dulu*," an Indonesian idiom that has the same meaning as "*menjadi yang terdepan*." Although these idioms have different lexical items, Todd suggested using "*belajar lebih dulu*" to make it more relatable to the Indonesian audience. This approach of using an idiom with a similar meaning but a different form is a part of the translation process.

4.2.3 Translation by Paraphrase

Based on the available text, certain idiomatic expressions in the source language were left untranslated into *Bahasa Indonesia*. Instead, the translator opted to paraphrase these expressions to convey a fitting meaning, while taking into account various factors and comprehending the context in which the speaker utilized the idiom. The process and results of this paraphrasing are outlined in Table 4.

Table 4 Translation by Paraphrase

English	Keep your eyes on the boat!
Indonesian	Perhatikan perahunya.
Context	The students row their boat, and the coach says to stay focused on the boat.

The data presented in Table 4 indicates that the translator opted for the use of "*perhatikan*" to translate the idiom "*Keep your eyes*." This decision was made based on several factors, including the context of the scene where students were rowing a boat, and the coach advised them to stay focused on the boat. The researcher supported the translator's approach, as "*perhatikan*" was more suitable in conveying the intended meaning within the given context.

4.2.4 Translation by Omission

On certain occasions, it may not be possible to translate an idiom into the target language due to various reasons such as unavailability of an equivalent, challenges in expressing its meaning through paraphrasing, or issues related to style. Under such circumstances, the translator may choose to omit the idiom altogether. Table 5 demonstrates the implementation of this strategy in the translation of idiomatic expressions.

English	Go ahead, pass it around
Indonesian	Bagikan
Context	Mr. Keating said, "Go ahead, pass it around," to ask the student to pass the paper.

Table 5 Translation by Omission

Table 5 illustrates a dialogue in the "Dead Poets Society" movie where Mr. Keating instructed his students to pass a paper to others using the idiomatic expression "goes ahead," which means to initiate or continue doing something after waiting for permission. The translator needed to translate this idiom into Indonesian and decided to employ an omission strategy. The reason for using this strategy was to simplify the subtitle translation for viewers to understand the message quickly. Omitting the idiom helped in achieving this goal while still retaining the original meaning of the source language. This decision was made based on stylistic considerations as well as the need to make the subtitle translation work better.

According to this discussion, the findings showed that the types of idioms found were aligned with the six types of idioms presented in this study which was based on Tan Cheng Lim from his book *Advanced English Idioms with the phrasal verbs* was the type that most commonly found in the subtitle. It was also following the statement from Brown (2002) that phrasal verbs are commonly used in formal and informal settings and spoken and written language. Meanwhile, the idiom type with the smallest number in the subtitle was an idiomatic pair.

Furthermore, the translation strategies found in this study are also compatible with the theory explained by Baker (1992), with the most commonly used strategy paraphrasing the translation. Following the statement from Baker, an idiom can be utilized in both literal and idiomatic situations in the source text. However, the idiom can only be successfully reproduced in the target text if the target language idiom is both form and sense equivalent to the source language idiom. Therefore, implementing a paraphrasing strategy can improve the quality of the idiom by efficiently clarifying essential meaning in the target language while also benefiting the readers. Whereas the least strategy found was by using similar both for meaning and form. The phrase or term may be untranslatable in the target language since the source and target languages utilize different idioms, contexts, and frequencies. Following this statement, applying similar for both meaning and

form strategy was rare because the idiom portrayed in the movie may have a different meaning if translated with a similar form.

According to Newmark (1988:48), the overarching goal of any translation should be to achieve the equivalent effect, i.e., to produce the same or a similar effect on the translation's readership. It means that the overall goal of translating a target text was to achieve source text equivalence. The Dead Poets Society movie subtitle translator had tried to make his translation as close to the original as possible.

Based on the analysis, it is reasonable to conclude that the translator should have detailed knowledge of idioms and how to overcome difficulties in translating them, particularly in Tom Schulman's Dead Poets Society movie subtitle. The translator must recognize and distinguish idiomatic from non-idiomatic usage when translating idioms so that the reader can easily understand the idiom.

This current research has a slightly similar result to the result of the studies which were conducted by Suryawan & Winaya (2018), Wicaksono (2018) and Ahmadi (2017). From the findings of the three previous studies, they concluded that paraphrasing translation is the most common strategy used in translating idioms.

However, this current research is slightly different from the previous studies which were conducted by Suryawan and Winaya (2018), Wicaksono (2018), and Ahmadi (2017). The research which Suryawan conducted and Winaya (2018) focused on analyzing translation strategies proposed by Baker (1992) and the types of equivalence with theory by Eugene Nida in toward science of Translating (1964); on the other hand, the recent study focused on analyzing translation strategies and the types of idioms This research also quite different from the previous study which was conducted by Sari and Wicaksono (2018). In the research done by Wicaksono (2018), there is a difference in the theory used in classifying the types of idioms. The analysis of the types of idioms was based on Makkai's classification of idioms (1972). While in the current research, the analysis of the types of idioms was based on the theory proposed by Lim (2004). The researcher found that all types of idioms proposed by Lim (2004) occurred in the movie subtitle. Ahmadi's (2017) study only focused on analyzing translation strategies proposed by Baker (1992), while the present research also analyzes the types of idioms.

5. CONCLUSION

During the translation process, translators may encounter challenging issues that could hinder their accuracy and efficiency. To effectively translate, translators must have a strong grasp of both the source and target languages and be able to transcribe and interpret meaning precisely. However, when it comes to idiomatic expressions, finding equivalent idioms with matching semantics and form in the target language can be complex. Therefore, translators tend to rely on paraphrasing techniques, which involve using common vocabulary in the target language that resembles the source language idiom or providing an extended explanation in the target language. In addition, translators need to be familiar with the meanings and applications of idioms to ensure accurate and successful translations. Another challenge in translation is the cultural context of both languages, which requires translators to have a thorough understanding of the cultures. It is also essential

that translators be native speakers of both the source and target languages to ensure natural-sounding translations.

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