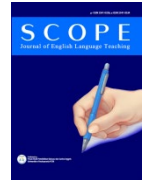




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Research Article

The Translation of Idiomatic Expressions from English to Indonesian in The Subtitles of The Joker Movie Directed by Todd Phillips

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KEYWORDS

translation techniques,
translation strategies,
idiomatic expressions,
translation equivalence.

ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to investigate how idiomatic expressions are translated from English to Indonesian in the Joker Movie to convey the nuanced meanings of the idiomatic expressions. The research uses a qualitative descriptive method. The theories used in this research are Molina and Albir's theory (2002) to analyze the techniques of idiomatic expression translation. Next, the theory from Baker (2018) to analyze the idiomatic translation strategies, and Nida's theory (1982) to analyze the equivalence of this translation. The results show (1) reduction is the dominant technique used in translating idiomatic expression. (2) Two dominant strategies in translating the idiomatic translation are found most of idiomatic expressions are translated to similar meaning and form, and some of the translated to similar meaning but dissimilar form. (3) For the equivalence reaches dynamic equivalent. From the results above the conclusion can be drawn that in translating idiomatic translation reducing an preposition or a word becomes the dominant technique and for the strategies of translating the idiomatic translation in a term of meaning show that most of the idiomatic translation has similar meaning and form while for the equivalence, since idiomatic is very dynamic so dynamic equivalence is reached in idiomatic expression translation.

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INTRODUCTION

Understanding idioms in films can be a challenging task. Deciphering the intended meaning behind idiomatic expressions presented is not always straightforward. The figurative nature of idioms makes them challenging to interpret, especially for non-native speakers or those unfamiliar with the specific cultural context. In order to address the challenges associated with comprehending idioms in films during the process of translating them into Indonesian, it is imperative to employ appropriate

translation techniques that facilitate a faithful rendering of the idiomatic expressions.

Ammer (2013) states that an idiom is a phrase consisting of two or more words that have a different meaning than the literal meaning of each word. Therefore, they often violate the rules of logic and cause great difficulties for non-native speakers. To concern on this issue some related researches done by Mahyuni (2022), Manipuspika (2021), and Iskandar (2016).

According to Munday (2016) the term "translation" in English, which was first recorded around 1340, has its origins in either Old French "translation" or directly from

the Latin word "translatio," meaning "transporting." This Latin word is derived from the participle form of the verb "transferred," which means "to carry over". Translation between two different written languages entails converting an original written text, known as the source text (ST), into the target text (TT). When translating text, Translators must balance preserving the original meaning with ensuring natural flow in the target language. Maintaining message, emotions, and tone is crucial, as is creatively adapting idioms for effective figurative conveyance while preserving impact.

In this specific case, LebahGanteng is chosen as the source of reference for the Indonesian translation. LebahGanteng is a freelance movie translator on the internet. His name often appears in several film genres such as drama, thriller, comedy, horror, and action. Based on an interview with Vice in 2016, he mentioned that he used a fake name in his work and he claimed to be a student from Surabaya, East Java.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the translation techniques employed in rendering idiomatic expressions from English to Indonesian in the Joker movie. The study aimed to examine how these idiomatic expressions were translated and whether they achieved equivalence in the target language. To achieve this, the researcher analyzed the translation strategies used by the translator to convey the nuanced meanings.

METHOD

The researcher used a descriptive-qualitative method to analyze idiomatic expressions found in the movie. According to Siyoto (2015), stated that qualitative research is a type of research that is conducted in natural conditions and is exploratory in nature. In qualitative research, the researcher is the main instrument. Qualitative research has two main objectives, namely to describe and reveal and the second objective is to describe and explain.

The researcher followed several steps in data collection. Initially, the researcher downloaded the Joker movie. Subsequently, while watching the movie, the researcher simultaneously read the script and viewed both English and Indonesian subtitles. Next, the researcher made note of the idiomatic expressions found in the movie, along with the corresponding timestamps. Then, the researcher analyzed the types of idiomatic expressions using O'Dell & McCarthy's classification, examined the translation strategies based on Baker's theory, and assessed the equivalence of the translations using Nida's theory.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the information presented in the provided table, there are fifteen specific idiomatic expressions that have

been selected for analysis. The researcher's objective is to carefully study and understand the techniques employed in translating these idiomatic expressions. This will be accomplished by utilizing suitable theoretical frameworks as a basis for examination. In addition, the researcher will thoroughly investigate the translation strategies adopted by the translator and assess the translation equivalence achieved in the translated text.

1. Translation Techniques

Molina and Albir in Putra (2021) present a thorough exploration of various techniques in a comprehensive manner, providing insights into their theoretical foundations and practical applications within the field of translation. There are 9 translation techniques: Literal translation, borrowing, reduction, addition, transposition, modulation, amplification, description, and couplet.

The translation technique of reduction is predominantly employed by the translator with a total of seven, followed by five literal translations and three modulations. The reduction technique was primarily employed by the translator due to its ability to simplify and shorten sentences. Through the removal of unnecessary details or restructuring of the sentence, the translation becomes more concise and easier to comprehend.

Table 1. Translation Techniques

No	Translation Techniques	Amount	Percentage
1	Reduction	7	46.67%
2	Literal	5	33.33%
3	Modulation	3	20%
Total		15	100%

Table 1 will be explained in detail below.

a. Reduction

This technique aims to make the conveyed message concise and efficient, avoiding waste and using words economically. Condensing the information contained in the source language into the target language. The information compression that is carried out must not change the message in the source language text. For example:

ST: I lived with my mother before I made it.

TT: Aku tinggal Bersama ibuku sebelum sukses.

The translator employs reduction translation as a technique because he did not translate the word "I" (before made it) from the source text.

b. Literal Translation

Literal translation is a type of translation where each word is translated individually, without considering how those words work together in phrases or sentences. For example:

ST: I heard this song on radio, the other day.

TT: Aku dengar lagu ini di radio tempo hari.

The translator employs the translation technique of literal translation in this dialogue because he used similar meaning and form in translating the idiom.

c. Modulation

Translation techniques that experience changes in point of view, focus or cognitive categories in the source text both lexically and structurally. For example:

ST: Stay tuned, we'll be right back.

TT: Jangan beranjak, kami akan kembali.

The translator employed modulation translation, which maintains the message from the source language while making changes to the selection of words.

2. Strategies in Translating Idioms

Translators run the risk of unintentionally misplacing the tone or significance of idioms when translating, as they might mistakenly view the idiomatic expressions as commonplace phrases. Hence, to ensure the accurate and efficient transfer of idiomatic messages during translation, the translator must carefully select the most suitable strategy. As a result, Baker (2018) introduced several different strategies for translating idioms, which include: similar meaning and form, similar meaning but dissimilar form, borrowing, paraphrasing, and omission.

The researcher identified only three strategies in translating idioms. The translator frequently utilizes two strategies: one involving similar meaning and form, and the other involving similar meaning but different form. Both of these strategies are employed six times each. Furthermore, the translator uses the translation by paraphrasing strategy. This particular strategy is implemented three times.

Table 2 Translation Strategies

No.	Translation Strategies	Amount	Percentage
1	Similar meaning and form	6	40%
2	Similar meaning but dissimilar form	6	40%
3	Paraphrasing	3	20%
	Total	15	100%

Table 2 will be explained in detail below.

a. Similar Meaning and Form

This strategy involves using an idiom in the target language that has a similar meaning to the source-language idiom and consists of equivalent lexical items. However, finding an exact match is not always possible. For example:

ST: I think I felt better when I was locked up, in the hospital.

TT: Aku merasa lebih baik saat dikurung di RS.

The translator chooses the word "dikurung" because it has a similar meaning and form to the source text. Locked up is a word combination of verb + preposition. The translator employs literal translation as a technique because it has the same form and similar meaning.

b. Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

In the target language, there are idioms or fixed expressions that express a similar idea as the source idiom or expression, but they use different lexical items to convey the meaning. For example:

ST: She always tells me to smile and put on a happy face.

TT: Dia selalu menyuruhku tersenyum bahagia.

c. Paraphrasing

This approach is widely employed in translating idioms, particularly when an equivalent phrase is unavailable in the target language or when using idiomatic language in the target text may not be suitable due to differing stylistic preferences between the source and target languages. For example:

ST: What kind of coward would do something that cold-blooded?

TT: Pengecut macam apa yang berbuat keji itu?

3. Translation Equivalence

A translation is considered equivalent when it effectively communicates a message that is equivalent in meaning between the original text in the source language and the translated text in the target language. Translations can achieve equivalence by using either formal or dynamic equivalents. Nida in Bassnett (2014) state that there are two types of equivalence: formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence. The aim is to make the audience in the target language feel as similar to the source language as possible.

In the study, it was found that the translator predominantly applies dynamic equivalence ten times and formal equivalence five times in the remaining, based on Nida's proposed theories. The translator's preference for dynamic equivalence stems from their goal to convey the film's message naturally, facilitating better understanding and acceptance by the audience.

Table 3 Translation Equivalence

No.	Translation Equivalence	Amount	Percentage
1	Formal equivalence	5	33.33%
2	Dynamic equivalence	10	66.67%
	Total	15	100%

a. Formal Equivalence

In formal equivalence, the TT closely resembles the ST in terms of both form and content. In other words, the translation strives to maintain a strong similarity to the original text in both its structural aspects and the information conveyed. For example:

ST: Beat him up. Take his stuff.

TT: Hajar dia. Ambil barangnya.

Based on the analysis, the translation belongs to the formal equivalence, because it has structural similarity to the source text.

b. Dynamic Equivalence

In dynamic equivalence, the primary objective is to express the message of the source text (ST) in the target text (TT) in a natural and fluent manner. The focus is on ensuring that the translation reads smoothly and sounds natural to the target audience. For example:

ST: They don't give a shit about people like you Arthur.

TT: Mereka tak peduli dengan orang sepertimu Arthur.

According to the analysis, the translation is considered as dynamic equivalence as it successfully conveys the intended meaning of the subtitle, and naturally understand the message and even the emotions depicted in the source language.

Table 4. Data Description

No.	Source Text	Target Text	Types of Idioms	Translation Techniques	Strategies in Translating Idioms	Equivalence
1.	Beat him up. Take his stuff	Hajar dia. Ambil barangnya	Phrasal Verb	Literal	Similar Meaning and Form	Formal
2.	I think I felt better when I was locked up , in the hospital	Aku merasa lebih baik saat dikurung di RS	Phrasal Verb	Literal	Similar Meaning and Form	Formal
3.	I lived with my mother before I made it . Just me and her.	Aku tinggal Bersama ibuku sebelum sukses	Fixed Expression	Reduction	Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form	Dynamic
4.	She always tells me to smile and put on a happy face	Dia selalu menyuruhku tersenyum bahagia	Fixed Expression	Reduction	Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form	Dynamic
5.	Stay tuned , we'll be right back	Jangan beranjak , kami akankembali	Fixed Expression	Modulation	Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form	Dynamic
6.	I heard about the beat down you took	Kudengar kau dipukuli	Phrasal Verb	Reduction	Translation by paraphrasing	Dynamic
7.	Because, I got jumped	Aku diserang	Compound	Reduction	Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form	Dynamic
8.	If you don't return the sign, I gotta take it out of your paycheck	Kalau kau tak kembalikan, kupotong gajimu	Phrasal Verb	Reduction	Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form	Dynamic
9.	What kind of coward would do something that cold-blooded ?	Pengecut macam apa yang berbua tkeji itu	Compound	Modulation	Translation by paraphrasing	Dynamic
10.	I heard this song on radio, the other day	Aku dengar lagu ini di radio tempo hari	Collocation	Literal	Similar Meaning and Form	Formal
11.	They don't give a shit about people like you Arthur	Mereka tak peduli dengan orang sepertimu Arthur	Fixed Expression	Modulation	Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form	Dynamic
12.	Before you make a fool of yourself	Sebelum kau membodohi dirimu	Fixed Expression	Literal	Similar Meaning and Form	Formal

13.	Slow and steady, we got some stairs coming up	Pelan-pelan, ada tangga	Binomial	Reduction	Translation by paraphrasing	Dynamic
14.	Thomas had that all made up	Thomas mengarangnya	Phrasal Verb	Reduction	Similar Meaning and Form	Dynamic
15.	I got nothing left to lose	Aku tak punya apa- apalagi	Fixed Expression	Literal	Similar Meaning and Form	Formal

CONCLUSION

The research findings can be concluded in the following explanation. Firstly, the most translation techniques employed by the translator in translating idiomatic translation in The Joker movie is reduction, followed by literal translations and three modulations. The reduction technique was primarily employed by the translator due to its ability to simplify and shorten sentences. Through the removal of unnecessary details or restructuring of the sentence, the translation becomes more concise and easier to comprehend.

Secondly, according to Baker's theory, the researcher identified only three strategies in translating idioms. The translator frequently utilizes two strategies: involving similar meaning and form for six times or (40%). Similar meaning but different form for six times (40%)., and the last is paraphrasing strategy for three times (20%).

Finally, the conclusion in term of equivalence, this research shows dynamic equivalence is reached up to ten times (66.67%) and formal equivalence for five times (33.33%) in the remaining, based on Nida's proposed theories. The translator's preference for dynamic equivalence stems from their goal to convey the film's message naturally, facilitating better understanding and acceptance by the audience.

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