

## **Audiovisual Translation of English Idioms in Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows Movie: An Analysis of English to Indonesian Subtitle**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The research entitled Audiovisual Translation of English Idioms in Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows Movie : An Analysis of English to Indonesian Subtitle aims at discovering types of idioms which are mostly used in the movie and analyzing the translation strategies dealing with the idioms in the movie. The data were analyzed by using a descriptive qualitative method with Fernando's (1996) typology of idioms and Gottlieb's (1992) strategies for the translation process of subtitling. The result of data analysis shows that pure idiom has the largest number of the total idiom found in the movie, that is 50 items (50%). The second finding shows that the most frequent strategies used by the translator is paraphrase which is used 41 times or reaches 41% of the total usage. Subsequently, strategies which less frequent in a row are transfer (40%), expansion (9%), condensation (4%), deletion (3%), and resignation (3%). By seeing the result it can be concluded that the Indonesian translator, in translating idioms in Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows movie, tends to be source-language oriented.

**Keywords:** *Translation Strategies, Idioms, Movie Subtitle, Audiovisual Translation*

## INTRODUCTION

Idiom is an expression made up from two or more words whose meaning cannot be guessed from the each meaning of individual words (Baker, 1992, p. 65). Finding the meaning of one idiom is often problematic because it is usually grammatically illformed and literally does not make sense. Moreover, idiom is hard to be understood by non-native speakers and learners because such idiom cannot be translated word for word; rather they should be translated into equivalent concepts in target language to convey the same meaning and produce the same effect on the readers.

According to Lewis (2002), idiom is a relatively fixed expression where the meaning of the whole is not transparent from the meanings of the constituent words. It implies that idioms are phrase or combination of two or more words and have different meaning from individual words. Here is the typology of idiom that is suggested by Fernando (as cited in Straksiene, 2009) to make it more understandable. He divided the idiom into three sub-classes of idioms,

which are: Pure Idiom, Literal Idioms, and Semi-idioms.

Idiom cannot be translated literary because it is constructed outside the rules of grammar. The use of idiom is also manipulated by the user, so that the meaning of idiom is often freely interchangeably. Related to the problem, to transfer the idea of idiom from source language to target language, we need a sophisticated knowledge about the attributes of idiom, and its translation. Many researches have been conducted on investigating the idioms (Adelnia, 2011; Akbari, 2013; Diani, 2010; Straksiene, 2009; Sugiarti, 2009). However, this research not only focuses on investigating the idioms but also analysing it in its translation and the translation strategies that is used by the translator.

Nowadays, the translation of language in movie is popular and becomes a common practice. Idioms usually appear in the dialogue that uttered by actors and actresses in the movie. So that learners can learn about idioms by reading and listening to the dialogue both in the source

language and the translation text in the subtitle of the movie.

Translation can be used to analyze movies as well. In this case, this research focuses on analyzing idiom translation in movie. Relating to the research, the idioms that exist in these movies subtitle need to be explored because Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows is the two-part epic finale of the Harry Potter movie series and the most wanted series of Harry Potter movies. The dialogue is mostly in wizarding ways of speak that was considered as the interesting one which brings old atmosphere in the movie. These movies are believed to have many idioms that should be understood by the viewers. So that the idea inside will be well translated. Therefore, this research was conducted to find out the types of idioms are mostly used and subtitling strategies which are mostly applied in the movie. The types of idioms are analyzed based on Fernando's (1996) typology of idioms while the translation strategies are analyzed based on Gottlieb's (1992) strategies for the translation process of subtitling, which are: Paraphrase,

Decimation, Transcription, Resignation, Dislocation, Expansion, Condensation, Deletion, Imitation and Transfer. Those two categories of finding are believed to be able to unveil the information needed in overcoming the difficulty of translating idiom.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Audiovisual Translation**

Audiovisual translation (AVT) is a term used in filmic media translation that covers the wide variety of translation activity including subtitling and dubbing. Amodovar (2000, p.1) defines audiovisual translation (AVT) as the general term for the products of translation that consists of the verbal dimension which is supported by media features.

The two major types of language transfer are dubbing and subtitling. Dubbing is a term used to produce a translation product by matching the actors's and actresses' mouth and movements in the dialogue of film in one language into another language to make it familiar to the target audience while subtitling is a term used to produce a translation

product in the text form of the films dialogue that usually shown on the screen. The text is written in the target language so that the target audience understand the film. In regard to the previous explanation, Jaskanen (1999) emphasizes that “the differences between Audiovisual Translation (AVT) and the other forms of translation is that it involves both technical and contextual constraints.”(Jaskanen, as cited in Munggarus, 2014, P.25) Technical constraints covers the format of the subtitle, including space, time and presentation. For example, the limited number of characters per line (normally, 35 characters in two lines). Meanwhile contextual constraints covers the cohesion issues, including oral-aural processing, textuality issue, and change in mode. It means that the action on the screen or the dialogue of films and the translation of the dialogue (subtitle) has to progress along in the movie (Georgakopoulou, 2009)

The audiovisual translation is useful for this research because the data of this research were taken from filmic media (movie). This research,

however, focused on one kind of audiovisual translation, that is, subtitling.

### **Subtitling**

Subtitling is one of the major types of language transfer in audiovisual translation (AVT). Others such methods are dubbing, voice-over, and simultaneous interpreting. The word subtitling is defined by Gottlieb (2004) as “the rendering in a different language of verbal message in filmic media, in the shape of one or more lines of written text, presented on the screen in synch with the original verbal message”. According to Gottlieb (as cited in Baker, 1998), subtitling has been used since 1929, when the first talkies reached Europe.

Ziang & Liu (2009) states that subtitle is a process from verbal language into written text, and highly dependent of subtitling equipment to present or transfer information to its viewers. According to Sponholz (2003) “subtitle evolved out of the intertitles, which were used as devices to convey the dialogue of the actors to audience.” Sponholz (2003) also added that text was printed on

cardboard, filmed, and inserted between sequences of film. In other words, Sponholz (2003) describes that film subtitle can be simply identified as textual versions of film dialogue, but technically it is defined as a product of translation of original dialogue which is condensed and appear as lines of text.

### **Subtitling Strategies**

Gottlieb (as cited in Jaskanen, 2000) explains strategies which are used in the process of subtitling a movie. In this research, the strategies are useful in analyzing the idioms in the movie. Here are Gottlieb's translation strategies for subtitling movie:

**Expansion:** The strategy that is used when the original text requires an explanation. This strategy added some explanation to the meaning because of some differences in culture is not found in the target language. Example: I'll get something on the wing. (Aku akan memakan sesuatu di dalam perjalanan.)

**Paraphrase:** The strategy that is used when some phrases of the source cannot be translated in the syntactic way in the target language.

Example: Who is number two? (Siapa yang satunya?)

**Transfer:** This strategy is used when the source language completely and correctly translated in the target language. Example: Hey, I dont bite. (Hey, aku tidak menggigit.)

**Imitation:** This strategy try to hold out the same forms, typically with names of people and places. Example: He hurdles the Grand Canyon. (Melintasi Grand Canyon.)

**Transcription:** The strategy is used where a term in the source language is unusual such as the use of another language beside source language and target language, and nonsense language. Example: Bon voyage, Charles Muntz. (Bon voyage, Charles Muntz.)

**Dislocation:** The strategy is used when the source text uses some special effect such as a silly song in cartoon movie. In this case, the translation of the effect is more important than the content. Example: Sheesh! Can you believe this, Ellie? (Kau percaya ini, Ellie?)

**Condensation:** The strategy manages to rearrange the meaning of the original and also the stylistic

features of the source text. The process of this strategy is transferring the dialogue to the written text and automatically eliminates some of the redundancies and thereby increases coherence for the audience. Example: Oh, for God's sake. We can't keep an eye on this kid? (Kita tidak bisa mengawasi anak ini? Ada dimana dia?)

Decimation: This strategy is same as condensation where there are some eliminated elements in order to maintain the speed. However, this strategy is more extreme from condensation, because the potentially important elements are omitted as well. Example: You and me, we're in a club now. (Kini kita satu klub.)

Deletion: The strategy refers to the total elimination of parts of the text. Example: Do you think you got what it takes? Well, do you? (Kau pikir kau mampu ya?)

Resignation: The strategy is used when there are no solution can be found to translate the source language to the target language. So that, the meaning is completely lost. There is no appropriate strategy to be used in transferring the message from

the source language to the target language. Example: Beeyotch! (No Translation)

### **Idiom**

Every language in the world has its own idioms. In English itself, idiom plays important role in daily life. We often hear idioms everyday in daily conversation, television, radio, magazine, newspaper, etc.

Instead of creating a brand new word, people use already existing words and put them together in a new sense. Just, what an expert in translation field mentions that, "there are, in fact, no known languages that do not have some idioms." (Denoun, cited in Rachmawati, 2005)

From Meriam Webster School Dictionary, we can find that 'Idiom is the expression that cannot be understood from the meanings of its separate words but must be learn as a whole'. While Newmark (1988, as cited in Noviana, 2011) give more explanation that there is a natural tendency to merge three senses of word 'idiom'. First, it is a group of words whose meaning cannot be guessed from the meanings of their

constituent words. As then definition from Webster above, idiom must be learned as a whole. We must read whole phrases, and then we try to understand the meaning by comparing with activities or situations that come in our daily life.

Second, the linguistic usage that is natural to native speaker of a language. Native often use idioms when they are talking to each other. Third, the characteristic of vocabulary or usage of people. Related to vocabulary, Baker (1992) says that “a person’s competence in actively using the idioms of foreign language hardly ever matches with native speaker”. It is because they have different sensitivity than native in judge the words of idiom.

### **Types of Idioms**

According to Fernando’s typology of idioms, there are three sub-classes of idioms:

**Pure Idioms:** Fernando defines pure idioms as “a type of conventionalized, non literal multiword expression” (Fernando, 1996, p.36) Pure idioms are the idiom that always non literal. This idiom can

also be invariable or have little variation. In addition, idioms are said to be opaque (Fernando, 1996, p.32) For example, pure idiom to spill the beans has nothing to do with the beans.

**Semi Idioms:** The idiom that have one or more literal meaning of the source language and one with non literal meaning. Therefore, this type of idioms is considered partially opaque (Fernando, 1996, p.60) For example, foot the bill which means ‘pay’ is semi idiom.

**Literal Idioms:** Literal Idioms are the idiom that have a little variation and can be invariable as well. Since literal idioms can be interpreted from their individuals meaning, the literal idiom are considered to be transparent. For example, of course, in any case, for certain.

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

Since the aims of the research are to find out the types of idioms and its strategies, descriptive qualitative method is considered as the appropriate method. There were 100 sentences which contain idioms from

Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows movie subtitle randomly chosen as the data of the research. From those sentences, 100 idioms were extracted and then were categorized according to Fernando's consideration types of idioms namely 1) Pure Idiom, 2) Semi Idiom, and 3) Literal Idiom. After classifying the idioms, the translations of those idioms were analyzed based on Gottlieb's strategies for the translation process of subtitling, which are: Paraphrase, Decimation, Transcription, Resignation, Dislocation, Expansion, Condensation, Deletion, Imitation, and Transfer.

In conducting the research, the following steps were taken: (1) Watching the Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows movies, (2) Downloading the movie subtitle and transcribing the translated version of Indonesian subtitle. (3) Listing and classifying the idioms found in the movie. (4) Finding and writing the indexical meaning of idioms found in the subtitle. (5) Comparing idioms in the source text with the idioms in the target text. (6) Identifying the idioms

found into types of idioms as well as the translation strategies of each type of idiom.

After collecting the data, the writer analyzed the data by using these following steps: (1) Those idioms that have been found in the movie were categorized based on Fernando's typology of idioms, which are: Pure Idioms, Semi Idioms, and Literal Idioms. (2) Then, comparing the idioms found with its translation to know the strategy used by the translator. (3) Calculating total number and percentage of each type of idioms and translation strategies. (4) Presenting and discussing which types of idioms that were mostly used in the movie and which strategy that was applied the most by the translator. (5) Drawing conclusions.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

From the total number of idioms found in the movie, pure idiom has the largest number of 50 items or cover 50% of the all quantity. Meanwhile, semi idiom takes 35 items or cover 35% of the total number and literal idiom has only 15



items or only 15% of the total number.

Another aim of this research is to find out the translation strategies that are mostly applied in translating types of idioms in the movie. There were 100 sentences which contain idioms from Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows movie subtitle randomly chosen as the data of the research. Therefore, there are six Gottlieb's translation strategies of subtitling that are applicable to the Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows movie subtitle. Those strategies are expansion, paraphrase, transfer, condensation, deletion, and resignation. However, imitation, transcription, dislocation, and decimation strategies were not found in this subtitle. This is because these strategies were not suitable for translating idioms in this movie subtitle.

From the data findings, it shows that the most frequent strategies used by the translator is paraphrase. Paraphrase strategy is used 41 times or reaches 41% of the total usage of translating strategies in translating the idioms. Then

paraphrase strategy is followed by transfer, which has 1% different and takes 40% of the overall use. Following those two, other strategies are listed from rather frequently up to the most rarely used, namely expansion (9 items or 9%), condensation (4 items or 4%), and both deletion and resignation (3 items or 3%).

There is another data analysis, in which each idiom and translation strategies is discussed together. It shows specifically what kinds of idiom the translation strategies deal with. In paraphrase, it is obviously seen that the paraphrase strategy is frequently used to treat 41 idioms in total, which were divided into three types of idioms, pure idiom (25 items or 25% from 100 items), semi idiom (15 items or 15% from 100 items), and literal idiom (one item or 1% from 100 items). Meanwhile, the strategy of transfer dealt with 40 idioms in total, just have 1% different from the most frequent strategy used, paraphrase. The transfer strategy was relied to treat all three types of idioms, pure idiom (15 items or 15% from 100 items), semi idiom (15 items or 15%

from 100 items), and literal idiom (10 items or 10% from 100 items).

Following transfer, the expansion strategy dealt with 9 idioms in total. This strategy also treat the all three types of idioms, pure idiom (four items or 4% from 100 items), semi idiom (three items or 3% from 100 items), and literal idiom (two items or 2% from 100 items). The condensation strategy treated two types of idioms (two or 2% pure idiom, and also two or 2% literal idiom from 100 items). Resignation and deletion are both dealt with three idioms in total, the different is in the occurrence of these strategies. Resignation occurred in two types of idioms, there are, pure idiom (one or 1% from 100 items), and semi idiom (two or 2% from 100 items) while deletion only occurred in pure idiom (three or 3% from 100 items).

By seeing the results from the total above, the most frequently used translation strategy is paraphrase, while the least used strategies are deletion and resignation. So that, the list of the translation strategies from rather frequently up to the most rarely used: paraphrase, transfer, expansion,

condensation, deletion and resignation. However, if it is based on the types of idioms, the sequence also be different. In pure idiom, the sequence could be: paraphrase, transfer, expansion, deletion, condensation and resignation; in semi idiom: paraphrase and transfer, expansion, resignation; and in literal idiom, the most significant result: transfer, condensation, expansion, paraphrase.

By the used of paraphrase and transfer strategies dominantly, it reveals implicitly that the Indonesian translator is source language-oriented. It is also reveals that to know the frequent strategy used in translating the idiom, the types of idioms itself have to be considered in drawing the sequence of the occurrences.

## CONCLUSION

This research reports the results of an analysis of translating idioms in the Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows movie in the case of translating from English to Indonesian. Fernando (1996) proposes typology of idioms which

are pure idiom, literal idiom, and semi idiom. Based on the findings, the writer reveals that the types of idioms which are mostly used in the movie was pure idiom with 50 items or 50% from 100 items. Meanwhile, semi idiom takes 35 items or cover 35% of the total number and literal idiom has only 15 items or only 15% of the total number.

It was also revealed that among all of the translation strategies that are being used to translate the idioms, paraphrase is the most frequently used strategy. Paraphrase was applied 41 times or 41% of the total occurrence of the translation strategies used. The second-most used strategy was transfer that was use 40 times or 40%. The third was expansion with the use of 9 times or accounted for 9%, followed by condensation (4 times or 4%) and the least-used strategy were deletion and resignation that were applied three times or 3%.

Paraphrase as the most-used strategy was applied to achieve the greater clarity if the sentences had difficult construction of syntactic form to be rendered in the subtitles.

The text suggested this strategy because there were few idioms which were equal in target language. Paraphrase might not produce an accurate translation of idiom in the movie subtitle, but the strategy could provide a guideline of how idiom supposed to mean. The strategy was success to make the translation of most idioms in the movie subtitle became communicative as the strategy made the target audience understood the idioms without having difficulties to interpret the meaning of idiom closely to source language. In short, the text has often paraphrased to make the content more suitable and intelligible to the audience.

Another frequent strategy is transfer. The text was translated from the source language accurately and completely into the target language without leaving any single word and no need additional information or deletion to give the same effect as the source language. The possible reason why this strategy was being used is because they do not want to lose the original meaning of the source language.

By the used of paraphrase and transfer strategies dominantly, it reveals implicitly that the Indonesian translator is tend to be source language-oriented. It is also reveals that to know the frequent strategy used in translating idioms in the movie, the types of idioms itself have to be considered in drawing the sequence of the occurrences.

In contrast to what Gottlieb (1994) states that condensation seems to be the most frequently used strategy in subtitling in general (as cited in Eriksen, 2010 : p.41) the current research indicates that the most frequently used strategy is paraphrase. Different data, different subtitler, and different kind of data might affect the different significance of subtitling strategies use.

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