

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is an introduction to the research. It consists of background, research questions, research objectives, research significances, previous studies, definition of key terms and organization of writing.

1.1 Background

It is generally understood that translation is the process of transferring ideas and information from one language to another. An interpreter, when carrying out the transfer process, is expected to produce works that are easy to read, easily understood by the target language reader. Therefore, translators must master the source language well, and they must also understand the target language. They need to have the ability to understand ideas in source language. Apart from these three things, mastery of culture also has an important role.

Success in translation is still a matter of debate. However, in modern society, translation plays an important role in the history of human life. These important roles include as a tool for disseminating ideas, culture, and discoveries in science cooperation with other communities. Without translation, communication between groups of people using different languages will not occur. Translation is a dual act of communication that requires the existence of two different codes, the source language, and target language. Translation of the textual material in one language by textual equivalence material in another language. Matching is a keyword in translation because it is expected that the translation text in the target language can convey ideas and messages like source text. Translation is a craft to replace a written message and statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language. Thus, messages that are conveyed in other languages are according to the intent of the source text writer.

The process of translating literature is different from the translation of other types of text. In the process of translating prose literary works as source texts in translation, before the translation process, a translator needs to carefully read the source text which aims to understand the story in the novel and the message to be conveyed. The next step is to analyze from the translator's point of view. This analysis is to study the purpose of the text it is intended to study aspects of the language and the influence of SL culture, and moral goals implied in the story and also need to analyze the linguistic and stylistic problems used.

The main purpose for translators of prose literature, especially novels, is to be able to create the same effect for TL readers as perceived by SL readers. The relationship between the receptor and the message that is substantially the same as that which exists between the original receptors and the message. However, in addition to having many benefits, translation also has constraints. First, an interpreter will be confronted with various translation strategies. Second, on the correspondence that appears at various levels of language. The existence of cultural content on the form or element of language in the source language is different or not possessed the target language. Both obstacles are often found in idioms, which are unique invented forms in a language. The meaning of the idiom form itself cannot be 'foretold' from the lexical meaning of its elements nor the grammatical meaning of such units, requiring more knowledge. This makes it difficult to find an equivalent idiom in the target language. Also, idioms that have cultural content become obstacles in translation because the source language and the target language do not necessarily have the same culture. This problem has become one of the difficulties in translation of idiom, which is one of the special problems often encountered in translation in various languages. Translation of idioms not only translates words or forms from a single source language but is also capable of conveying messages or meanings contained in the source language so that it can be understood in the target language. Required accuracy when translating to be accepted in the target language. This difficulty sometimes causes the translator or learner to tend to translate words of the source idiom-forming language only when the equivalent of the idiom-forming word is unacceptable in

the target language. In this case, there is a shift in translation. The shift in translation has a concept that is to describe the changes that occur between the source text and the specific target text. Not infrequently the English idiom is translated into Indonesian that results in a shift in form and meaning from the author by a story.

Related from the statement above, the existence of Idioms which always appear in the literary work, especially novels, and it will always be difficult to be understood. This present study is aimed to analyze and describe the translation of Idiom and translations strategies used by the translator to translate a novel, *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie (Christie, 1939)

The reason why the researcher chose this novel as the object of research is that in this novel which was released in 1939 with mystery as its genre has become Agatha Christie's most popular novel all the time beside her best seller series of Hercule Poirot. In this novel, there are many idiom expressions used in conversations between characters. Also, many novel writers use vocabulary and word combination forms, informal language, and also figuratively because it is used in conversations between people who know each other closely. Idioms are also used in English-speaking novels as a means to narrate the story ideas of novel writers.

1.2 Research Questions

In this research, the researcher examines the use of the method of translating idioms in Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* novel. The difficulty is that not many researchers have researched an attempt to solve this difficulty. One way to solve this difficulty is by choosing an idiom translation strategy.

Based on the above phenomenon, the problems analyzed in this study are as follows.

- 1 What are the types of idioms based on Chitra Fernandos's theory in the *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie novel and in its Indonesian translation?
- 2 What strategies are used by the translator in translating the idioms in that novel?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the research above, the writer focuses on the types of idioms and the translation methods used by translator in *And Then There Were None* novel by Agatha Christie. The research is aimed at:

- 1 To find the types of idioms based on Chitra Fernando's theory used in the novel *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie.
- 2 To identify the translation strategies which were used by the translator in translating novel *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie.

1.4 Research Significance

Most people in the world have read *win*, but not many have mastered foreign languages, so they must rely on translation prose. Therefore, research on various aspects of prose translation, especially in terms of translating Idioms, becomes essential. Professional translators and beginner translators face difficulties in translating idioms in different types of texts. Therefore the results of this study are expected to be utilized as:

- a. Input for teaching translation regarding the translation of idioms.
- b. Input for teaching foreign languages, especially English, is primarily in teaching reading and writing.
- c. Input for beginner translators to reduce the occurrence of mistakes that are common in the translation of Idioms.
- d. Input for translators regarding the problem of Idioms in translating the text of the source of a novel into the target text of a novel. Translators can use

the results of this study to improve the quality of literary translations, especially novels.

- e. Stimulation for other researchers to conduct similar research.

1.5 Previous Studies

To back this study, the writer takes some studies related to translation strategy and translation equivalence, they are *Translation of Idioms and Fixed Expressions: Strategies and Difficulties* (2012); *Naturalness and Accuracy in English Translation of Hafiz* (2009); and *The Naturalness in Translation of Idioms and Proverbs: The Case of a Persian Translation of Pinocchio* (2012).

Amir Shojaei (Shojaei, 2012) looked into the obstacles found in the process of translating inter-lingual idiomatic pairs in his research. The research, which used a descriptive method of writing and was a library research, was done based on Mona Baker's (1992) *In Other Words*, especially the third chapter, *Equivalence above Word Level*. In writing this paper, Shojaei firstly collected a large number of pamphlets and articles on this subject, in addition to studying *In Other Words* in detail. Secondly several work of previous researchers and scholars on the issue were analyzed and explored to build a comprehensive knowledge and data. Thirdly, the findings were collected in order to conclude the adequate an efficient strategies to translate idioms and fixed expressions. This research proved Baker's theory related to kinds of difficulties in translating idioms, her classification of main problems involved in translating idioms, as well as the strategies that could be applied to overcome said difficulties. The report showed that there were several factors that should be considered in order to translate Idioms correctly, such as socio-linguistic elements, cultural aspects, linguistic and stylistic considerations as well as some specific meta-lingual factors.

There were four problems found in translating idioms, they were mentioned as: (1) an idiom might have no equivalent in the TL; (2) an idiom might have a similar counterpart but with different meaning; (3) an idiom might be used in both its literal and idiomatic senses at the same time; and (4) the contexts in which

idioms could be used are different. Then four strategies were referred to solve the problems, they were: (1) using an idiom of similar meaning and form; (2) using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form; (3) translation by paraphrase; and (4) translation by omission. It was shown that there was no definite way to muddled through Idioms. However it was proven in the report that the more two languages and cultures were similar to each other, the easier the process of translating idioms becomes. As a suggestion, to produce a prime translation, translator should have deep knowledge on both SL and TL in order to produce a successful translation.

Anari and Bouali (Anari, S. M; Bouali, Z;, 2009) conducted another research in other aspects of translation which are naturalness and accuracy. This study attempted to find the answers to the following questions: (1) Was there any difference between an English translation of Hafiz, the master of Persian *ghazal*, by a native speaker of Persian and a native speaker of English in terms of naturalness and accuracy? And (2) Was it possible to achieve both naturalness and accuracy in poetry translation? This corpus-based study was conducted by selecting and contrasting two different translations of *the ghazal*, a form of Persian lyric practiced by a number of poets in Iran. The first translation was done by Pazargadi, a Persian translator, and the second one by Clarke, an English translator. This comparison was done based on the theoretical frame of naturalness or acceptability proposed by Beekman and Callow (1989) as well as the theoretical frame of reference of accuracy formulated by (Larson, 1984)

Through comparing native and non-native translations of the *ghazal*, it can be concluded that the non-native translation which is rendered by Clarke is more natural than that of the native translator, Pazargadi. This is possibly due to the fact that Clarke is an English native speaker and the presence of naturalness in his work could be because of the degree of his mastery over the language.

However, the English translation by Pazargadi comprised a higher degree of accuracy compared to the translation done by Clarke. Therefore, the answer to the first research question was positive and this study showed that there were

differences in terms of naturalness and accuracy when the same work was translated by native and non-native translators. This study suggested that the cooperation of native and non-native translators would be of great help in producing a more natural and accurate translation as far as the form and meaning were concerned. Thus, the positive answer to the second research question confirmed the mutual cooperation in scholarly translations.

Meanwhile, Farahani and Ghasemi (Farahani, A.K; Ghasemi, M., 2012) conducted a research about English translation of an Italian novel called *The Adventure of Pinocchio* written by Collodi (pseudonym of Carlo Lorenzini) and its Persian version. This was a corpus-based and descriptive-comparative study whose goal was to explore the implementation of idiom translation strategies as well as identifying the most frequently used strategies. The procedure in writing this research involved highlighting the idioms and proverbs in the original text as well as finding the Persian translation of each English idiom and proverb. The collected data was put into two separate tables to compare the English and Persian idioms and proverbs. Then, the researchers looked for the applied strategies for translating idioms and proverbs to be classified and measured in percentage.

The finding revealed that there were 200 samples collected and translator applied four strategies in translating idioms, they were: (1) idioms of similar meanings and forms (6%); (2) idioms of similar meanings but dissimilar forms (40%); (3) paraphrasing (43%); and (4) omission (11%). For the translation of proverbs, the translator used three strategies: (1) the words following the proverb could be introduced as the meaning of the proverb (11.11%); (2) it could be replaced with an equivalent local proverb (66.66%), and; (3) Its non-figurative meaning could be stated straightforwardly (22.22%).

The researchers concluded that paraphrasing was the ideal strategy for translating idioms and replacing the proverb with an equivalent local proverb for translating proverbs. In addition to these strategies, it was also found that the translator translated the idioms and proverbs based on the context and without paying attention to the meaning of the idioms in order to preserve the naturalness.

The researchers stated that translating idioms of a novel required a lot of knowledge about idioms, careful consideration and deep knowledge of the source and target languages and cultures.

Another researcher, Sima Ferdowsi (Ferdowsi, 2013) investigated the Idiom translation in English language films subtitled into Persian to detect the effects of the applied strategies on comprehending the films. Three American movies that were subtitled into Persian were chosen to be the objects of the study. Those movies were Trumanshow (1998), Midnight Run (1988), and Rain Man (1988). The data of the study was gathered in three steps. Firstly, the researcher viewed the films and checked the spelling of the Persian subtitles. Secondly, the researcher focused on the Persian subtitles of the films, especially its linguistic contents. This was done to gather idiomatic instances. The source text idioms were then compared with their translations. Lastly, the researcher attempted to detect the impact of the translation strategies used on the overall product of subtitling. The idioms in the movie were gathered and classified based on the taxonomy presented by Cowie and McCiag (1983) that classified Idioms into four main categories, phrasal verbs, phrases, clause patterns, and sentence patterns.

The analysis revealed that there were eight strategies that had been used in translating idioms for subtitling: mistranslation (25.53%), semantic equivalent (23.4%), paraphrasing (19.14%), literal translation (14.8%), deletion (11.7%), idiomatic translation (2.12%), under translation (2.12%) and over translation (1.06%). Moreover, the study found that adopting certain translation strategies had some effects on the translation, such as lack of synchronicity between image and subtitle, creating incoherent sentences due to mistranslations, non-conveyance of humor of the scene because of incorrect idiom combinations, violation of collocational patterns of Persian, and non-conveyance of the information of the movies.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

Translation

Translation is the replacement of source language (SL) by the equivalent of textual material in the target language (TL).

Translation Strategy

The term strategy is referred to as a method or a procedure used by a translator to solve a particular problem while translating.

Idiom

An idiom is a group of words whose meaning cannot be sought from the sense of the shape of the word. Hornby states that “an idiom is a phrase or sentence whose meaning is not clear from the meaning of its words and which must be learned as a whole unit.”

