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Idiom Translation Strategies In *Bee Movie*

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ABSTRACT

Idiomatic expressions, commonly referred to as idioms, are sentences with figurative meaning—a meaning that differs from the literal meaning of the idiom's constituent parts and does not always mean what the words state. This study aims to examine the idiom translation techniques used in the English to Indonesian subtitles of *Bee Movie*. The movie comes from Apple TV because the quality control process is applied to the subtitles before they are broadcast. Using Baker's theory of idiom translation techniques, this paper is studied. These tactics include adopting idioms from the source language, translating by paraphrasing, translating by omitting a play on idiom, translating by omitting a whole idiom, and utilizing an idiom with a similar meaning but a different form. The data in this study are identified and analyzed using a descriptive qualitative method. 42 idiom data were discovered based on the movie's data. Of those 42 data, 41 data (93%) contain translation methods for paraphrases, and one datum (7%) contains translation strategies for borrowing. In light of the research's conclusions, it is advised that translators possess a solid grasp of both Indonesian and English idioms in order to employ a variety of idiom translation techniques.

Keywords: idiomatic expression; subtitling, translation strategy

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mempelajari strategi penerjemahan idiom yang digunakan dalam penerjemahan takarir *Bee Movie* dari bahasa Inggris ke bahasa Indonesia. Sumber film ini diunduh dari Apple TV karena takarir Apple TV telah melalui proses penyuntingan sebelum ditayangkan di aplikasi Apple TV. Teori Baker tentang strategi penerjemahan idiom digunakan untuk menganalisis penelitian ini. Strategi ini terdiri dari idiom bentuk serupa yang bermakna sama (idiom bentuk serupa yang bermakna sama), idiom bentuk serupa yang bermakna berbeda (idiom bentuk serupa yang bermakna berbeda), parafrasa (parafrase), penghilangan permainan, penghilangan seluruh idiom, dan peminjaman. Data yang dikumpulkan dalam

penelitian ini diidentifikasi dan dianalisis melalui pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif. Data idiom sebanyak 42 telah dikumpulkan dan dikategorikan berdasarkan strategi penerjemahan. Dari 42 data, 41 idiom (93%) diterjemahkan menggunakan strategi penerjemahan parafrasa, dan satu idiom (7%) diterjemahkan menggunakan strategi peminjaman. Dari hasil penelitian ini, disarankan bahwa penerjemah harus memiliki pemahaman yang baik tentang idiom dalam bahasa Inggris dan Indonesia sehingga mereka dapat menggunakan berbagai strategi penerjemahan idiom.

Kata kunci: idiom, strategi terjemahan, penerjemahan takarir

INTRODUCTION

The goal of translation is to replace words from one language with another while retaining the original meaning and logical coherence in the receiving language. Translators attain these goals using a variety of methodologies, each with its own set of principles and practices. As a result, we must compare these strategies to determine which ones are more effective in various translation scenarios.

Despite advances in translation theory and application, translating idiom strategies peculiar to a culture or language remains a challenging issue for translators, teachers, and students. Learning idioms can be difficult because they are not to be taken literally, and their underlying meaning may alter. Hussien (as cited in Ali & Al-Rushaidi, 2017), states that the meaning of an idiom differs from the individual meanings of its pieces or phrases.

Dweik and Thalji (2016) stated that a translator must clarify what an idiom implies. It is critical for translators to grasp the meanings of idioms and the difficulties that may arise when translating them. They must understand the most effective ways for properly translating idioms. Translation strategies are crucial because they help translators cope with issues that may arise

throughout the translation process. This also happened when subtitling a movie or a series.

Subtitling is the process of adding words to a video to help viewers comprehend it. It has become a crucial form of communicating with audiences, particularly when compared to dubbing, which is another frequent technique. Subtitling differs from ordinary translation in that it converts spoken words into written text. It uses specialized technology to demonstrate or convey information to viewers. Subtitling is considered as a means for people with various social practices to communicate via spoken and written words. When creating subtitles, translators must follow certain rules. They apply various rules to convey a movie's story or message to audiences who do not speak the same language. According to Zhang and Liu (cited in Altahri, 2013), translation connects culture and technology.

When translating subtitles, a translator must be careful what they translate. If the translations are correct, the viewer will comprehend what the film is about. Whether the characters communicate to one another, what the narrator is saying when narrating the film, or what is going on when the film explains it with subtitles. This also works

for idioms. If the translator can translate the idiom in the subtitle, viewers will be able to understand its meaning.

According to Hornby (1995) in Febriani (2023), an idiom is a collection of words that have a different meaning when used together than the individual phrases would imply. For example, the term "spill the beans" refers to mistakenly or unintentionally revealing sensitive information. According to Baker (2018), idioms are set phrases in language that do not change and frequently have meanings that are incomprehensible from the words they are composed of. According to Shorouq and Sultan (2018), an idiom is a sentence that does not exactly match the meaning of its individual words.

Translators may face difficulties in identifying idioms. Baker (2018) explains that there are a few reasons why this is difficult: (1) some idioms do not have an exact match in the language you're translating to, (2) even if there are idioms, they might be used differently in different situations, and (3) some idioms have more than one meaning, a literal one and a figurative one. However, it is hard to change idioms into other languages by only looking at individual words. Besides, it is because of a fixed pattern that cannot be changed and there is not much difference to make a change.

For this study, the researcher employs Baker's (2018) idiom translation procedures, examining the expressions and connotations, comparing them to the translated form, and identifying the methodologies utilized by the translator in the target language. To build the study development, the researcher selects idioms, categorizes each idiom, and employs methodologies for analyzing

idiom translation to target language (TL). The most recent edition of her work includes idiom translation tactics such as omitting play idioms and compensatory procedures. Baker (2018) recommended seven approaches for translators to use when translating idioms, including:

1. Using an idiom of similar meaning and form. This strategy is translating idioms by using exceptionally comparable expressions with the precise same meaning as the target language (TL). An example is the idiom *looking for a needle in a haystack* within the English language has the same lexical shape as the idioms *mencari jarum di tumpukan jerami* within the Indonesian language which the meaning is "something is exceptionally troublesome to find."

2. Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. This strategy of translating idioms involves finding similar meanings in the source language (SL), even though the words used may be different.

For instance, the expression *underdog* within the English language has the same meaning as the expression *kuda hitam* (dark horse) within the Indonesian language which suggests the expression is *predicted with less control in a competition*. Both idioms have comparable meaning but are diverse in lexical structure.

3. Borrowing the source language idiom. This strategy is borrowing the expression from the SL to the TL without any changes at all either its meaning and/or frame.

4. Translation by paraphrase. This strategy is the foremost common procedure used by translators when the identical idioms cannot be found within the target language since of the contrasts within the complex inclinations from the source language (SL).

5. Translation by the omission of a play on idiom. This strategy involves the

strict meaning of an idiom within the setting that permits for a concrete elucidation of a perky utilization of a language. For example, the idioms *to go from rags to riches* within the English language is translated into *miskin menjadi kaya* within the Indonesian language and making it loses the idioms play within the Indonesian language.

6. Translation by omission for the entire idiom. This strategy is permitted when there are no correct equivalent idioms and meaning within the target language (TL) and it is troublesome to reword, or it is completely excluded for complex reasons within the target language (TL).

7. Compensation. This strategy includes the translator looking for the exclusion of the colloquial meaning in SL and including it with a comparable meaning in TL with lexical frame to present the meaning within the TL that matches with the setting within the SL. The expression *make yourself at home* in the English language is translated into *anggap saja ada di rumah sendiri* in Indonesian language, making it misplaced in the play of idioms from the English language.

A previous study conducted by Fadwati (2020), said that when translating idioms, it is important to use the right methods because the idioms' meanings are understood differently in the source language and target language that they are being translated to. In this study, the researcher uses a descriptive qualitative method to analyze and understand the data. The idioms are meant to be translated from source language to target language in a clear way. It also includes cultural aspects that are important for understanding the meaning. This study wants to understand how translators change idioms so they make sense and are easy to read. Idioms can be confusing because they have

different meanings and grammar rules. So, the way the researcher translates idioms will affect how well their meanings come across. According to the results, the most popular strategy used in the movie is translation by phrase with the total data of 82 data (37.8%). The second using the similar meaning but different form strategies with the total data of 79 data (36.4%). The third using the similar meaning and similar form strategies with the total of 42 data (19.3%) and followed by translation by omission strategies which has the total of 14 data (6.5%). The idioms are meant to be translated from source language to target language in a clear way. It also includes cultural aspects that are important for understanding the meaning. This study wants to understand how translators change idioms so they make sense and are easy to read. Idioms can be confusing because they have different meanings and grammar rules. Thus, the way the researcher translates idioms will affect how well their meanings come across.

There are several reasons why this study should be conducted. The researcher employed Baker's most recent theories to construct this work. The researcher also needed to understand how to accurately interpret idioms from motion pictures utilizing expert ideas.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, the researcher employed a qualitative descriptive approach. Creswell (2017) defines descriptive as accurately portraying things such as people, places, or events. This strategy can be used to provide lengthy explanations for narrative research projects. According to Creswell, the researcher chose the qualitative descriptive method because it provides a unique approach to data analysis and interpretation by studying and interpreting existing literature. According

to Creswell (2017), qualitative data collection and analysis include interviews, observations, and documents. Instead of depending on statistics and measurements, qualitative approaches seek to comprehend and describe complex events in depth. They offer a comprehensive and detailed look at individuals, groups, and social processes.

In addition, Creswell (2017) stated that qualitative research employs methodologies that allow researchers to understand how individuals see and experience things. They can learn about different people's thoughts, beliefs, and perspectives on the world. This type of research is frequently utilized in fields such as sociology, anthropology, psychology, and education to learn more and uncover new knowledge about human behavior and society. On the other hand, this technique is appropriate because it investigates and discusses the problem in the research.

In this study, the researcher examines how idioms are translated. The researcher used Baker's (2018) method to collect idioms from both the source language (SL) and the target language (TL). Following those stages, the researcher examined each idiom's context and provided a paragraph-long explanation. The researcher then categorized and studied the procedures employed by translators to translate idioms, comparing them to Baker's. Finally, the researcher reached findings on each translation approach used. The data were acquired from two sources: the English subtitle from Bee Movie on Apple TV and the Indonesian subtitle from Bee Movie on Apple TV. The researcher collected the data and organized it into a table of SL and TL for idiom strategy translation.

Bee Movie is an animated movie produced by DreamWorks Animation in 2007. This film is about a honey bee named Barry, who is voiced by Jerry

Seinfeld, who tries to find a profession other than being a honey bee and gets himself into problems by breaking bee law number one, which states that bees do not communicate with humans. Barry and his florist friend, Vanessa, collaborate to sue the human race for exploiting bees to sell and consume honey.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The information gathered from the English and Indonesian subtitles of Bee Movie by Apple TV yielded a total of 42 idioms discovered in the film utilizing Baker's (2018) idiom translation strategy. Two of the seven techniques from Baker's theory were featured in the film. The tactics discovered were paraphrasing and borrowing.

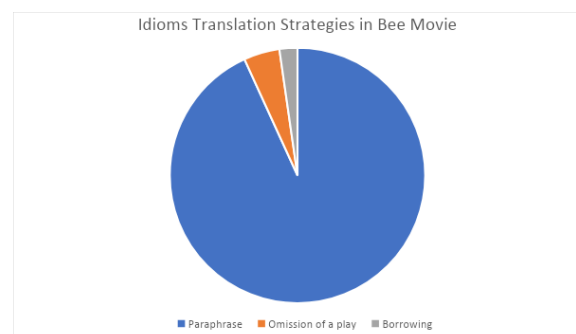


Figure. Idioms Translation Strategies in Bee Movie

According to the figure above, paraphrase translation strategy is the most used strategy in the film by 93% with 41 data points, followed by borrowing by 7% with one datum. The first methods found in the film are paraphrases. Paraphrase is the most common method utilized in this film. Idioms use paraphrase because the distinctions between the source and destination languages are cultural, with different meanings and vocabulary. These are some of the data found in the film.

Table 1. Data of Idioms Translation Strategies by Paraphrase

No	SL	TL
1	ADAM: Wow! That blew my mind!	ADAM: Wow! Mengejutkan!
2	JANET: Barry, how did you get mixed up in all of this? ADAM: He's been talking to humans. JANET: - What?	JANET: Bagaimana kau terlibat ini? ADAM: Dia bicara pada manusia. JANET: Apa?
3	MONTGOMERY: If we lived in the topsy-turvy world Mr. Benson imagines, just think of what it would mean. Maybe I would have to negotiate with the silkworm for the elastic in my britches!	MONTGOMERY : Jika kita hidup di dunia kacau khayalan Tn. Benson, itu apa artinya? Aku harus bernegosiasi dengan ulat sutera untuk elastik di celanaku!

Table 1 shows three data samples. A total of 41 data use paraphrase strategy. These data are translated to target language (TL) by paraphrasing strategy because the same idioms cannot be found in the target language due to differences in the complicated definition from the source language (SL). On the first data in Table 1 above, the context from this exchange is that Adam and Barry have just finished their work orientation. While Barry remained perplexed by the orientation, Adam was astounded.

The idiom in Data 1 is **blew my mind**. According to freedictionary.com, **blew my mind** means to *impress, overwhelm, or excite one to an extreme degree*. Based on the context, it shows that Adam gets impressed by what just

happened to him. According to KBBI (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia), **mengejutkan** means *menyebabkan terkejut (terperanjat); mengagetkan; mengejut*. According to the web version of Cambridge English-Indonesia Dictionary, **mengejutkan** means *to cause surprise*.

The idiom in Data 1 is translated by paraphrase strategy because the word **blew my mind** translated into **terkejut** which results as paraphrase because the identical idioms cannot be found within the target language (TL) since the contrasts within the complex definition from the source language (SL). There is no equal idiomatic expression in the target language and by paraphrasing, the message can still be shown to the watchers.

On the second data from Table 1, the context from this dialogue, Barry showed some photos to his family about the exploitation of honey. His uncle told them that it was a fake photo and edited it. Janet, Barry's mom, asks Barry where he knows about this. Ada told her that Barry has been talking to humans.

The idiom conveyed in Data 2 is **mixed up**. According to freedictionary.com, **mixed up** means *involved or implicated in something negative or troublesome*. Based on the idiom used in the dialogue, it means that Barry has been involved in some honey exploitation. The idiom translated into **terlibat**. According to KBBI (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia), **terlibat** means *turut terbawa-bawa (dalam suatu masalah); tersangkut*. According to the web version of Cambridge English-Indonesia Dictionary, **terlibat** means *often with in or with) to cause to take part in or to be mixed up in*.

The idiom in Data 2 is translated by as paraphrase because the word **mixed up** translated into **terlibat** which results as paraphrase because the

identical idioms cannot be found within the target language (TL) since the contrasts within the complex definition from the source language (SL). There is no equal idiomatic expression in the target language and by paraphrasing, the message can still be shown to the watchers.

As for Data 3, the context of the dialogue tells us about a lawyer, Mr Montgomery, who says in his opening statement on the trial that it is human right to take the benefit from the nature provided. However, they live in an imaginative world just like what Barry thought where humans do not consume honey. It means Mr Montgomery has to negotiate silkworms for what they produce to make his pants.

The idiom conveyed in Data 3 is **topsy-turvy**. According to freedictionary.com, **topsy-turvy** means *in a state of chaos or disorder*. Based on the idioms in the dialogue, it means Montgomery tells the juries to imagine what if they lived in an imaginative, chaotic world from Barry's view where humans are not allowed to consume honey. The idiom is translated into **kacau**. According to KBBI (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia), **kacau** means *rusuh; tidak aman; tidak tenteram*. According to the web version of Cambridge English-Indonesia Dictionary, **kacau** means *if something goes awry, it does not happen in the way which was planned*

The idiom in Data 3 is translated as paraphrase because the word **topsy-turvy** is translated into **kacau**. It is a paraphrase because the identical idiom cannot be found within the target language (TL). It is in contrast with the complex definition from the source language (SL). There is no equal idiomatic expression in the target language and by paraphrasing the message can still be shown to the viewers.

Table 2. Idiom Translation Strategy by Borrowing

SL	TL
KEN: Fine! Talking bees, no yogurt night... My nerves are fried from riding on this emotional roller coaster!	KEN: Baik! Lebah bicara, tak ada malam yogurt... Sarafku lelah karena naik roller coaster emosi ini!
VANESSA: Goodbye, Ken.	VANESSA: Sampai jumpa, Ken.

On the table above, the context from this dialogue is that Ken is getting tired of Barry for always being with Vanessa. This has disturbed him and he felt that it was no use of keeping the relationship as Vanessa defended Barry after Ken tried to hit him with a toilet brush. The idiom conveyed here is **roller coaster**. According to Cambridge Dictionary, **rollercoaster** means a small railroad, especially in an amusement park, with open cars that travel quickly along a steep, curved track that goes up and down over and over, or in this context, which means a feeling, situation, or experience that changes very quickly, like emotional roller coaster. The idiom here is categorized as borrowing because the idiom is borrowing the expression from the SL to the TL without any changes at all, either its meaning.

Based on the utterances which contain idioms, it is found that out of eight translation strategies on idioms, only two strategies are found in this research. It is in line with previous research that most translation strategies on idioms are paraphrases. This is just exactly similar to the finding in this research.

CONCLUSION

The researcher found 42 data points in the preceding chapter. The data set

comprises 41 paraphrased idioms and one borrowed idiom. The researcher used Baker's (2018) theories to support and examine her idiom translation procedures. There are seven ways for translating idioms: (1) similar meaning, similar form idioms, (2) similar meaning, different form idioms, (3) paraphrase idioms, (4) omission of a play idiom, (5) omission of an entire idiom, (6) borrowing idioms, and (7) compensation.

Almost all of the paraphrase idioms and deletion of play idioms become mixed up, therefore the researcher is having difficulty assessing both sets of data. Translating using paraphrase idiom solutions is preferable to dividing it again with the removal of a play. In this scenario, it also runs into non-equivalence issues at the word level, such as whether the source language (SL) should be deemed an omission or an omission of a play strategy, despite the fact that it is semantically complicated. In short, a single word composed of a single morpheme can communicate a more complicated range of meanings than the entire phrase.

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