

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Idiom is one type of figurative language that is being used not only in written form, but also used in spoken form; whether it is in formal or informal language. Being said as figurative language, idiom means to make the language more entertaining, sometimes it is used to clarify the meaning the user wanted to convey.

Idioms have a great extent use in everyday language, especially in English language. They are considered as one of the most frequently used means of non-literal or figurative language. There is a great use of idiom in literary works (more over in a prose, such as novels and short stories). Idioms here functioned as spicing up and adding colors to the story. Using a literal way to write a story will bore the reader and make the story easy to predict. Sometimes even a straightforward sentence can cause ambiguity. Therefore, not only to engage the readers to read the story by spicing up the language, the idiom also help to simplify the ideas into an idea that is less complex to understand by using a reference that somewhat has the same meaning that easier for readers to feel relatable with.

Even though the use of idiom means a great deal in literary works, the attempt of translating idiom from one language into another means hard work as it is not easy as using idiom in practice. The idiom may help the reader whose native language is the same as the source language to understand better of the plot, but for reader with different mother tongue, the idiom will just cause confusion. Here is the role of the translator to translate the idiom in source text, so the reader can understand, to an equivalent of it in terms of meaning and form in target language as much as they could, because in reality it is hard to achieve.

What makes it hard or challenging to translate, the idiom has a distinctive form and meaning and its form cannot be changed freely as one wants, and the translator has to find the equivalent of it in the target language. Baker (1992: 63) defines idioms as “frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components. Idioms do not have flexibility of patterning and transparency of meaning.”

What means by Baker in her definition is that idiom has a set of form that cannot be changed grammatically or lexically and has different meaning from its literal meaning. This unchangeable feature of idiom makes it challenging for the translator to translate idiom. The form of idiom could differ from one country to another. Even when the meaning or idea is not that far from one

another, the idiom in each country will have different phrases or even whole sentences to reference the same thought. This is what becomes of one of the problems in translation study.

Even so, idiom is one of the expressions that have a high frequency to be used in literary text or everyday language, so the chance of translating idioms is quite high. In addition, every country has its own version of idioms, even when referencing the same thing; making it hard to identify which has the same meaning with which in a glance. For the translators that are familiar with the idioms or the culture, they can understand the idiom from the given context. For a translator who has a different culture or is not familiar with the idiom, it will be hard to guess or translate the exact meaning of the idiom, even if they understand the context.

Even after knowing the context, the attempt of translating the idiom meets certain problems. What makes idioms hard to translate is that they reflect a culture, life, or even environments, which is different from one country to another. Those things that are reflected by idioms are not easy to render into something simple for another person from a different culture to understand immediately. That being said, not easy to render does not mean it is impossible to translate. To be able to translate an expression like an idiom, the translator needs to master the language of the source text or, at the very least,

understand the context and look it on dictionary that discussed specifically about idiom in order to understand it.

Problems faced by the translator when translating idioms to one language to another has become a widespread topic among the student of English Department from various countries. There is a previous study conducted by Kareema Abdulnabi Afta (2015) from University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. The writer above conducted a study about the idiom expression found in the same novel as this study. The study objective is to investigate the strategies applied in translating English idiom to Arabic language, to examine how effectively the idioms were translated from English into Arabic, and find out the most suitable strategies for conveying the idioms that have been inappropriately translated from English into Arabic. The study found that: (1) the strategy of paraphrase was the most used strategy in translating idioms in “Animal Farm” into Arabic, (2) most of the idioms which appeared in the novel were translated effectively, and (3) and found that the strategy of paraphrase was the most preferred strategy for translating the idioms.

Another study conducted by Khofiana Mabruroh (2015) from State University of Semarang, Indonesia. Her study used Mark Twain’s *The Adventure of Tom Sawyer* as its data and idiom expression as its subject. The study aimed to find out whether or not idioms are found in the novel, the type of idiom based on Makkai’s theory (1972), the dominant type of idiom used, and the problem

found in understanding idiom found in the novel. The study found that: (1) there were found 796 idioms in the novel; (2) from 796 idioms, they were classified into 6 types of idiom offered by Makkai used. The dominant type of idiom used in the novel is phrasal verb idiom with 446 idioms (56.03%). The second is tournure idiom with 185 idioms (23.24%). The third is phrasal compound idiom with 73 idioms (9.17%). The fourth is irreversible binomial idiom with 69 idioms (8.64%). The fifth is the incorporating verb idiom with 15 idioms (1.88%). The last is pseudo-idiom, there are 8 idioms (1.01%); (3) the dominant type of idiom used in the novel is phrasal verb idiom with 446 idioms (56.03%); (4) there are 4 problems existed. Those are the distinction between phrasal verbs that is idiom or not idiom, translation of idiom, understanding the closest meaning of idiom, and no grammatical rule of forming idiom.

Even though the topic about translating idiom is widespread among students of English Department from various countries, yet none of them discussed about making comparison between two different translators that translated the idioms from the same novel. That is why the writer chooses to conduct a study based on this topic. Based on the previous studies, they only discussed about the idiom expression on the source data, asking about what types the idioms are, and the strategies the translator applied from only one version of the translated novel. What makes the study differs from the previous studies is that this study focuses on two version of novel translation and compares the

strategies two different translators used. To carry out those purposes, this study will use Mona Baker's theories that give a detailed strategy of translating idioms. Using Baker's strategy, it will make the study easier to find out what strategies the two translator used in translating the idioms from the same novel.

The writer has found a good sample to become the study's data source. The novel being used as the data is George Orwell's "Animal Farm" that published in the UK in 1945. There are some reasons why the novel is being chosen as the data source. First, other than the facts it is an allegorical novel itself, the novel contains a number of idioms. It is proved after reading the novel and the two version of its Indonesian translation; the writer finds quite a lot of idioms being used in the source text and different translation in the both of Indonesian version of translations. Second, the novel itself had been translated over so many times in different era and context in Indonesia, but the writer choose only two of them from which the first translated by H. Mahbub Djunaidi, published in 1983 by Iqra Publisher (republished the exact translation in 2016 by different publisher) and the second one translated by Prof. Bakdi Soemanto in 2015 by Bentang Publisher. Lastly, looking from different time and era the novel is translated, the novel will have a great number of differences of translation.

1.2 Research Questions

According to the background knowledge that has been stated above, the problem in this study is elaborated into some question:

1. What are the differences and similarities of the types of English and Indonesian idiom in the Indonesian translated version of “Animal Farm”?
2. How the idioms in the novel “Animal Farm” are translated by Translator A and Translator B?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

Referring to the statement of research questions above, the aim of this study are as follow:

1. To show the differences and similarities of the types of English and Indonesian idiom in the Indonesian translated version of “Animal Farm”;
2. To analyze how the idioms in the novel “Animal Farm” are translated by Translator A and Translator B;

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study is limited only to idioms found in George Orwell’s Animal Farm novel and two version of Indonesian translation of them. The study focuses only on the idioms appeared in source text and the strategies used by two different translators in translating the same idioms from English to Indonesia.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study is expected to make the writer understand about idioms and the strategy used in translating idioms. The writer also expects this study to give, whoever read it, get some knowledge and a better understanding of idiom and strategy for translating it. The last, the writer wants this study to give the translators knowledge about idioms and know more about the strategies of translating idioms or how to translate it.