

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This subchapter will elaborate literary review of translation definition and theories as a guide to analyzing idiom translation in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* novel two version of Indonesian translation. There are four main points that will be elaborated in this section. First, a review of translation includes the definition of translation, the problems of translation, the process of translation, and the strategies of translation. Second, a review of translation quality which covers the definition and the standard uses in assessing translation quality. Third, a review of idiomatic expression includes the definition, the types, and the features of words or phrases that count as an idiom. Lastly, a review of the object used in this study including the author, the synopsis, and the translator.

2.1 Translation

There are a lot of definitions stated by some experts in the field based on their perspective of language and translation. Nida and Taber (1982: 12) (in Choliludin 2007: 3) say that translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalence of a source-language message, firstly in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. This definition imposes two points should be considered by translator, which is transferring meaning and style to source language as equivalence as possible since sameness in translation is impossible.

This definition also supported by Newmark (1988: 5), he asserts "...rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text". Each author usually has their own way in expressing their writing. By translating texts, a translator, then, should be able to deliver the meaning as well as the style intended by the author.

Another expert, Malinowski (1965: 11-2) quoted by Tou (1999: 31), states that translation must always be the recreation of the original into something profoundly different. On the other hand, it is never substitution of word for word but invariably the translation of whole contexts. Based on this definition, it can be implied that a work of translation will always be different from the source language one. However, it should not be done by word for word technique which literally makes a big difference between the source language and target language but rather to create a "new" work by translating the work in its context to conveys the meaning well.

To sum it all, translation is a work of recreating original words to convey the meaning with the same intention as the original author to reach equivalency in the target language.

2.2 Problems of Translation

After outlining the definitions of translation stated by various experts in the field, problems and difficulties in translating will be presented in the following.

According to Catford (1965/1974) on translations, equivalency is the main problem that many translators should overcome. This problem can be handled by looking for the equivalence of TL so the meaning within lexical aspects of ST able to be accurately translated into TT. He also emphasizes that the meaning in translations work have to suitable to the meaning of the source text. Accordingly, an equivalent translation is a translation that meaning is appropriate to the source text.

Similar to the expert above, Hoed (2006) says that the main difficulty faced by translators in translating is the difference of system and structure between Source Language and Target Language. Moreover, Nida and Taber (1966) state that there are four problems in translating, which are language, social culture, religious culture, and material culture. Translators should be able to overcome these four problems by profoundly understanding the differences. After that, they should find the appropriate equivalence for Target Language.

Furthermore, Hoed (2006) explains that to understand a text, it is not limited solely to the texts but also to the place where those texts were written (author factor) and interpreted (reader or translator factor). The process of comprehending the text should focus on discourse practice and socio-culture of where the text written and interpreted taken place.

Even though translating a text, in general, is already difficult, but translating idiom in a literary text which is full of figurativeness could be quite a challenge too. Mona Baker (1992: 68) explains the difficulties in translating idioms. First, an idiom in SL has no equivalence in TL. Second, an idiom in SL has a similar counterpart in

TL but has a different meaning, thus it is pragmatically untranslatable. Third, an idiom in SL conveys literal and figurative meaning at the same time thus the wordplay hardly transferred to TL. Fourth, an idiom in SL has different context and frequency used in TL.

2.3 Process of Translation

According to Larson (1984: 3) when translating a text, the translator's goal is an idiomatic translation which makes every effort to communicate their meaning of the SL text into the natural forms of the receptor language. Furthermore, he states that translation is concerned with a study of the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of the SL text, which is analyzed in order to determine its meaning. The discovered meaning is then re-expressed or reconstructed using the lexicon and grammatical structure which are appropriate in the receptor language and its cultural context. The following diagram is presented by Larson as the translation process.

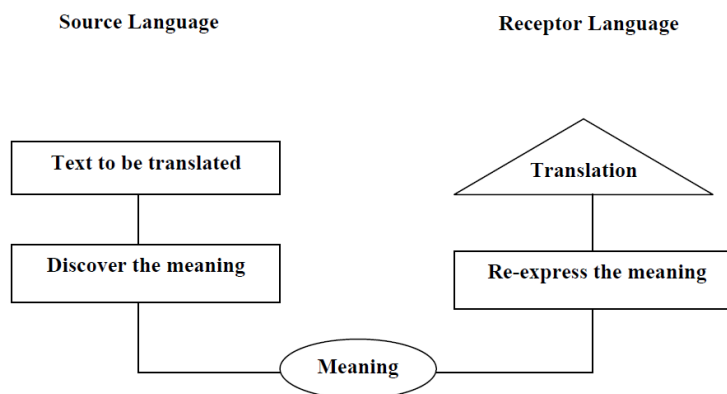


Figure 1. Translation Process by Larson (1984:3)

Nida and Taber (1982: 33) distinguish translation process into three stages:

(1) analysis, in which the surface structure is analyzed in terms of (a) the grammatical relationships and (b) the meaning of the words and combinations of words, (2) transfer, in which the analyzed material is transferred in the mind of the translator from language A to language B, and (3) restructuring, in which the transferred material is restructured in order to make the final message fully acceptable in the receptor language. The translation process can be illustrated in the following diagram.

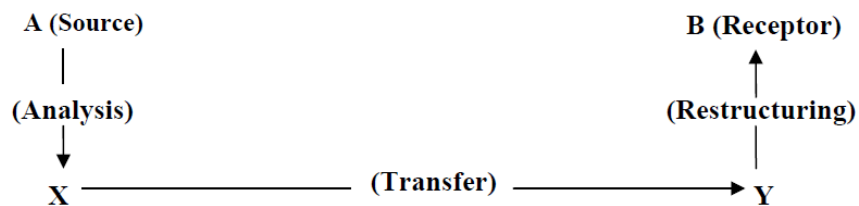


Figure 2. Translation Process by Nida and Taber (1982: 33)

Tou (1989: 131) presents the interpretation of the translation process. According to him, there are four stages in the translation process that the translators must follow in order to move from the source language into the target language namely analysis, discovery, transfer, and the re-expression of meaning.

In conclusion, the process of translation is a series of action in order to produce something or that lead to a particular result, in this case, a translation from the source

language to target language with intended outcome by adjusting various aspects of both source and target.

2.4 Strategy of Translation

Several terms are used as a way to deal with difficulties in translation such as method, procedure, technique, and strategy. Albeit so, the term *technique* and *strategy* is often considered similar since both terms purpose is to create good translation by applying certain methods when facing difficulty in translating. In addition, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* defines technique as a method of doing or performing something whereas strategy as a plan to accomplish a specific goal.

Vinay and Darbelnet (in Munday 2001: 56-58) identifies two general translation strategies; direct translation and oblique translation. These strategies consist of seven procedures whereas direct translation covers three and oblique translation covers four respectively as follows: borrowing, calque, literal translation, transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation.

Another experts, Newmark, in his *A Textbook of Translation* (1988: 81-91), suggests 18 translation procedures. Translation procedures, according to him, are used for language in a small unit. These procedures depend on the contextual variety factors. The eighteen procedures are transference, naturalization, cultural equivalent, functional equivalent, descriptive equivalent, synonymy, through-translation, shift or transpositions, modulation, recognized translation, translation label, compensation,

componential analysis, reduction and expansion, paraphrase, other procedures, couplets, and note/additions/glosses.

While other experts focus on translation strategy in general, Mona Baker (2011) proposes specific strategies to translate idiom. Baker explains four strategies in translating as follows: First, translating by using an idiom of similar meaning and form. This strategy can be applied in SL idiom *big head* translated into TL idiom to be *besar kepala*. The back translation of TL to SL will be the same. Second, the translation uses an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form as in *in the dead of the night* which translated to *malam buta*. If a back translation is used, *malam buta* is probably translated to *a dark night*. Third, translation by paraphrase, for example, SL idiom *red tape* is paraphrased to TL idiom *prosedur rumit yang wajib dipenuhi*. Fourth, translating by omission, as in the sentence “I beg you to leave no stone unturned to bring him safely back” which translated into “Saya mohon, bawa dia kembali dalam keadaan selamat”. In this translation, the idiom *to leave no stone unturned* means ‘try every possible course of action in order to achieve something’ is deleted from the sentence.

Baker (1992: 68) said one of the difficulties in translating idiom is because there is no equivalence word in TL to represent SL even though the ideal way to translate idiom is by using idiom too. Those strategies proposed by Mona Baker could be a way to reach the goal as in translating idiom thus the writer chooses to apply her strategies since it is the most relevant to this study.

2.5 Quality of Translation

A good translation is a qualified translation in which able to accurately deliver the meaning from Source Language to Target Language. According to Barnwell (1984:15) as cited by Suryawinata that how good or accurate translation works is, it depends on three components. They are accuracy, clarity, and naturalness.

Different methods offer by some experts to assess accuracy, clarity, and naturalness of translation, such as cloze technique, reading-aloud technique, knowledge test, performance test, back translation, and equivalent-based approach. (Nida and Taber in Nababan, 2004: 56).

Another expert, Rochayah Machali, in her book “Pedoman Bagi Penerjemah (Translator’s Handbook)” (2009: 160) states that the qualification of translation is assessed by the end of results, not the process. The translation assessment divides into general and specific. There are certain aspects assessed using fixed criteria to evaluate translation works. Besides that, she proposes a guide to assess translation with certain indicator to determine whether the works are good or bad, starting from “almost perfect translation” to “bad translation”. This assessment depends on the percentage of referential meaning alteration in the product of translation.

Many experts in translation field have the same opinion on the quality of a good translation. A good translation should meet three requirements as follows 1) a translation should be accurate in a view of the content, the meaning recreated in the target text has to be the same as the source text, 2) a translation should consider the norms and culture inclined to the target language, and 3) a translation should be easily

understood by target readers (Nababan: 2012). Three parameters to assess those translation qualities presented as accuracy, acceptability, and readability.

According to Nababan et al (2012: 44-45), accuracy is a term to evaluate translation works to determine equivalency between the source language and target language. Besides that there is acceptability. This term refers to whether presented translation is appropriate in target language norms, values, and cultures, in both micro and macro level. The last one, readability aspect refers to whether a translation text is easy to understand.

Nababan (2012: 50) also endorses instruments to assist a research on quality translation which divided into three instruments namely 1) accuracy-rating instrument, 2) acceptability-rating instrument, and 3) readability-rating instrument. Each of translation quality instruments consists of three parts. The first part is translation category. The second one is a score number from 1 to 3 in which the higher the number is, the better the translation and vice versa. The last part is a qualitative parameter for each translation category.

These rating instruments have different values for each one. The accuracy is considered as the most important aspect of translation hence it has the highest value which is 3. Then, it is followed by acceptability with 2 and the last one, readability, with 1.

To acquire the quality of translation being analyzed, the writer uses Nababan's rating instrument. Nababan has done several studies to develop the instrument to assess translation quality to be more reliable. This assessment is believed to be the

most suitable one because first, it assesses translation as a whole which deemed by Nababan as holistic; second, this instrument can be applied to many texts such as professional documents, education-related texts, and literary texts; third, this instrument can be used in micro and macro level; and last, there are certain criteria for translation quality rater proposed by Nababan (2012) as well.

2.6 Idiom

Carter (1993: 65) defines idioms as special combinations with restricted forms and meanings that cannot be deduced from the literal meanings of the words which make them up. Accordingly, an idiom is learned and used as a single unit. It should not be analyzed into its constituents; it is unchangeable and always carries figurative meaning. Supporting this idea, Baker (1992: 63) states idioms are 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 a flexibility of patterning and transparency of meaning. In addition, Ball (1968: 1) finds that an appropriate definition of an idiom is the use of familiar words in an unfamiliar sense. An idiom allows no variation in form under normal circumstances. All of these notions point out two things, first is idiom usually in the form of a rigid unit which cannot be added or subtracted and second is the meaning derives from idiom usually unrelated to its constituents.

Difference from the previous definitions, Bourque (2010:7) perceives idiom as a phrase that is commonly understood in a given culture or subculture to have a

meaning different from its literal meaning. Bourque points out that the meaning of an idiom is not only difficult because of the abstract meaning of the words but also the cultural factor of where the idioms originated from. Thus, it is only understandable that people with little to none background knowledge of the culture will have a hard time to get the meaning of the idiom. Langacker (1968:79) also adds that an idiom is a kind of complex lexical item. It is a phrase whose meaning cannot be predicted from the meanings of the morphemes it comprises. In other words, an idiom is a complicated lexical which meaning cannot be derived from its comprising morphemes alone.

Based on the definitions mentioned above, it can be concluded that idiom is integrated words with a unique combination of morphemes which meaning cannot be fixed by the elements it comprises. Idiom also closely related to given cultures or subcultures thus the meaning can be applied solely in the originated culture.

2.7 Types of Idiom

2.7.1 Types of English Idiom

To understand idiom better, various experts endorse the classification of idiom types. According to Makkai (1972: 25), idioms have been classified into syntactic and semantic points of view. Furthermore, Makkai in the book titled “Idiom in Structure in English” divides idioms into idioms of encoding and idioms of decoding. Idioms of encoding are normally known as identifiable idioms since the lexical combinations have transparent meaning. For instance the

word *at* in “he drove at 70 m.p.h”. This “drove at” lexical combination does not bring multiple interpretations. On the other hand, idioms of decoding are known as non-identifiable idioms since the meaning cannot be understood separately. In other words, idiom meaning is unpredictable. For example, the words “*a storm in a teacup*” and “hear something on the grapevine” has nothing to do with teacup or grapevine.

Moreover, Makkai (1972: 135-179) classifies idioms of decoding into lexemic and sememic idioms. The lexemic idioms divide into phrasal verbs idioms, *toumore* idioms, irreversible binomial idioms, phrasal compound idioms, incorporating verb idioms, and pseudo-idioms. Then, the sememic idioms also divided into seven types of idiom which are proverbs, familiar quotations, first base idioms, idioms of institutionalized politeness, idioms of institutionalized greeting, idioms of institutionalized understatement, and idioms of institutionalized hyperbole.

Lim (2004: i) classified English idioms into six types. They are phrasal verb, prepositional phrases, idiom with verb, idiom with noun, idiom with adjective, and idiomatic pairs. A phrasal verb is a combined phrase of a verb with a preposition or adverb or both that function as a verb which meaning is different from individual words, for example, *take off*, *look down on*, and *call on*. Next is prepositional phrase which is a combined phrase of idiom that begins with preposition such as *in a nutshell*, *at your fingertips*, and *on the same wavelength*. Then, idiom with verb as key words is an idiom which starts with verb, as in *keep*

someone posted, read between the line, and know the ropes. Coming after that is idiom with noun as key words which begin with noun, as example *blessing in disguise, food for thought, and child's play*. Following, idiom with adjective is an idiom which the first part of the combination word is adjective, for instance *wishful thinking, cold comfort, and plan sailing*. The last one, idiomatic pairs is group of words which connected with conjunction such *and* and *or*, as example *safe and sound, aches and pains, and swim or sink*.

As stated on the limitation of this study in which the writer only focuses on words, phrase and clauses; thus the classification suggested by Lim is the most suitable classification to analyze types of idioms for this study.

2.7.2 Types of Indonesian Idiom

Idiom can be classified into two aspects. First aspect is based on its to the comprising elements to establish meaning which is divided into pure idiom and semi idiom. Second aspect is based on categories. Idiom is divided to seven types of idiom; an idiom using part of the body, idiom using senses, idiom using color name, idiom using nature, idiom using animal name, idiom using plant anatomy, and idiom using numerical name.

According to Chaer (2009), there are two types of idiom in Indonesia which are pure idiom and semi idiom. Pure idiom is an idiom which innately united with its intended meaning. For example, *membanting tulang* means

‘working hard’, biting finger (*gigit jari*) means disappointed, green table (*meja hijau*) means court, etc.

Then semi idiom is an idiom which meaning related to at least one of the words involved. For example, black list means a list that has names of suspicious or vicious people, yellow newspaper means a newspaper contains of sensational news, showing teeth means showing power or ability. The words ‘list’, ‘newspaper’, and ‘showing’ on those idioms deliver its lexical meaning and the other words as idiomatic meaning.

Based on idiom category, Soedjito (1990) classifies idiom into seven categories. First, an idiom using part of the body name is an idiom which one of the forming word element is the name of living creature body parts. For example, *keras kepala* (head stone) means ‘stubborn’, *tebal muka* (thick skin) means ‘do not have conscience’, and *tinggi hati* (full of oneself) means ‘arrogant’. Second, idiom using the name of human senses is an idiom which one of the words shows senses that usually can be felt by human sensory perception., exemplified by *perang dingin* (cold war) which means ‘a war without weapon but still threatening’. *pengalaman pahit* (bitter experience) means ‘an uncomfortable experience’, and *panas rezeki* (hot blessing) means ‘difficult to earn money’.

Third, idiom using color is an idiom which one of the words formed of color names. For example, *masih hijau* (still green) means ‘not yet experience’, *putih tulang* (white bone) means ‘has dead’, and *naik kuda hijau* (ride green horse) means ‘wasted’. Fourth, idiom using nature is an idiom which one of its

constituent words involving nature things. As an example, *kejatuhan bulan* (fall by the moon) means ‘receive big fortune’, *jadi bumi langit* (become sky earth) means ‘person whose help always needed’, and *kabar angin* (hearsay) means ‘unreliable information’. Fifth, idiom using animal is an idiom which one of the words involving any kind of animal. For instance, *ular kepala dua* (two-head snake) means ‘hypocrites’, *otak udang* (shrimp brain) means extremely stupid, and *buaya darat* (land crocodile) means ‘playboy’.

Sixth, idiom using plant anatomy is an idiom which one of the words formed with the name of plant parts. For example, *biji mata* (eyes seed) means ‘dearest or loved ones’, *lari beranting* (twigs running) means ‘relay race’, *bercabang hati* (branching hearts) means ‘has two persons with affection in mind’. Seventh, idiom using numeral is an idiom which one of the words has number on it. As examples, *masuk tiga keluar empat* (in three out four) means ‘spend money more than earned’, *diam seribu bahasa* (speak no word) means ‘no talking at all’, *menyatukan suara* (one voice) means ‘to reach agreement’.

According to Khak (2004), idiom structure can be categorized into three types, which are complex idiom, phrasal idiom, and proverbs. Complex idioms distinguished into two, idiom which is formed with affixation such as *mengekor* which means someone who has no principle and idiom which is formed by reduplication like *mata-mata* which means spy. Coming after is phrasal idiom. There is some kind of orderliness regarding this type of idiom therefore phrasal idioms can be grouped into verb idiom and noun idiom. Verb idiom is an idiom

which involves verb as one of combination words. Further, there are two kinds of phrasal idiom according to part of speech it formed; combination of ‘verb and noun’ and ‘adverb and verb’. As for ‘verb and noun’ combination, it is also parted into situational verb and process verb as in *naik darah* which means getting angry. Then, for ‘adverb and verb’ idiom usually contains ‘*sudah*’ and ‘*sedang*’ to show that it has happened or it is happening, for example *sudah pulang ke asalnya* which means has passed away. Following verb idiom is noun idiom. This idiom is comprised with noun in its combination. It is divided into ‘noun + noun’ as in *buaya darat* which means playboy and ‘noun + adjective’ as in *kuda hitam* which means dark horse. And the last one is proverbs. Even though proverb is not considered as idiom in English, Khak includes proverb as a part of idiom for example *sambil menyelim minum air* which means kill two birds with one stone.

Based on the elaboration of Indonesian idioms above, the categorization by Khak (2004) has the most similarity with English idioms categorization by Lim (2004). Therefore, applying the idiom type categorization by him is relevant to analyze the difference and similarities between English and Indonesian idioms in “The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes” novel.

2.8 Features of Idiom

Technically, an idiom is a kind of lexical unit in which the whole meaning of the expression is not apparent from the meanings of its components. Bell (1974:1-2)

identifies certain features which are essential in the recognition of idioms. Some of these features are: alteration of grammatical rules, conventional phrases, alteration of word order, figurativeness, and phrasal verb.

To know the characteristics or features of idiom is important for translators to recognize idioms in literary text. Baker (1992: 63) identifies grammatical and syntactic restriction regarding idiom as slightly mentioned before. As a rigid unit, an idiom normally cannot be added, deleted, substituted, modified, compared, and changed to passive.

Wood (1986: 95) endorses six characteristics of idioms which are an idiom should be non-compositional and does not transparent in meaning; ambiguity is general character but not really absolute in idiomatic field, idiom meaning cannot be distributed or shared to each lexicon which comprise the collocated words; idiom could be not fixed within structures; idiom has non-productive formed; and a complex lexical can be considered as idiom.

Besides Wood, Nunberg et al. (1994: 492-3) also presents characteristic of idioms. It is conventionality, inflexibility, figuration, proverbiality, informality, and affect.

In conclusion, the features of idioms are used and accepted by most people, not flexible, has abstract meaning, comprised of complex lexical, and cultural-related.

2.9 The Novel

The novel used for this study is categorized as detective fiction. This fiction is a subgenre of crime and mystery fiction in which involving detective or cops to manhandle some cases such as crime, affairs, or even murder.

2.9.1 Arthur Conan Doyle

Arthur Conan Doyle is a well-known detective fiction author. He was born on May 22nd, 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was a doctor as well a writer. During his medical practice, he published several works which he wished to be one of the elevated classics. Not long after opened up eye specialist practice, he decided to devote himself as a full-time writer hence quit being a doctor. The main reason for this decision was because he was tight on money even though on his school days he used to make a charity for his patients.

Arthur Conan Doyle had exact schedule to write his novel, usually from morning to afternoon then from 5 to eight in the evening. Despite having a typewriter at his home, he enjoyed writing with a pen. His love for writing traditionally seemed to be a habit from his younger days. He used to write a letter to his mother three times a week when he was away to pursue his study out of the country.

On July 1930 at the age of 71, Arthur Conan Doyle passed away. Before finally kicking the bucket, he had through several journeys, moved from one place to another, even served in the cold war which later he wrote a book as a part of

British War history. Despite so many books written in his prior life, only Sherlock Holmes goes down as history and the world widely known up to this day.

The birth of Sherlock Holmes itself was inspired by his professor in Medical Faculty of Edinburgh University and also an aspiring surgeon as well as a forensic detective named Joseph Bell. This branch of science was relatively new at that time. The surname “Holmes” was based on Conan Doyle’s favorite, Oliver Wendell Holmes, whereas “Sherlock” was taken from British cricket athlete name.

2.9.2 The Synopsis

Sherlock Holmes is a British fiction detective, a creation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In solving the case, he is mostly accompanied by his partner as well as a roommate, Dr. John Watson. He is famous for his deduction ability and his intelligence in solving cases. Sherlock Holmes short story first published on newspaper in 1887. These short stories then compiled to become a book in five series titled *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of The Four*, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Hound of the Baskerville*, and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* respectively.

The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes is the fourth book out of five Sherlock Holmes series. There are eleven cases written in this book. One of the stories is a climax of Sherlock Holmes' adventure in solving various cases, an encounter with someone he suspected as the master mind of many cases he solved. The timeline in the chapter is not exact but it is believed as the last ten cases— *Silver Blaze*, *The*

Yellow Face, The Stockbroker's Clerk, The Gloria Scott, The Musgrave Ritual, The Reigate Puzzle, The Crooked Man, The Resident Patient, The Greek Interpreter, and The Naval Treaty—before Sherlock Holmes fell from Reichenbach Fall which noted as the eleventh case titled The Final Problem.

Throughout the last chapter, Sherlock Holmes has sensed that someone's targeted and stalked him. However, he walked ahead of his opponent. He planned his way to "catch" his enemy and everything needed. As the story of Sherlock Holmes was told through Watson's point of view, the fact of how actually Sherlock Holmes had a fight in Reichenbach Fall and fell down during the fight is still unknown. Yet, there are several clues left at the scene and become the source of Watson deduction in telling how Sherlock died. Not only that, this chapter also reveals an organization of which has been the roots for many cases solved by Sherlock Holmes. Even though, he has to sacrifice himself in doing so.

2.10 Theoretical Frameworks

This study uses the classification of English idiom suggests by Lim (2004) and Indonesian Idiom suggests by Khak (2004). For analyzing the strategy of translation, this study uses the translation strategies proposed by Mona Baker (2011). And lastly, to analyze the quality of the translation, the theory from Nababan (2004) is applied in this study.