

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Idiom is a part of figurative language which meaning hardly understood by only read word by word—even though in some cases idioms can be interpreted by its words. Idiom usually comes in the form of rigid unit that cannot be added or subtracted by other word. As language especially idioms innately related to the culture of its origin, non native speaker finds it difficult to recognize idioms in day to day conversation or in any kinds situation such as translating idioms. Chances are they will decode wrong interpretation due to lack of knowledge.

As a culture-bound part of language, the use of idiom in literature work is inevitable. Therefore, the ability of recognizing and translating idiom will be very much needed. Because of this, the writer chooses a study on idiom translation to determine the strategy used in translation and the quality of both translated works. Moreover, according to the data provided in English Department library, there are 22 studies focusing on translation from 2013 – 2015 yet there is no comparative study regarding idiom translation in ED of UNJ.

Before working on transferring the language, translator should be aware of translation strategies. Translation strategy is a plan to minimize the gap or any lost in translation between source language and target language. One of many translation strategies which are proposed by several experts, the writer thinks Baker concept fits this study the most. Her strategy to translate idiom is simple yet

covering the entire thing that needed to be analyzed. Baker (1992: 72-77) divides idiom translation into four categories which are using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission.

To know whether the gap had been minimized, the writer chooses to analyze the quality of target language translation using assessment instrument proposed by Nababan (2012: 44-50). The translation quality assessment proposed by him is the most important things to consider. There are three criteria suggested, which are accuracy, acceptability, and readability. Accuracy assessment mainly focus on delivering source language to target language as equivalence as possible. As mentioned before, idioms are hardly recognized by non native speaker so the chance of inaccuracy in translating is big. Then, there is acceptability. This criterion concentrates on transferring the source language to target language in consideration of norms and cultures. As we know already that idioms are tightly bound to its culture. The last criterion is readability. It focuses in conveying a translation that is easy to understand. Since idioms sometimes sound foreign and hard to understand, readability aspect will attract reader to keep reading the translation novel.

The writer chooses one of five book collection of Sherlock Holmes entitled "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes". This novel is the fourth book of Sherlock Holmes series which contains of eleven cases in which the greatest encounter happened in the century of Sherlock Holmes where he finally met the master mind of many cases that has been solved by Sherlock, Prof. Moriarty. Their encounter

was deemed as The Final Problem which probably left the readers in shock and sadness.

Sherlock Holmes is a detective fiction which tells of a lot of mysterious cases. Sherlock Holmes novel was told through the narration of Dr. Watson, the main character's friend as well as colleague. Sherlock Holmes was first published in 1887 in which has significant style of writing during this era. Furthermore, this genre mostly talks about series of event where scientific vocabulary thrown here and there which draws the writer attention to analyze the idiom expression used in the novel and how these idioms are translated in order to convey its figurative meaning as well as its bound to the culture of the time this novel released to public.

There are several studies of idioms as its focus. The first study to discuss of idiom is conducted by Novianti in 2012 entitled "An Analysis of The Translation Strategies of Idiomatic Expression in Lewis Carrol's Alice in Wonderland in Its Translation by Khairi Rumantati" which discussed the translation strategy used and the equivalence of that translation. The translation strategy adapted in her study is a combination of Mona Baker and Newmark translation strategy. The employment of the strategy itself can affect the text meaning. The meaning can be equivalent (complete, increase, decrease) or non-equivalent (different, no meaning). Through this study, it shows that translating idiom by paraphrasing is the most common strategy used with 403 out of 445 idioms. The meaning equivalence also categorized as high with 96.2% in a complete equivalence.

Adisetia conducted a study in 2013 titled “A Translation Analysis of Idiomatic Expression in *Chocolat* by Joanne Harris and Its Translation by Ibnu Setiawan”. The study used descriptive quantitative and qualitative research with a content analysis method. To find the strategy in translating idiom, he applied the strategies proposed by Mona Baker. Coming after, he analyzed meaning equivalence according to Bell’s degrees of meaning equivalence (1991: 6). The finding of that study shows that the majority strategy applied in translating is translating idiom by paraphrase and the least strategy used is translating by omission. For meaning equivalence, the translation of *Chocolat* is mostly equivalence with 85.56% whereas non-equivalent meaning is 14.44%. According to the percentage presented, the translator has successfully transferred the meaning of source text equivalently.

Then, there is a study of Sherlock Holmes titled “An Analysis of The Translation of English Idioms into Indonesian: A Case Study of Translation of Five Sherlock Holmes Short Stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle” by Nugroho in 2013. He applied the concept of Wood to classify idioms. Then, it was analyzed in terms of translation strategies proposed by Baker (2011). After that, he analyzed the quality of its translation based on referential, effect, and collocation aspects. The result from that study is there are 47 source language idioms found. Those idioms are translated by using four kinds of translation strategies, which are translation by using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form; 2) translation by paraphrase; 3) translation by omission; and 4)

translation by using an idiom. As the result, there are 25 equivalent idioms, 4 less equivalent idioms, and 18 not equivalent idioms.

Different from the previous study mention above, the writer does not only use one target language translation but use two translations to analyze so the end result of this study will have impact on many sides which is named as comparative study. Comparative study can give more quality criteria needed concerning its translations.

Furthermore, in assessing the quality of translation, those previous studies mostly analyzed meaning equivalence. On the other side, this study attempts to deepen and expand the area of study by analyzing not only the equivalency which is similar to accuracy but also looking through acceptability and readability aspects by applying Nababan's rating instruments.

Through this study, the strengths and weaknesses of both translations could be combined to complement each other therefore a better version of translation might be produced. For example, readers can take into account the result of this study to consider which novel should be put into their cart. As for translator, this study also attempts to give solution for them in translating idioms to increase the quality of their translation work. Last but not least, publisher may get some credibility through the result in which version has a better translation.

1.2 Research Question

- 1.2.1 What are the differences and similarities on the types of idioms in English and Indonesian translated versions of “The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes”?
- 1.2.2 How are the idioms in the novel “The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes” translated by translator A and translator B?
- 1.2.3 How does the translation of idioms in novel “The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes” affect the quality of the translation?

1.3 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on analyzing the words, phrases, or clauses that considered as idioms in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s “The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes” and its two translated version in Indonesian language.

1.4 Purpose of The Study

- 1.4.1 To show the differences and similarities on the types of idioms in English and Indonesian translated versions of “The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes”.
- 1.4.2 To analyze how the idioms in novel “The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes” are translated by translator A and translator B.
- 1.4.3 To elaborate how the translation of idioms in novel The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes affects the quality of the translation.

1.5 Significance of The Study

The significance of this study covers two aspects, which are theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the writer hopes this study can help other people who want to do translation research in investigating idiom translation by relied on the right theories and criteria which will be useful to determine a quality of translation works. In general, this study will be able to fill up the lack of several studies which highlighting English idiom and its Indonesian translation. Moreover, the writer hopes the result of this study will extent her and the readers understanding about idioms and its translation.

As for practical significance, this study is expected to be useful for novice translators in widening their knowledge in translating idiom in order to create qualified translation. The writer also hopes this study to help publisher to be more aware of the flaws occur in their published translation works. Besides, this study is not only restricted for people who affiliated with translation, but also for people who enjoy reading literature who cannot understand the source language well. They might find this study helpful to consider which version is better to buy.