

# Chapter I

## Introduction

### 1.1. Background

Idioms are often found in many kinds of literary works, particularly novels and poetry. Idioms have a function to add “color” to them so that these literary works will not be boring for their readers. Idioms usually reflect human experience and life lesson that were passed down through generations, and in most cases, they allow readers to be able to convey complex ideas in a simplified manner so that the readers can understand to them easily. That being said for readers who are not familiar with them, idioms can be confusing with a single read. Then again, they can be fun to read once the readers understand them. Different cultures usually have different idioms, and many of them are informal. Thus, it requires a caution when using idiom in daily conversation.

There are a lot of famous novel these days, and most of them are widespread to the entire world. When a novel enters a different country everything got translated into the local language, even the idioms. As mentioned before different cultures usually have different idioms, thus translating idioms is not an easy task for translator. The translators are required to translate the idioms as close as possible to the local languages.

Most of the time people learn idioms naturally from their local culture; then again not all people are able to completely understand it. Different from learning local idioms, to learn foreign idioms one must learn and practice to make a full comprehension. It is not easy to spot an idiom in a novel, almost everything can be an idiom depends on the context. To spot an idiom is not easy let alone translating it. It is required for the translator to translate idioms as close as possible to the source language. The reason why idioms are tricky to be translated is that each culture has different kinds of idioms, although it can be said that some of them have similar meaning. Then, the way of translator translating a text is different depending on their own interpretation and their knowledge on idioms themselves.

Previously, people already have studies on comparative analysis in translating idioms. Some of them are *A Study of Idiom Translation Strategies between English and Chinese* by Lanchun Wang and Shuo Wang (2013) from Qiongzhou University, and *Unity in Diversity: A Comparative Study of Selected Idioms in Nembe (Nigeria) and English* by Diri Teilanyo (2014) from University of Benin, Nigeria. The first differences between their studies with this study are obviously on the language. Wang's focused on English and Chinese idioms and Teilanyo's focused on English and Nigerian idioms, while this study focused on English and Indonesian idioms. The second differences are on their corpus. Both of the previous studies use the idioms as the corpus, while this study uses a novel as the corpus. In addition to that this study also compares the idiom translation between two translators. Wang found in their

research that there are several different strategies and principles to translate idioms, and only by those a translator could keep the original characteristic, and express the meaning clearly. On the other hand, Teilanyo conclude that there are many similarities between Nembe and English idioms despite the distance between the language and the country.

This study uses Fernando's theory on types of English idiom, Abdul Chaer's theory on types of Indonesian idiom and Mona Baker's strategy of translating idioms. Fernando gives three types of English idiom: pure idiom, semi idiom, and literal idiom. Then, there is Chaer who states two types of Indonesian idiom: full idiom, and semi idiom. Baker also has simple theory on strategy of translation. In the field of idiom she divided the strategy into four. This study also uses Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*. The novel was published in 1952 and was one among many classical novels. In addition, people that come from English speaking countries tend to use a lot of idioms. The writer chooses this topic, because the writer is interested on how different translators translate idioms.

## **1.2. Research Question**

1. What are the differences and similarities of the types of English idiom and Indonesian idiom in "The Old Man and The Sea"?
2. How the idiom in the novel "The Old Man and The Sea" is translated by translator A and translator B.

### **1.3. Purpose of the Study**

1. To show what are the differences and similarities of the types of English idiom and Indonesian idiom in “The Old Man and The Sea”.
2. To analyze how the idiom in the novel “The Old Man and The Sea” is translated by translator A and translator B.

### **1.4. Scopes of the Study**

This study is limited on the idioms on Hemingway’s The Old Man and The Sea and its translated version by translator A and B.

### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

The findings of this study give benefits to the reader, especially if the readers are translator themselves, considering that the translator’s services are common these days. This study gives the readers an insight on how to translate idiom so that it will not ruin the entire text. Theoretically, this study give an insight on how two translators use the strategy of translation to translate the idioms.