

AN ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION IN “THE PERFECT DATE” MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to analyze the translation of idiomatic expression in the movie titled The Perfect Date. The aims of the research are: (1) to find out what types of strategies applied in translating idiomatic expression from English to Indonesian in the subtitle of The Perfect Date movie, and (2) to find out what types of meaning equivalence found in the translation of idiomatic expression in The Perfect Date movie. Moreover, the researcher applied content analysis method using theories by Krippendorff to conduct the analysis. To answer the first problem in the formulated question, the researcher used theory from Mona Baker. The study found that 30 expressions are commonly used in The Perfect Date movie. The findings of the study are divided into four categories based on idiom translation strategies. The result shows there are 4 idioms translated using similar meaning and form, 1 idioms translated using similar meaning but dissimilar form, 24 idioms translated using translation by paraphrase, and 1 idiom translated using translation by omission. Translation by paraphrase is the most frequently used of translation strategies in the movie. To answer the second problem in the formulated question, the researcher used theory from Eugene A. Nida. The 30 idiomatic expressions are classified into two types of meaning equivalence. There are 4 idioms classified using formal equivalence and 26 idioms classified using dynamic equivalence. However, dynamic equivalence is the most frequently used of meaning equivalence in the movie.

Keywords: *idioms, translation strategies, meaning equivalence.*

INTRODUCTION

Translation is the process of converting the source language into a target language (Manipuspika and Winzami, 2021).

Translating words or texts is a difficult task to do because translator not only needs to understand the language they are going to translate, but they have the role to grab the message of text and then reproduce it. Translation also plays a role in understanding the culture between two languages. The cultural gaps that every language creates will

be shortened with the help of translation. With the help of translation, the ideas and beliefs will also be communicated well so people with different cultural backgrounds could understand them easily.

The translation is a difficult field and translating idioms, in particular, is a more difficult field to do especially if English is not the mother tongue. As Baker said that it is hard to understand an idiom if the meaning of the expression is difficult to

understand and the sense is not clear (Baker, 2018). Even the native speaker will sometimes find it confusing because idioms cannot be translated literally. If the idiom is translated literally, it will probably ruin the source text's message. The idiom is a kind of figurative language which sometimes has a different meaning from the actual definition. One can never put the idiom on a machine translator because it will be translated words for words. Finding another idiom from the target language that has the same meaning as the original idiom in the source text, which the readers can comprehend, is a more effective technique to translate an idiom than using a machine translation. Idiom and translation in this case are similar, both are related to cultural understanding. Someone who understands language and culture is needed when translating idiom. Therefore, a human translator is necessary when translating idioms. Humans will do deeper research and dig down on the cultural specifics of which machine translators are

not capable of doing that job.

METHOD

This study is a qualitative study that conducts content analysis as a research method. Content analysis is a method for examining documents and communication artifacts, which can include various types of text, images, audio, and video. The researcher collected the data at home and observe the data from the movie and its subtitles in from of the computer while using internet access. As a result, the researcher could find the data to analyze. To collect data from the movie, the researcher must first understand what an idiom is. After learning the definition of an idiom, the researcher begins collecting idioms from the source text (ST). The researcher then looks for idiom translations in the target text (TT). During the data collection process, the researcher watches the movie multiple times while using subtitles from both sources. The researcher included idioms and their translations in the table when categorizing strategies to translate idiom and meaning equivalence. The researcher must also collect

sentences containing idioms and their translations. Following data collection, the researcher highlights and bolds idioms and their translations that will be analyzed. The code would be provided as the final step. To analyze the data, the researcher applied recording or coding method by Krippendorff (2018). An essential step in the analysis of qualitative research is the process of coding qualitative data. In general, it entails looking through the data, assigning codes to selected passages, performing several iterations of coding, grouping codes into categories based on themes, and then drawing conclusions from the interpretations. The meaning of idiomatic expressions was identified based on Kamus Lengkap Idiom by Salim (2016), Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary by Hornby(2010), and another online dictionary from the internet.

DISCUSSION

1. Idiomatic Translation Strategy

In this section, the researcher tries to explain the strategies in translating

idiomatic expression found in “The Perfect Date (2019)” movie. The findings are classified according to Baker's theory of idiom translation. The finding shows that 30 idiomatic expressions were found in the movie. There are 6 idioms translated using similar meaning and similar form strategy, 4 idioms translated using similar meaning but dissimilar form strategy, 19 idioms translated using the translation by paraphrase strategy, and 1 idiom translated using the translation by omission strategy.

Table 1. Similar Meaning and Form

ST/1/00:02:10	You didn't bare your soul .
TT/1/00:02:10	<i>Kau tak membuka jiwamu.</i>

Similar meaning and similar form strategy involves using idioms that convey the text roughly from the source language to the target language, using idioms with the same meaning. It also consists equivalent lexical items. According to Oxford Advanced, Learner's Dictionary by Hornby the idiom **bare your soul** means “to tell

somebody your deepest and most private feelings”. This idiom is translated into *membuka jiwamu* in TT. According to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia, the verb “*membuka*” means “*mengembangkan*” while the word “*jiwa*” means “*perasaan; pikiran*”. So, *membuka jiwamu* in TT could also means “*mengembangkan perasaan dan pikiran*” and it has the same meaning with idiom in the ST. The form is also similar because both ST and TT is a phrases. Because the meaning and form are similar in both languages, it will have the same constructions when translated back into English. Therefore, this idiomatic expression is classified translated using similar meaning and similar form strategy because the idiom in the target text is equivalent to the source text in both form and meaning.

Table 2. Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

ST/5/00:33:22	So, the fact I don't wanna go is kind of a sore point .
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TT/5/00:33:22	<i>Jadi, aku tak mau masuk Yale adalah hal yang menyedihkan.</i>
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The meaning of **sore point** according to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary by Hornby means “a subject that makes you feel angry or upset when it is mentioned”. Meanwhile, the idiom in ST translated into non-idiom *hal yang menyedihkan* in TT. The idiomatic expression is classified translated using a similar meaning but dissimilar form strategy. It can be seen that **sore point** translated into *hal yang menyedihkan* which shows it has the similar meaning, the thing that differentiates them is the lexical form.

Table 3. Translation by Paraphrase

ST/7/00:14:18	She's, you know, but rain check ?
TT/7/00:14:18	<i>kakinya sakit, mungkin lain kali?</i>

The meaning of **rain check** according to Kamus Lengkap Idiom by Salim (2016) is “*tidak dapat memenuhi undangan; undangan pengganti*”. Also, Cambridge online

dictionary stated the meaning as “used to tell someone that you cannot accept an invitation now, but would like to do so at a later time”. It can be seen based on the explanation, that this idiomatic expression is classified translated using **translation by paraphrase** because there is no right match or preferences that are comparable in the target language. So, the idiom is translated into *lain kali* because this phrase is more acceptable and easy to understand in the target language.

Table 4. Translation by Omission

ST/30/00:14:22	I'm Shelby, by the way .
TT/30/00:14:22	<i>Aku Shelby.</i>

The idiomatic expression **by the way** according to Oxford Advanced Learner's Kamus Lengkap Idiom by Salim (2016) the idiom *by the way* means “*sambil lalu*” and “*omong-omong*”. This idiomatic expression classified translated using the **translation by omission** strategy. This strategy is usually used if there is no close equivalent in the target language and the use of translation by paraphrase is not possible. Because **by the way** is translated as “*omong-omong*” in Indonesian, so the researcher guessed that the reason why the translator omitted this idiom is for a stylistic reason.

2. The Meaning Equivalence

In this section, the researcher tries to explain the meaning equivalence in the translation of idiomatic expression found in “The Perfect Date (2019)” movie which also answers the second research question, i.e. the type of meaning equivalence found in the translation of idiomatic expression. The findings are classified according to Nida's theory of meaning equivalence. The finding

for meaning equivalence shows that there are 6 data classified using formal correspondence and 24 data using dynamic equivalence.

Table 5. Formal Correspondence

ST/2/00:17:55	Yeah, my bad .
TT/2/00:17:55	Ya, <i>kesalahanku</i> .

In the movie content, Brooks asks Reece how could he afford the luxury car considering that his parents are not rich, then Reece doesn't want to answer the question and Brooks felt sorry about that. The idiom **my bad** in ST is translated into *kesalahanku* in TT. Since the meanings of the two idioms are the same, they are both equivalents. The idiom **my bad** according to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary by Hornby (2010) means "used when you are admitting that something is your fault or that you have made a mistake" while *kesalahanku* means "kekeliruan; kealpaan (saya)" (*my mistake*). The message of both ST and TT are also the same; Brooks admitted that he is

at fault for being rude to asking Reece about his personal life. Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the type of equivalence the translator uses is **formal correspondence** because the idiom in ST is translated to TT in a literal way and the translator keeps the naturalness in the meaning.

Table 6. Dynamic Equivalence

ST/26/00:56:07	That is brilliant. I gotta jot that down .
TT/26/00:56:07	<i>Itu luar biasa. Aku harus mencatatnya.</i>

In the movie content, Franklin explained to Celia that she can put a gas mask on everything and it will have a real impact on people, like Thomas Jefferson, Mr. Rogers, and the Pope. Because the names of those figures crossed his mind then he wrote them immediately. The idiom **jot that down** in ST is translated into *mencatatnya* in TT.

The meaning of the idiom **jot that down** according to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary by Hornby (2010) is “to write something quickly”. The message of both ST and TT are the same; Franklin quickly wrote something that he found out through his speaking. Since the messages of the two idioms are similar, they are both

equivalents. It can be concluded that the type of equivalence used by the translator is **dynamic equivalence** because the translator doesn't preserve the idiomatic form in the ST, as the idiom **jot that down** was translated into a different form *mencatatnya* which still conveys the same meaning.

Table 7.

Data Collection

SMF : Similar Meaning and Form FC : Formal Correspondence
 SMDF : Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form DE : Dynamic Equivalence
 TP : Translation by Paraphrase
 TO : Translation by Omission

No.	Source Text	Target Text	Strategy & Equivalence
1.	You didn't bare your soul	<i>Kau tak membuka jiwamu</i>	SMF & FC
2.	Yeah, my bad.	<i>Ya, kesalahanku</i>	SMF & FC
3.	and all that bullshit	<i>dan semua omong kosong itu</i>	SMF & FC
4.	who cares , right?	<i>Siapa peduli, bukan?</i>	SMF & FC
5.	So, the fact I don't wanna go is kind of a sore point.	<i>Jadi, aku tak mau masuk Yale adalah hal yang menyedihkan</i>	S MDF & DE
6.	Either go big or go home , son.	<i>Buat dia terkesan atau pulang saja</i>	TP & DE
7.	She's, you know, but rain check?	<i>Kakinya sakit, mungkin lain kali?</i>	TP & DE
8.	As long as you bring a jar of your honey, we can have ourselves a little honey swap.	<i>Selama kau membawa sebotol madumu, kita bisa saling bertukar madu.</i>	TP & DE
9.	and the passenger window doesn't close all the way , so watch out for that.	<i>dan jendela penumpang tak menutup rapat, jadi hati-hati dengan itu.</i>	TP & DE
10.	Always going on and on about band	<i>Selalu bercerita soal grup-grup musik</i>	TP & DE
11.	Oh, "This app made me	<i>"Aplikasi ini sungguh sia-sia.</i>	TP & DE

	poke my eyes out , thanks for nothing."	<i>Tak ada gunanya."</i>	
12.	after that, it's all kind of up in the air .	<i>setelah itu, semuanya masih tidak pasti.</i>	TP & DE
13.	Not really. There's a couple of copycat apps that have popped up.	<i>Tidak juga. Ada beberapa aplikasi tiruan yang muncul.</i>	TP & DE
14.	it's not too big of a deal .	<i>tapi itu bukan masalah.</i>	TP & DE
15.	Every time it gets to the top it rolls back down and he has to start all over again .	<i>Setiap kali sampai ke puncak, batunya menggelinding turun dan dia harus mulai lagi.</i>	TP & DE
16.	I wouldn't want to get lost .	<i>Aku tak mau tersesat.</i>	TP & DE
17.	Thanks again for letting me off the hook .	<i>Terima kasih telah membiarkan aku lepas dari kail.</i>	TP & DE
18.	I mean, I personally don't care at all , but maybe you should?	<i>Aku pribadi tidak peduli sama sekali, tapi mungkin kamu peduli?</i>	TP & DE
19.	No, you're gonna keep on the straight.	<i>Tidak, kau akan terus jalan lurus.</i>	TP & DE
20.	and the passenger window doesn't close all the way, so watch out for that.	<i>dan jendela penumpang tak menutup rapat, jadi hati-hati dengan itu.</i>	TP & DE
21.	I thought I'd have some time to, I don't know, like clutch my bearings .	<i>kurasa aku punya waktu untuk, aku tak tahu, mungkin mengatur perasaanku.</i>	TP & DE
22.	I don't think so , because it wasn't just for today.	<i>Kurasa tidak, karena bukan hanya hari ini saja</i>	TP & DE
23.	Come on, man, you're	<i>Ayolah, kau akan</i>	TP & DE

	gonna tell me that you really wanna give up the chance	<i>memberitahuku bahwa kau mau membuang kesempatan</i>	
24.	but you have your new rich friends to bail you out .	<i>tapi kau punya teman baru yang kaya untuk menyelamatkanmu.</i>	TP & DE
25.	Hold on , I thought Yale was everything to you.	<i>Sebentar, aku pikir Yale adalah segalanya bagimu</i>	TP & DE
26.	That is brilliant. I gotta jot that down .	<i>Itu luar biasa. Aku harus mencatatnya</i>	TP & DE
27.	I'm gonna figure it out .	<i>Aku akan cari jalan</i>	TP & DE
28.	If you wanna stand out , you're gonna have to rewrite your essay	<i>Jika ingin menonjol, kau harus mengulang esaimu</i>	TP & DE
29.	Just no self-respecting Italian would turn his back on the tomato.	<i>Hanya orang Italia yang tak menghargai diri yang menolak tomat</i>	TP & DE
30.	I'm Shelby. By the way	<i>Aku Shelby.</i>	TO & DE

CONCLUSION

This research aims to find out the types of idiom translation strategy and the types of meaning equivalence applied in "The Perfect Date (2019)" movie. The researcher founds 30 idiomatic expressions in the movie. Following data analysis and research findings, two conclusions can be drawn from this research. The first conclusion deals with the strategy for

translating the idiomatic expressions. After the data analysis, the researcher found 4 idioms translated using similar meaning and form, 1 idioms translated using similar meaning but dissimilar form, 24 idioms translated using the translation by paraphrase, and 1 idiom translated using the translation by omission. The most frequently used strategy in translating idiomatic expressions is the

translation by paraphrase. The second conclusion deals with the type of meaning equivalence that was found in the movie. The researcher used theory from Eugene A. Nida to solve this problem. From the analysis, the researcher found 4 idioms classified using formal equivalence and 26 idioms classified using dynamic equivalence. Dynamic equivalence is the most frequently used translation equivalence in this research. The findings show that the Indonesian language has idiom limitations compared to English because most of the idioms in the source text have no right match in the target text. Even though the

equivalents do not exactly match the idiom, the meaning remains the same. Although the data found is from the movie and its subtitle, determining whether the phrases or clauses are idioms is difficult. There were times when the researcher thought the phrase or clause identified was an idiom; however, checking the dictionary revealed that it was not an idiom. When it comes to identifying idioms, using a dictionary is a must. Due to researcher's ability and time constraints, it is recommended that the next researcher analyze the figurative language used in this movie.

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