CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1.The Background of the Study

Translation has become an activity of enormous importance in recent decades. We live in an increasingly internationalized world where ever-growing numbers of individuals are in continuous contact with foreign cultures and languages both in their professional lives as well as in more informal contexts, usually via mass media. The more internationalized the world become, the greater the importance of translation and qualified translators also grows.

Since translation has become increasingly important on both national and global level, it is definitely a subject worth a closer study. Obviously, there is a wide range of topics which could be investigated in terms of translational aspects. The present study focuses on the translation of one of the most fascinating and innovative aspects of language: idioms.

Idiom is a combination of words that has a meaning that is different from the meanings of the individual words themselves (Larson, 1984:3). When used in everyday language, they have a meaning other than the basic one you would find in the dictionary. Every language has its own idioms which develop according to the culture of the source language. When we are learning a language, we must learn the idioms too because

they are the part of communication. Idioms are expressions of "at least two words which can't be understood literally and which function as a unit semantically" (Beekman and Callow 1974 quoted in Larson 1984).

Different with other kind of phrases, idioms need certain strategy to translate them, since idiom is a number of words which, when taken together have different meaning from the individual meaning of each word (Seidl and McMordie, 1988:13). Some idioms have metaphor feeling in it.

Beside of having metaphor feeling in it, idioms also can be different from one country to another. It happens because the differences of culture between the SL area and the TL area. Culture plays an important role in the course of the idiom interpretation. Only by having a solid foundation of the culture of the target language, the translator can catch the implied meaning. Therefore, sometimes there are idioms from the SL which do not have any equal idioms in the TL.

In the study of idiom translation strategies, there are numerous studies that have described and raised many issues on the different strategies in their way in translating idioms. Motallebzadeh and Tousi (2011) analyze Persian translation of Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. The result shows that in most cases the translators had translated the SL idioms into TL non-idioms.

An MA thesis by Mustonen (2010) investigated the types of strategies a translator uses to translate English idioms into Finnish. The research sheds light on what happens to the idioms in the Finnish

translation. It was found that the translator of the English novel used two main strategies: translating an idiom with an idiom and translating an idiom with a non-idiom. The researcher found that the preferred strategy used by the translator was translating the source text idiom with a non-target text idiomatic term.

Furthermore, a study by Strakšienė (2009) discussed the strategies of translating idioms and highlighted the difficulties that translators face when translating idioms from English into Lithuanian. The research has shown that translation strategies used are paraphrasing, idiom with the similar meaning and form, idiom with the similar meaning but dissimilar form and omission. To examine strategies of translating idioms, the researcher used two books by Agatha Christie, analyzing each novel separately to compare the translation of idioms into Lithuanian. The study showed that the Lithuanian language lacks equivalent idioms from those found in the two English books. It was concluded that the strategy of paraphrase was the most preferred one in translating idioms from English into Lithuanian to address the problem of non-equivalence.

From the research findings of some studies above, we can see that idioms from different languages are translated by using different strategies to be held the equivalence of meaning constant and understandable to the reader. Analyzing the opposite, the researcher would analyze the idioms translation strategies from Indonesian idiom into English. The researcher wants to know if there any other strategy beside those strategies above

found when translating Indonesian idioms into English. The idioms translation of Andrea Hirata's novel, *Edensor*, which was translated into English with the same title *Edensor,* was analyzed.

A large number of novels have been published in Indonesia in every genre. Spreading Indonesian novels abroad can be an effective means to introduce the culture and values of Indonesia. Unfortunately, only a few Indonesian novels or other literary works are published in other countries in this era, and Andrea Hirata's novel *Edensor* is one of the works published abroad. *Edensor* is the third novel of the *Laskar Pelangi* (*The Rainbow Troops)* quartet written by Andrea Hirata. This novel becomes best selling in Indonesia and has been translated into English and some languages. It brought Andrea Hirata to achieve awards in some events, such as the winner of General Fiction New York Book Festival 2013 in USA and the winner of Buchawards 2013 in Germany. In line with this phenomenon, there are some studies that conduct researches about *Edensor*. Permatasari (2014) analyzed the translation shift of verbs and verb phrases in *Edensor* novel. She concluded that there are two shifts of translation found in her research namely category shift and level shift. Susanti (2012) analyzed the moral values in *Edensor* novel. Moral values that found in the novel as never give up, nationalism, empathy to each others, strength of heart, optimism and thinking positively, believe in God, there is no reason to stop learning, struggle for life

However, as far as the researcher knows, the idiom of the novel has not been studied earlier. This novel contains extremely colorful language and plenty of idioms, metaphors and other figurative expressions, which makes it an ideal piece of literature for investigating Indonesian idiomatic expressions as well as their English translations. After read the novel, the researcher found that there are some Indonesian idioms that translated without using the translation strategies that had been proposed by Mona Baker. Some data below:

1. SL : Aku tak merasa pulang dengan ***tangan hampa***
(*Edensor* original version, page 264 line 19)

   TL : I didn't feel like I had come back ***empty handed***
(*Edensor* English version, page 223 line 17)

   Based on Kamus Idiom Bahasa Indonesia, ***tangan hampa*** means *tidak mendapat apa-apa* (get nothing). In this context, ***tangan hampa*** is translated into ***empty handed.*** It can be seen that the translator rendered the meaning of the SL idiomatic expression into a non-idiomatic one. The noun ***tangan*** is translated into its English matching noun ***hand***, and also the same case with adjective ***hampa*** is translated become adjective ***empty.*** Thus, the idiom was rendered easily by the translator word for word as ***empty handed***.

2. SL : Matanya ***berkaca-kaca***
(*Edensor* original version, page 225, line 1)

   TL : His eyes went ***glassy***
(*Edensor* English version, page 179, line 6)

Based on Kamus Idiom Bahasa Indonesia, ***berkaca-kaca*** means *mata berlinang karena dilanda rasa haru* (the emotion in the eye). The basic word of *berkaca-kaca* is *kaca*. In Bahasa Indonesia, *kaca* means glass. Regarding the translation of the idiom to ***glassy*** it can be seen that the translator rendered the meaning of the SL idiomatic expression into a non-idiomatic one. The adverb ***berkaca-kaca*** is translated into its matching English adverb ***glassy.*** Thus, the idiom was rendered easily by translator word for word as ***glassy.***

Those facts indicate there is another strategy used by the translator when translating Indonesian idiom into English besides using similar meaning and form, using similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase and translation by omission. This phenomenon is interesting to be explored more deeply how idiomatic expressions which enrich meaning translated from SL into TL in *Edensor* novel and the translation strategies that used by the translator when translating idioms in the *Edensor* novel into its English version.

1.2. The Problems of the Study

In line with the phenomenon above, the problems of the study are formulated as in the following:

1. What types of idiom translation strategies are found in *Edensor* novel into its English version?

2. In what context the strategies are applied in translating Indonesian idioms in *Edensor* novel into its English version?

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

Based on the research problems formulated above, this study has some objectives as follow:

1. To describe the types of idiom translation strategies in *Edensor* novel
2. To describe the context of idiom translation strategies are applied in *Edensor* novel

1.4. The Scope of the Study

This research focused on idiom translation strategies found in *Edensor* novel and its English translation in *Edensor* novel English version. The researcher used idiom translation strategies theory proposed by Mona Baker.

1.5. The Significance of the Study

This research is expected to have both theoretical and practical significance for the readers, English teachers and also English student. Theoretically, the findings of this research are expected to be useful as a means deploying and supporting the theories presented in the study of linguistics, especially in the field of translation and idiom. Given this

research can hopefully spur for the holding of research deeper for further research. Practically, this research can be used as an illustration, reference, a source of understanding and study of the translation strategies and idiomatic expressions for researchers and anyone who is studying about it.