

# Idioms Translation Strategies in *Pasung Jiwa* Novel English Version

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**Abstract**— The research deals with idioms translation strategies. The aims of this study was to investigate the strategies of translating idioms in *Pasung Jiwa* novel. The research was conducted by using qualitative design. The data of this study were words, phrases and clause. The data were collected through documentary technique and the instrument was the documentary sheet. The result of this study revealed that: There are four types of idiom translation strategies proposed by Baker (2011) in this study, the most dominant strategy was Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Dissimilar Form (SMDF) (45%). When the translator applied the four types of idiom translation strategies proposed by Baker, in the other hand there were some idioms that were not able translated by applying those strategies. In keeping sense of language and the acceptable meaning and equivalence, the step could be done was applying another strategy, namely description strategy. The translator wanted the English translated version of *Pasung Jiwa* Novel easy to understand by the global reader. This translation was aimed to the acceptance of target reader.

**Keywords**—*idioms, translation strategies, pasung jiwa novel*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Translation is the process of transfer the message from one language that called by Source Language (SL) to another language or Target Language (TL). Translation itself has always been a central part of the communication. It is like a bridge to connect the human communication between two different languages. The main point in translation is to re-tell and to transfer the message in SL to another language or TL without changing the characteristics or the style of the original text. So, even though the language changed, but the message in the SL always delivered in the TL. Simply, translation deals with two different languages.

In globalization era, translation is very useful and needed by human. By translation, communication between human beings in various parts of the world can be done effectively. Transfer of science, culture, and other social activities mostly is done through translation.

One of the difficult problems which the translator may face is translating an object and event which is absent in the target culture. In other word, the translator has difficulty to find the equivalence of the text because there is no direct and right equivalence which is used to express the message of source language in word or phrase of target language. In this situation, the translator is not only faced with language differences, but also he should be careful about cultural differences which can cause difficulties in the process of conveying the message between source and target language. Therefore, the translator also need to be familiar with both cultures.

Liu [1] states that idiom is a group of words, which has a meaning that cannot be translated literally. Besides, Liu also says that idiom is a group of words that have different meaning from the meaning expressed by the each word. He also stated that idiom have certain emotive connotations and are not expressed in the other lexical items.

From those definitions, it can be said that idioms are group of words that cannot be literary translated as individual words, which make up the idioms. Not all idioms can be translated into idioms in the target language. Idioms are fixed words or expressions, which have particular forms and meanings. When we are translating idioms, we have to know the real meaning of the idioms in the source language. Therefore, in order to know idioms' meanings, people need to know the background culture of both the source language and the target language so that there is no misunderstanding in knowing the meaning of the idioms. We can translate idioms into target language and the readers will know the closest meaning of the idioms.

Translating book containing cultural terms becomes a challenge, as the translator has to find appropriate strategy to translate it. Nida [2] states "Differences between cultures may cause several complications for the translator than do differences in language structure". Therefore, culture specific items from different languages are translated by using different strategies to get the accurate meaning and understandable to the readers. The translator must be aware of cultural terms

occurring in the book, they will become a problem when the translator fails to find the right translation.

From the research findings of some studies that researcher read, 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 will 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 *Pasung Jiwa* novel, which was translated into English with the title *Bound* will be analyzed.

A large number of novels have been translated in Indonesia in every genre. Spreading Indonesian novels abroad can be an effective means to introduce the culture and values of Indonesia as part of cultural exchange. Unfortunately, only a few of Indonesian novels or other literary works are published or translated in other countries in this era. One of those few books that become international books is Okky Madasari's novel entitled *Pasung Jiwa* which was published in 2003 and its English version which was translated by Nurhayat Indriyanto Mohamed and published in 2014 entitled *Bound*. This novel is one of the best sellers which has been translated into English and obtained the winner of Khatulistiwa Award 2012. *Pasung Jiwa* is one of the most interesting novel that gives influences to the reader. This novel has been printed almost 2000.000 copies only in two years. This novel also contains many values of cultural aspect, education, inspiration and dreams which recognize readers to the author's background culture.

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. As this study focuses on the translation product, the researcher analyzes and clarifies what strategies decided on this translated novel.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

### A. Theory of Translation

Translation has been defined in many ways by different writers in the field, depending on how they view language and translation. Hatim and Munday [3] define translation as "the process of transferring a written text from source language (SL) to target language (TL)". In this definition they do not explicitly express that the object being transferred is meaning or message. They emphasis on translation as a process. According to Wills in Choliludin [4], translation is a procedure which leads from a written source language text to an optimally equivalent target language text and requires the syntactic, semantic, stylistic and text pragmatic comprehension by the translator of the original text. Besides, Nida and Taber [5] say that translating consists in the reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source

language message, firstly in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. Both definitions above imply that translation involves two languages: the source language (SL) and the target or receptor language (TL or RL), and that an act of translating is an act of reproducing the meaning of the SL text into that of the TL text.

Catford [6] states that translation may be defined as the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL). Similar definition is also mentioned by Larson [7]. He says that translation consists of translating the meaning of the source language into the receptor language. This is done by going from the form of the first language to the form of a second language by way of semantic structure. It is meaning which is being transferred and must be held constant, only the form changes.

### B. Idioms

Idioms are usually defined as fixed expressions, with meanings that cannot be drawn from the meanings of their individual components. The *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* [8] defines idioms as a group of lexical items with a meaning differing from the meanings of their lexical terms: "let the cat out of the bag" is an idiomatic expression meaning "to tell a secret by mistake". Sweet observes that the meaning of an idiom is an isolated fact which cannot be understood from the meaning of the words which make it up.

Trask and Sweet, Carter [9, cited in Meryem, too defines an idiom as a particular combination of words that have a restricted form and meaning which cannot be understood from the literal meaning of the words which makes it up.

### C. Idioms translation strategies

This research used the term strategy related to Mona Baker's theory of strategies to translate idiomatic translation. Mona Baker's view of translation strategies are applied when a translation difficulty occurs and the translator wishes to solve the problem and produce a good translation. But in this research the researcher used theory of Mona Baker [10] proposes some strategies that can be used to translate idioms. These strategies include:

- a. translating an Idiom by Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form
- b. Translating an Idiom by Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form
- c. Translation by Paraphrase

## III. METHODOLOGY

In conducting this research, descriptive qualitative method was applied in this research. Qualitative research broadly defined, "any kind of research that produces findings not arrived at by means of statistical procedures or other mean of quantification" Strauss and Corbin, [11]. According to Bogdan and Biklen [12], qualitative is descriptive, where the data is in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers.

The data were idiom found in *Pasung Jiwa* novel and their translation in English version of *Bound*. The original version of *Pasung Jiwa* novel consist of 321 pages and the English

version consist of 273 pages. The sources of the data was the original version of *Pasung Jiwa* written by Okky Madasari that was published by Gramedia Jakarta in 2003, and its English version with the same title *Bound* translated by Nurhayat Indriyanto Mohammed that was published in 2014. The whole of pages in *Pasung Jiwa* novel was used as the source of data.

In this study, documentary technique was applied to collect the data. It was applied by observing the entire data source that contain the idiom translation strategies in the novel *Pasung Jiwa* and its translation in the target language. The data of this research was collected by following steps:

1. Identifying
2. Underlining
3. Making notes
4. Displaying the idioms translation strategies

In addition, documentary sheet was applied as the research instrument to collect the data.

In this study, the data were analyzed by using Miles and Huberman's Interactive Model. According to Miles, Huberman and Saldana [13] in analysis of qualitative data consists of three concurrent flows of activity namely 1) data condensation, 2) data display, and 3) conclusion drawing or verification.

#### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing the data, the data are classified based on the types of idioms translation strategies. There are four types of translation strategies and one new type that have been found in the *pasung jiwa* novel English version. They are using idiom similar meaning and form, using idioms similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission and translation by description, see in Table . Table. Types of idioms translation strategies in *pasung jiwa* novel English version

Target Language	Frequency	Percentage
Idiom similar meaning and form	41	36
Idiom similar meaning but disssimilar form	52	45
Translation paraphrase	16	13.9
Translation by omission	2	1.8
Translation description	4	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>

Based on Table above it can be seen that, the types of idiom translation strategies were found in *Pasung Jiwa* Novel and their percentage in numbers. The most dominant of idiom translation strategy was using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form.

In the table above, the analysis of the translation of idioms which found in *Pasung Jiwa* novel original version and its English version showed that a number of strategies proposed by Baker [14] were applied in translating the idioms from Indonesian into English. The applied strategies included using an idiom of similar meaning and form (36%), using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form (45%), translation by paraphrase (13.9%) and translation by omission (1.8%). As a

new strategy namely, *translation by description* was found (3.4%).

Based on the table, all types of idioms translation strategies occurred in the *pasung jiwa* novel english version. It was also found a new type of idiom translation strategies that is translation by description. It was different from other research who did not find translation by description (type of idiom translation strategies in novel. It happened because Indonesian novel used sentences or word to describe a things.

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