Translation Strategies Of English Idioms Into Indonesian In *The Adventure Of The Speckled Band,* A Sherlock Holmes Story By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

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Abstract

This research aimed to explore the translation strategies and identify the types of idioms found in the novel The Adventure of the Speckled Band: Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The study was based on two main theories. Baker's theory was applied to identify the translation strategies used, including using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, using an idiom of dissimilar meaning and form, translation by paraphrase, and translation by omission. Meanwhile, McCarthy and O'Dell's theory was employed to categorize idioms into types such as similes, binomials, proverbs, euphemisms, clichés and fixed statements, and idioms from other languages. The research employed a descriptive qualitative method and was designed as library research. Data were collected through five steps: close reading, identification, note-taking, classification, and coding, in order to ensure the validity of the findings. The results revealed that fifty-eight idioms were identified in the novel. The most frequently used translation strategy was translation by omission, indicating that the translator often chose to exclude idiomatic expressions that might not transfer well into the target language. Furthermore, the most common types of idioms found in the novel were clichés and fixed statements, suggesting the frequent use of conventional expressions in the source text.

Keywords: *Idioms, Translation, Strategies.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is the most important tool for communication in life. Therefore, understanding a foreign language—especially in the context of translation—is essential in connecting cultures, knowledge, and ideas among people across the world. Through language, people communicate, exchange ideas, and share information. As a means to understand movies, novels, newspapers, and other written materials that support daily life globally, the translation process has recently become a popular topic of discussion (Ardhiani, 2018).

However, some texts are written in foreign languages that cannot be understood by those who do not speak them and often contain idioms. *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* is one of the famous stories in the *Sherlock Holmes* series by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This work is linguistically unique due to its frequent use of idiomatic expressions, which enrich the language but also pose challenges in translation. Idioms are essential elements of language, carrying meanings that are not literal and often infused with cultural nuances and social context.

This research aims to examine the translation strategies used to translate idiomatic expressions in *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* into Indonesian. The study applies Baker's theory to identify translation strategies and McCarthy and O'Dell's theory to classify idiom types.

The novel, a detective mystery involving crime and murder scenes, naturally contains many idioms reflecting deduction and investigation (Hornby, 1976). Therefore, it is considered suitable for analyzing idiomatic expressions and the strategies used in translating them to ensure clarity and preserve cultural meaning (Catford, 1965). This research is expected to offer insights for teachers, students, researchers, and readers interested in the complexities of language translation.

METHODS

This research consists of descriptive and library research. To obtain the data, the researcher employed a qualitative method. As stated by Marcyzk (2005, p. 17), qualitative research involves studies that do not attempt to quantify their results through statistical summaries or analyses.

In this research, the aim is to discover the translation strategies used in the Indonesian version of *The Adventure of the Speckled Band: Sherlock Holmes* and to identify the types of idiomatic expressions found in the same novel.

According to Adedokun, there are two types of data sources: primary and secondary data. The data collection process involved several steps.

The first step was **close reading**, where the researcher carefully read the novel from beginning to end, repeatedly, to understand its content thoroughly. The second step was **identification**, in which the researcher identified idiomatic expressions using markers such as highlighters. The third step was **note-taking**, where relevant data were recorded for analysis using O'Dell & McCarthy's theory to identify types of idioms, and Baker's theory to identify translation strategies. The fourth step was **classification**, where idioms were categorized according to O'Dell & McCarthy's typology and Baker's classification of translation strategies. The final step was **coding**, where the researcher used codes such as *ST* (Source Text) and *TT* (Target Text) to distinguish between the original and translated versions.

According to Miles and Huberman (1994, p. 10), data analysis consists of three simultaneous activities: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the findings, two main objectives were addressed. The researcher focused on identifying the translation strategies used in translating idiomatic expressions from English to Indonesian in the novel *The Adventure of the Speckled Band: Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and on discovering the types of idiomatic expressions found in the novel.

The data collected from the novel revealed both the translation strategies applied to idiomatic expressions and the types of idioms themselves. Once the data were gathered, the translation strategies were analyzed using Baker's theory, while the idiomatic expressions were classified based on McCarthy and O'Dell's theory. The results were then tabulated and organized for further analysis.

Translation Strategies

The sub-heading refers to the article's topic. If a sub-sub-heading is needed, the numbering is proceeded as follows:

Translating the idiom of similar meaning and form

This strategy involved using an idiom in the target language that conveys roughly the same meanings as that of the source language idiom, and in addition, consists of equivalent lexical items (Mons Baker, 1992). For example:

ST: *"He had no friends at all save the wandering gypsies, and he would give these vagabonds leave the encamp upon the few acres of bramble-covered land which represent the family estate and would accept in return the hospitality of their tents, wandering away with them sometimes for weeks on end."* Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 2022: 82.

TT: *"Dia tak memiliki teman lain kecuali orang-orang gipsi yang suka berkelana itu. Mereka diizinkannya berkemah di tanah milik keluarganya yang dipenuhi semak belukar. Dia juga bersedia menerima undangan mereka untuk berkunjung ke tenda-tenda mereka, dan dia kadang-kadang berkeliaran bersama selama berminggu-minggu."*

Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form

Baker mentioned that it is frequently feasible to discover an idiom in the target language that conveys a similar meaning to the source idiom or expression, yet is composed of distinct lexical elements. (Baker, 2011:78). For example:

ST: It is perhaps as well that the facts should now come to light, for I have reasons to know that there are widespread rumors as to the death of Dr. Grimesby Roylott which tend to make the matter even more terrible than the truth. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 2022: 76.

TT: mungkin sekaranglah saatnya untuk menuliskan kejadian yang sebenarnya, karena banyak berita burung tersiar mengenai kematian Dr. Grimesby Roylott yang bisa membuat masalah ini lebih menakutkan dibandingkan apa yang sebenarnya terjadi. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 2018: 250.

Translating by paraphrase

This method is widely used for translating idioms when an equivalent cannot be identified in the target language, or when it is deemed unsuitable to incorporate idiomatic expressions in the target text due to variations in stylistic preferences between the source and target languages. (Baker, 1992:74). For example:

ST: *"Very sorry to knock you up, Watson,"* said he. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 2022: 76.

TT: *"Maaf aku membangunkanmu, Watson,"* katanya. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 2018: 250.

Translation by omission

An idiom may occasionally be completely excluded from the target text using individual words. This occurs when there is an equivalent in the target language, the meaning cannot be easily rephrased, or for stylistic purposes. (Baker, 1992, P. 77). For example:

ST: *"Should it prove to be an interesting case, you would, I am sure, wish to follow it from the outset."* Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 2022: 77.

TT: *"Kalau kasusnya menarik, aku yakin kau mau ikut serta."* Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 2018: 250-251.

Types of Idioms

Similies

Expressions that compare two objects are called similes, and they always contain the term *like* (McCarthy and O'Dell 2011:22). For example: As good as our word means obedient to one's promise; dependable in keeping one's promises.

Binomials

These are specific idioms in which two words are connected by a, and or another sort of conjunction. The two terms must appear in order (McCarthy and O'Dell 2011, p. 24). For example: Up and down means all over or some place; the length and breadth of something or someplace.

Proverbs

A type of idiom that refers to something most people experience and which gives advice or warnings, the form in this type is fixed and it's not always possible to guess behind the sentence by looking at the individual words in the proverb. For example: From the outset means throughout, from the beginning.

Euphemisms

These are a type of idiom in which to avoid saying words that can be considered unpleasant. It's better to learn these idioms, as they will help you use language more appropriate for many situations you are in. For example: Screening means to deny admittance, acceptance, clearance, or approval of some place or thing. (a noun can be used between 'screen' and 'in').

Cliches and fixed statement

A cliché is a remark that is frequently repeated on specific days, or routine circumstances. Because it is a remark that most people have heard

before, it is not unique. Everyday dialogue routinely employs clichés and set statements, which are also widely employed in advertising, slogans, and newspaper headlines. Come to light menas to be revealed or exposed.

The findings of this research strongly support the theoretical frameworks and previous empirical studies outlined in the background. The application of Baker's (1992; 2011) theory is validated through the identification of four translation strategies used in rendering idiomatic expressions from English into Indonesian—namely, using idioms of similar meaning and form, similar meaning but dissimilar form, paraphrasing, and omission. These findings confirm Baker's assertion that translating idioms often requires flexible, context-sensitive strategies to preserve both meaning and cultural nuance. Additionally, the types of idioms discovered in the novel—similes, binomials, proverbs, euphemisms, and clichés/fixed statements—are consistent with the classification proposed by McCarthy and O'Dell (2011). The absence of idioms derived from other languages also aligns with the predominantly English cultural context of the novel. These results not only reinforce existing theories but also complement previous studies (e.g., Ardhiani, 2018; Catford, 1965) which emphasize the challenges and complexities in translating idiomatic expressions, especially in literary texts. Overall, the findings contribute to the broader understanding of idiom translation and affirm the necessity of adaptive strategies in maintaining the authenticity and clarity of the source text within the target language.

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that four translation strategies were employed in rendering idiomatic expressions, and a total of fifty-eight idioms were identified in the novel *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The analysis of translation strategies was conducted using Baker's (1992) framework, while the classification of idiom

types followed McCarthy and O'Dell's (2011) typology. Among the four strategies, the most frequently applied by the translator was the strategy of omission. Additionally, the study found that various types of idioms appeared in the novel, with clichés and fixed statements emerging as the most commonly used idiom type according to McCarthy and O'Dell's classification.

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SUGGESTIONS

In future studies, it is recommended to explore the impact of the omission strategy on the preservation of meaning and reader comprehension. Additionally, comparative analyses involving a wider range of texts and alternative translation frameworks may offer a more comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness and consistency of idiom translation strategies.

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