



Indonesian-English Translation of Idiomatic Noun Phrases: Its Techniques Review



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Article history: Received: February 20, 2020, Accepted: April 05, 2020, Displayed Online: May 31, 2020, Published: June 2020

Keywords	Abstract
<i>Noun Phrase;</i> <i>Translation;</i> <i>Techniques;</i> <i>Review</i> <i>Idiom;</i>	Idiomatic noun phrases become interesting to be discussed since the occurrence of the phrase's elements has an implicit meaning that should be understood by the speaker of the language. In order to transfer the meaning of the Indonesian idiomatic noun phrase into English, the translator should be able to transfer the meaning or message of every single word or the combination of words in the phrase from the source language into the target language. Related to the phenomena, the current research was conducted. It was a descriptive qualitative study. The data were taken from an Indonesian novel entitled " <i>Bumi Manusia</i> " by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, and its translation product in English by Max Lane entitled " <i>This Earth of Mankind</i> ". In analyzing the translation techniques used in the translation of Indonesian idiomatic noun phrases, the authors used the theory proposed by Molina and Albir (2002). From the analysis, it can be concluded that the techniques used in the translation of Indonesian idiomatic noun phrases into English found in the data source are adaptation, transposition, establish equivalence, generalization, description, literal and amplification. In the translation result, we can see that the translator tried to transfer the equivalent implicit meaning of idiomatic noun phrases into target language text and to make the target text can be easily understood by the target reader.

1. Introduction

The Indonesian language has a type of noun phrase that implies a hidden meaning in its construction, that is an idiomatic noun phrase. Idiomatic noun phrases become interesting to be

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discussed since the occurrence of the phrase's elements has an implicit meaning that should be understood by the speaker of the language. When it is translated into English, the meaning of the phrase should be understood by the translator. In order to transfer the meaning of the Indonesian idiomatic noun phrase into English, the translator should be able to transfer the meaning or message of every single word or the combination of words in the phrase from source language into target language, so it could be readable for the target reader.

McCarthy and O'Dell (2003:6) stated that "Idioms are expressions which have a meaning that is not obvious from the individual words". The meaning of idioms could be understood by looking at the contents of idiom. In the translation of idioms, translators have to know the culture of the language, because the form of idiom is influenced by cultures or habits. Different countries have different culture and idioms (Redman, 1997: 40). Therefore, the translators should know the culture in source and target language to give deep understanding about the idioms. As stated by Larson (1984), translation consists of studying the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of the source language text, analyzing it in order to establish its meaning, and reconstructing this same meaning using the lexicon and grammatical structure which are appropriate in target language. In other word, translation involves the cultural and linguistic elements. So, then the translators could decide the suitable techniques to transfer the meaning of idioms from source language into target language. In translating the idiomatic noun phrases of Indonesian language as the source language, translators may adopt different techniques to transfer the real message of the idiom noun phrase. By the explanation above, the authors are interested in conducting a research to analyze the translation techniques used by the translator to translate the Indonesian idiomatic noun Phrases into English.

2. Materials and Methods

This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative study since this study attempts to describe in words the translation techniques used by the translator in the translation of Indonesian idiomatic noun phrases into English. This study was done through the observation and analysis of translation product. The data in this study were taken from an Indonesian novel entitled "Bumi Manusia" by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, and its translation product in English by Max Lane entitled "This Earth of Mankind". The process of collecting data was conducted by reading the novel in source language and identifying the use of Indonesian idiomatic noun phrases. Then, the data were listed and compared to the English translation. Once the data were collected, then they were analyzed descriptively. Afterwards, they were grouped and described based on the types of translation technique used in the translation of idiomatic noun phrases. And the last step was having the conclusion from the analysis result.

In identifying the data, the authors are referring to the definition of idiomatic phrase. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (Hornby, 2010: R49), an idiom is a phrase whose meaning is difficult or sometimes impossible to guess by looking at the meaning of individual word it contains (Krismayani, et al., 2020). It means that idiom is not about the meaning of individual word but the whole construction. It is supported by the definition by McCarthy and O'Dell (2003: 6) stated that idioms are expressions which have a meaning that is not obvious from the individual words. It means that we need to look at the contents of words construction to understand the implicit meaning of idioms (Catford, 1978). In analyzing the translation techniques used in the translation of Indonesian idiomatic noun phrases, the authors used the theory proposed by Molina and Albir (2002). They define translation techniques as procedures to analyze and classify how translation equivalence works (Manafe, et al., 2020). There are eighteen translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002).

1. Adaptation.

This technique replaces the cultural units of the source text with the similar cultural units in the target text.

For example: Translator translates “As white as snow” as “Seputih kapas” because the term “snow” is not familiar in Indonesia. Therefore, the translator chooses more familiar word in Indonesian culture to represent “Snow”.

2. Amplification.

This technique introduces details that are not formulated in source language text: information, explicative paraphrasing. Footnotes are also part of amplification.

For example: Translator translates “Ramadhan” by adding “the month of fasting” or “Bulan puasa kaum muslimin” to the word “Ramadhan”.

3. Borrowing.

This technique is done by taking a word or expression straight from another language. It can be pure (without any change), and it can be naturalized (to fit the spelling rules in target language).

For example: Translator translates “Mixer” as “Mixer” (Pure Borrowing), and “Mixer” as “Mikser” (Naturalized Borrowing).

4. Calque.

This technique involves the translation of a foreign word or phrase; it can be lexical or structural.

For example: The translator translates “Directorate General” as “Direktorat Jendral”.

5. Compensation.

This technique introduces an element of information or stylistic effect of source language text in the target language text because it cannot be reflected in the same place as in the source language.

For example: The translator translates “A pair of scissors” as “Sebuah gunting”.

6. Description.

This technique replaces a term or expression with a description of its form or/and function.

For example: The translator translates “Panettone” as its description to be “traditional Italian cake eaten on New Year’s Eve”.

7. Discursive Creation.

This technique establishes a temporary equivalence that is totally unpredictable out of context.

For example: The translator translates “The Godfather” as “Sang Godfather”.

8. Established equivalent.

This technique uses a term or expression recognized (by dictionaries or language in use) as an equivalent in the target language.

For example: The translator translates “Ambiguity” as “Ambigu”.

9. Generalization.

This technique uses a more general or neutral term.

For example: The translator translates “Penthouse, mansion” as “Tempat Tinggal”.

10. Linguistic amplification.

This technique adds linguistic elements in the target language. This is often used in consecutive interpreting and dubbing.

For example: The translator translates “I get it” as “Biar saya saja yang mengangkat telepon”.

11. Linguistic compression.

This technique synthesizes linguistic elements in the target language.

- For example: The translator translates "You must find out!" as "Carilah!".
12. Literal translation.
This technique translates a word or an expression word for word.
For example: The translator translates "Killing two birds with one stone" as "Membunuh dua burung dengan satu batu".
 13. Modulation.
This technique changes the point of view, focus or cognitive category in relation to the source language text; it can be lexical or structural.
For example: The translator translates "I cut my finger" as "Jariku tersayat".
 14. Particularization.
This technique uses a more precise or concrete term.
For example; The translator translates "Air Transportation" as "Pesawat".
 15. Reduction.
This technique suppresses the source language information item in the target language.
For example; The translator translates "The month of fasting" in opposition to "Ramadhan" when translating into Arabic.
 16. Substitution (linguistic, paralinguistic).
This technique changes linguistic elements for paralinguistic elements (intonation, gestures) or vice versa.
For example; to translate the Arab gesture of putting your hand on your heart as "Thank you". It is used above all in interpreting.
 17. Transposition.
This technique changes a grammatical category in source language into a different category in target language.
For example: The translator translates "You must get the money" as "Uang itu harus kamu dapatkan". Newmark (1988:85) mentions this technique as "shift".
 18. Variation.
This technique changes linguistic or paralinguistic elements (intonation, gestures) that affect aspects of linguistic variation: changes of textual tone, style, social dialect, geographical dialect, etc.
For example; The translator introduces or changes dialectal indicators for characters when translating for the theater, changes in tone when adapting novels for children, etc.

3. Results and Discussions

In the data source found several forms of noun metaphorical and idiomatic phrases that are translated with various techniques. The following translation techniques are used by translators to match metaphorical and idiomatic meaning of noun phrases found in novels.

a. Adaptation

SL

Rupanya dia hendak membikin diri jadi kelinci percobaan dalam rangka teori asosiasi Doktor Snouck Hurgronje.

TL

It appeared he wanted to make me a guinea pig in an experiment to test the Association Theory of Dr. Snouck Hurgronje.

The datum above shows the use of adaptation technique in the translation of the noun phrase "*kelinci percobaan*" into "a guinea pig". The translation result shows that there are cultural differences in the source language and target language. In the source language, the phrase "*kelinci percobaan*" means "the person who becomes a testing tool" and in Indonesian culture the animal that is usually used for testing is rabbit. Whereas in the target language the concept that states people who become testing tool is usually represented by the parable of animal that is commonly used as a testing tool in the culture of target language in the form of "guinea pigs". By these different concepts, the adaptation process needs to be done in translation for the conveyance of the meaning of the source language in the target language so that it is easily understood by the target reader.

b. Transposition

SL

Lihat: aku hanya menghendaki nikmat dari jerih-payahku sendiri.

TL

Look: I want no more than to enjoy what I've created by my own hard strivings.

The noun phrase in the datum above "*nikmat dari jerih payahku sendiri*" in the source language is matched with the phrase "to enjoy what I've created by my own hard strivings" in the target language. The transposition technique used by the translator can be seen from the shift in the unit of noun element "*nikmat*" which is translated into a verb phrase "to enjoy" which means "untuk menikmati" in the source language. The transposition technique is also applied by unit shift from phrase into clause, that is the translation of prepositional phrase "*dari jerih payahku sendiri*" into a clause "what I've created by my own hard strivings". The shift occurred was a translator's choice but did not cause distortion of meaning.

c. Establish Equivalence

SL

"Ahoi, si philogynik, mata kranjang kita, buaya kita!

TL

"Oho, you philogynist, lady-killer, crocodile!

Establish equivalence technique in translating noun phrase in datum above can be seen in the translation of the phrase "*si philogynik*" into "you philogynist". The word element of the source language is an adoption word from the target language, so in its translation it is not difficult to find an equivalent because the word is indeed from the target language. Both words are already in the dictionary of both language, the source language and the target language. Another example can be seen in the following data.

SL

Buah dadanya padat dan menyolok dan dengan sendirinya menarik perhatian.

TL

Her breasts were firm and full and by themselves attracted attention.

The datum above has a noun phrase "*buah dadanya*" which is matched with the phrase "her breasts". In the source language "*buah dada*" refers to female organs on the chest. In the target language the reference is known as "breasts", so that the equivalence of the phrase is done with the

establish equivalence technique because the words are already in the dictionary of both source language and target language.

d. *Generalization*

SL	TL
Keangkeran istana kayu ini berubah menjadi <u>maligai teka-teki</u> bagiku.	What had been a sinister, eerie place was changing into <u>a castle of puzzles</u> .

In the datum above, generalization technique can be seen in the translation of the phrase "*maligai teka-teki*" which is matched with the phrase "a castle of puzzles". In the source language, the word "*maligai*" refers to "the space in the residence of the king or the daughters of the king". Meanwhile, the equivalent word in the target language is the word "castle" which refers to a more general meaning in source language "*istana*". In the source language the reference is specific, it refers to a room in the palace, whereas in the target language the reference is something more general than a room, the palace. Meanwhile the translation of word "*teka-teki*" into "puzzles" is already equivalent since both words contain the same meaning "something that is difficult to answer". The translation of the idiomatic phrase does not cause distortion of meaning because in both source language and target language, the phrases contain the same meaning of "a problem that is luxurious to be solved".

e. *Description*

SL	TL
Dari Suurhof aku dengar kau <u>seorang buaya darat</u> .	I hear from Suurhof you're <u>a bit of a crocodile with the ladies</u> .

In datum above, the description technique is used in the translation of the noun phrase "*seorang buaya darat*" in source language into "a bit of a crocodile with the ladies" in target language. The word "crocodile" is used to describe the nature of men who like changing partners. The word "*buaya*" is used here because crocodile is a wild animal, when it sees any meat, it will immediately devour the meat. A man who likes changing partners is likened to a crocodile who sees women in whatever shape and form, he wants them to be lovers. In target language, the phrase "*buaya darat*" is matching by describing the male nature that is likened to the crocodile. So, by this description, the meaning contained in the source language phrase can be conveyed in the target language and easily understood by the target reader.

SL	TL
Dan inilah rupanya Nyai Ontosoroh yang banyak dibicarakan orang, <u>buah bibir penduduk Wonokromo dan Surabaya</u> . Nyai penguasa Boerderij Buitenzorg.	So this was what she looked like, this Nyai Ontosoroh who was talked about by so many people, <u>whose name was on the lips of everyone in Wonokromo and Surabaya</u> , the nyai in control of the Boerderij Buiten-zorg.

The description technique in datum above can be seen in the translation of the noun phrase "*buah bibir penduduk Wonokromo dan Surabaya*" into "whose name was on the lips of everyone in Wonokromo and Surabaya" in target language. The idiomatic phrase "*buah bibir*" in the source language implies "becomes the topic of conversation". The idiom is matched in the target language by describing its meaning with "whose name was on the lips of everyone". So with this description, the meaning contained in the source language can be conveyed in the target language and easily understood by the target reader.

f. Literal Translation

SL

Sekarang dia hanya sampah tanpa harga.

TL

Now he is only worthless garbage.

In the translation of idiomatic noun phrase in datum above, literal technique is used to translate the phrase "*sampah tanpa harga*" in the source language into "worthless garbage" in the target language. The idiomatic phrase "*sampah tanpa harga*" in the source language means "people who have been ignored and no longer appreciated by others". Literal translation technique is very pronounced in the translation of the idiomatic phrase because the result of the translation in target language still retain the structure of the source language. The idiomatic phrase is translated word for word but does not cause distortion of meaning because the meaning of the idiomatic phrase is still carried in the target language by liking someone as trash. So, even though the idiomatic phrase is translated word for word, the meaning is still conveyed in the target language.

SL

Ia terdiam dan menatap aku dengan mata-kejanya.

TL

She was silent and stared at me with her day-star eyes.

In datum above, a literal technique is used to translate the metaphorical noun phrase in the source language "*mata-kejanya*" into "her day-star eyes" in the target language. The metaphorical phrase "*mata-kejanya*" in the source language likens the eyes as the Morning Star that shines large and bright in the early hours of the morning. The phrase is literally translated as "her day-star eyes" by maintaining the structure of the source language. The metaphorical phrase is translated word for word but does not cause distortion of meaning because the references in both the source and target languages are still the same. So, even though the metaphorical phrase is translated word for word, the meaning is still conveyed.

g. Amplification

SL

Hukumlah si-lancang-mulut ini, asal jangan permalukan aku di hadapan Robert Suurhof.

TL

Punish this impudent one, but don't shame me in front of Robert Suurhof.

Idiomatic noun phrase in datum above is translated by applying amplification technique, that is in

the translation of the phrase "*si-lancang-mulut ini*" which is translated into a phrase "this impudent one" in the target language. In the source language, the idiomatic phrase "*si-lancang mulut*" is usually used to refer to "people who often make words that are not obscene and hurt other's feeling." In the target language, the meaning of the idiomatic phrase is translated by finding another word that has the same meaning with the phrase. So there is an explanation of hidden meaning behind the idiom by translating it into a word "impudent" which means "not showing respect for other people". Thus, the implicit meaning of idiomatic phrase in the source language can be easily understood by the target reader.

4. Conclusion

Based on the data analysis, the authors drew conclusions as follows: The techniques used in the translation of Indonesian idiomatic noun phrases into English found in novel "Bumi Manusia" into "This Earth of Mankind" are adaptation, transposition, establish equivalence, generalization, description, literal and amplification. In the translation result, we can see that the translator tried to transfer the equivalent implicit meaning of idiomatic noun phrases into target language text and to make the target text can be easily understood by the target reader. For this matter an idiomatic noun phrase should be learnt in context, as source language and target language have different culture that must be known by the translator. It will help us in some ways to guess the meaning of an idiomatic noun phrase intelligently so we can decide the appropriate techniques that can be used to transfer the meaning of the idiomatic noun phrases from source language into target language.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge the Ministry of Research, Technology and Highest Education (*Kemristek Dikti*) Republic of Indonesia for financial assistance through the publication.

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