

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This particular section discusses the review of previous studies, the translation's definition, the idiom's definition, the idiom's type, and, the strategies to translate idiom.

A. Related literature

1. Translation

a. Definition of Translation

As a widely studied field of knowledge, translation has been described by many different experts. They describe translation through so many different approach. For instance, Hatim & Mason (1990) describe translation as an activity that prove the role of language in social life. They picture translation as a process of transferring meaning in other language is more than a merely a word-exchange but also being considerate to the social aspects in the target language.

Pratiwi, Catford and Machali describe translation almost in the same sense. According to Pratiwi (2017), translation can be defined as conveying a message of some text from one language to another, SL to TL. Catford explained that translation is a process of changing discursive material in source language with its equivalent in target language (Rachmadie et al., 1988). Machali (2000) in his book also

mentions that translation is an attempt to change a source language text into an equivalent text in target language.

Bell (1991) describes translation as a process which transforms an original text in one language into an equivalent text in another language which tries to maintain the content of the message to a certain level in the original language. Newmark (1988) describes translation to be a process of maintaining a text's meaning and sense in a particular language into the target language accordingly to the author's intentions. It means that the process of translation should also transfer the meaning that the author wants to present in the original text.

The definitions of translation mentioned above furthermore brings us to the conclusion that the concept of translation does not stop merely in the translation of one word in one language into the word in another, but it stretches further to the extent of its contextual meaning, language features, writer's intention and so on.

b. Process of translation

To produce a good translation product, a translator must not be careless in their doing. Translator must be aware of the process of translation and follow those processes purposefully. Machali (2000) describes three translation stages in which a translation activity must consist of. Namely, analysis stages, diversion stage, and coherence stage.

Before a translator start translating a source language text into target language, they need to analyze the text they are working at to understand some aspects. They must understand the true intention of the text, whether it is to expose, narrate, argue, or to persuade the reader. Then, they also need to find out the way the writer deliver those intentions, is it in the form of a straight forward persuasion, or implied suggestion? Is it in the form of their writing style, whether personal or impersonal? Lastly, the translator must think of the way to convey those style in choosing words, phrase and sentence. Should they choose to make the reader feel more included or the opposite (Machali, 2000).

After analyzing, the next step is diversion stage. It consist of changing or transferring SL unit into its equivalent unit in TL. It must be as equivalent as possible, in form and context. The translator must find the equivalent translation and maintaining the main intention of the writer. In this case it is very possible for a translator to change the translation shape to make the intention equal. If encounter SL which is hard to be translated, has multiple meaning, emotional words, the translator can analyze and deviate it back and forth multiple times.

The last is the cohere stage. In this stage the translator can make any stiff language to be more acceptable in the TL by adapting to its language rules. The translator can also changing the used terms up to the second stage to a more familiar used term or a standard one. This stage could be done by the researcher themselves, but asking other

person aid is much better to avoid subjectivity in correcting the translated product.

c. Problem in Translation

As previously mentioned before, translator often deals with problem in transferring the message from source language to target language. Some difficulties that rises in the process of translation are caused by some factors. According to Nababan (1999) those factors are; the difference language system between source language and target language, semantics and stylistic complexity, translator competence and source text quality.

1) The different language system

Every language has different language system in terms of lexical, syntactical, and morphological structure (Nababan, 1999). We can take a look on English language system which has an agreement on using addition *s/es* on plural noun e.g. *schools*, this agreement does not appears in Bahasa Indonesia language system.

2) Stylistic and semantic complexity

The difference culture between source language and target language led to the difference language style. This stylistic complexity most often found in literature text such as poem, prose and drama which have their own style (Agustino, 2011).

Semantic complexity has strong relation to the socio-cultural background of a particular language (Nababan, 1999). The word *Maleman* in Javanese does not have equivalent in other language because this word is socio-cultural terms which does not exist in English-speaking country.

3) Translator competence

Translator as the mastermind in translation process will produce different quality of product depends on their competence and ability (Nababan, 1999). Knowing that every translator vary in competence and ability, the translation problems that may arise along the way will be faced differently. Translator with higher competence may not face any trouble in translation, when translator with lower competence may.

4) Source text quality

The quality of the source text will also become a problem in translation process. Low quality text would render the translator to translate the message of the text fully. Low quality in this case involve many grammar error, ambiguous sentences, poor coherency within the passage, mispronunciation, incorrect punctuation usage, etc (Nababan 1999).

2. Translation Quality Assessment

In order to produce good translation product, the translator need to transfer the message of the source text to the target text as seamless as possible. Even though, not all of the reader aware of translation quality the translator must try to keep theirs good quality at its finest. Translation quality assessment is important in maintaining the quality of translation product. According to Nababan et. al. (2012), by professor in University of Sebelas Maret and his peers, a good translation must fulfill three aspects, they are accuracy, acceptability, and readability.

a. Accuracy

Being one of the determiner aspect in translation quality, accuracy becomes one of the most important aspect in translation. Accuracy deals with the content or contextual transfer from source language to target language. Meaning that the intended meaning of the source text must be transferred accurately in target text to avoid causing confusion for the reader.

According to Sadtono (cited by Agustino, 2011), the meaning of the source text should be maintained in the target text. He urges translator to try maintaining the intended meaning as original as possible. He also state that this is far more important than maintaining source text form. Therefore, the translator must avoid adding or deleting the intended meaning of the source text because

it is considered as betraying the source text writer and the reader's trust (Nababan, et. Al., 2012). Adding or deleting the intended meaning can be downright dangerous in a more risky field like law, medical, religion and tech.

This research will adapt the accuracy quality presented by Nababan et. al. (2012), which consist of three categories of accuracy. They are accurate, less accurate and inaccurate which will be describe in the next chapter as the instrument of this research.

b. Acceptability

The second aspect of good translation is acceptability. Acceptability deals with the naturalness of the translation product. Naturalness in this case goes about the language system and culture (Agustino, 2011). The concept of acceptability concerns on whether the translation has successfully conveyed accordingly to the principals, norms, and cultures of the target language, in both micro and macro level (Nababan, et. al., 2012). The concept of acceptability becomes really trivial because even if a translated text has a really good accuracy in transferring the meaning, it would be unaccepted by the reader if it is not transferred appropriately with the target language norm, principals, and culture. Acceptable translation must give the sense of neutrality and originality that the reader is unaware they are reading a translation product (Fata, 2009).

In English native culture, a grandchildren can say *How are you doing, John* to their grandfather. They can call their parents by their forenames. This is considered rude and unacceptable in Javanese norm and culture which always use *Mbah* to address them, for example; *Mbah Jarwo*. This shows that acceptability is a relative concept. One thing maybe acceptable in one language but not in other (Nababan, et.al. 2012).

c. Readability

The last aspect of good translation is readability. This concept deals with how easy a translation text can be read by the target reader. The concept of readability is really important in translation field because every translation process require reading activity (Nababan et. al. 2012). A translator need to understand the readability concept of source text and target text to help the process of translation.

The readability of a text can be affected by some factors. Richard et al. (cited by Fata, 2009) quote that the average length of the sentence in a passage, the amount of new words used in the passage and the grammar complexity of the language. Nababan (2012) states that the use of foreign words in a sentence, ambiguous and incomplete sentence also affect how readable a text is. While other aspects of good translation i.e. accuracy needs comparison

between source text and target text, readability assessment does not since the inclusion of the source text might affect the judgment (Fata, 2009)

3. Idiomatic Expression

a. Definition of Idiom

The use of idiom spread widely in all sorts of swriting and speaking. As one of language's important aspect, the frequent usage of idioms vary in many situations, whether informal or more formal one, could be in conversations or written contexts. Hornby as cited by (Pratiwi 2017) describe that idioms is a sentence or phrase that in understanding their meaning we need to learn their whole form and not only their individual meaning. Hornet's theory went accordingly to Baker's (2011, as cited in Habizar, 2019) opinion on idiom, which states that idioms are basically a language's preserved patterns that give little to zero allowance to modify their form. They also have different meaning if being interpreted as a unit and as its individual parts. Another experts also give their view regarding the meaning of idiom which also support the previous theory. They are Beckham and Callow in Larson's book (Rinantang, 2010) which state that idiomatic expression are set phrase made up of two words at the very least which more often than not cannot be understood only by its individual components without learning its whole part.

O'dell & McChathy (2010) later on mention that English idiom go through change frequently. Some idioms last for a long period of time, but some also fade away as quick as they come. For instance, some idiom that exist decades ago may sound odd and old-fashioned today. Idiom 'as stiff as a ramrod' which mean standing or sitting very stiff is the example. According to Collins English Dictionary, idiom is a group of words whose meaning cannot be predicted from the meanings of its individual words. Idiom is also described as a linguistic usage that is grammatical and natural to native speaker of a language. Machali (2000) gives example for this linguistic usage, as in the grammatical construction of *which: of which, to which...*

Translating idioms is not always an easy task to do. This is because idiom is part of one language that not always has an equivalent meaning in others. Idioms are influenced by culture, social, religious beliefs, different ideology of people from various societies or nations. Like what had explained by Adelnia and Dastjerdi cited by Farida Agoes (Agoes, 2016) that actually not all idioms in a particular language come with their equivalent in other languages, it is due to the fact that idioms are born in specific language which has its own special culture. Assuming that every single idioms in a language have direct equivalent in another would be incorrect seeing that Idioms' formation is influenced by the social

environment, culture and history. Due to this fact, another obstacles in idioms interpretation or translation arises. As for a native or experienced language speaker idioms might easily be told apart, but the opposite situation will happen for those who are not (Fitri et al., 2019).

According to Pratiwi (2017) translating idioms may involve throwing away some of their elements in the SL, it doesn't only stop on the basic translation process which is transferring grammatical and lexical items between languages. Assuming that translating idiom does not always follow the basic translation strategy, it can be said that translating idioms can become a really challenging task for translator to do. In translating idioms translator first need to pick apart or recognize which is idiomatic expression and which is not, which is a problem on their own. According to Baker (Pratiwi, 2017) states that first obstacle a translator face while translating idioms is the capacity to point out which is idiom in a non-idiomatic usage. Thus, recognizing idioms in hard, since some idioms can be modified or spread over a clause. Baker's statement that the harder an expression is to interpret and the less sense it make to the whole context, the more likely it will be seen as an idiom. This at the very least sheds some light for those who wish to translate idioms.

b. The use of Idiom

In understanding idiom, knowing when and how idioms are used is important. O'dell & McChathy (2010) describe the use of idiom in daily conversation into several usages. Those are described as follow:

1) For emphasis

For example: He graduate from high schools with **flying colors**. [Amazing grades]

2) To agree with a previous speaker

For example: A: Did you notice that she is getting better?

B: Yes, she really did **pull herself together**.

[Get back control of oneself]

3) To comment on people

For example: John really **gone up in the world!** [Gained a better position/more money than before]

4) To comment on situation

For example: The government really **turn a blind eye** to this problem! [Pretend not to notice]

5) To make an anecdote more interesting

For example: It was just one disaster after another today, a sort of **domino effect**. [When something bad happens and causes a series of other things to happen]

- 6) To catch the reader's eye. Idioms - particularly those with strong images - are often used in headlines, advertising slogans and the names of small businesses.

For example: **Blown away** saloon [Amazes by something. A hairdresser blows hair dry with a hair dryer.]

- 7) To indicate membership of a particular group

For example: Surfers **drop in on** someone. [Meaning to get on a wave another surfer is already on]

c. Type of Idiom

The categorization of idiom in this research is based on the theory presented by McCarthy & O'Dell (2002). There are seven subclasses of idioms explained as follow:

- 1) Verb + object/complement (and/or adverbial)

As the name suggest, this type of idiom stands from a phrasal verbs which express an action. For example:

- Kill two birds with one stone [**Produce two useful result by just doing one action**]

- 2) Prepositional phrase

Prepositional phrase constructed by a preposition + noun/noun phrase. For example:

- In a heartbeat [**Instantly; immediately**]
-

3) Compound

This type of idiom is constructed by a series of words put together in a phrase. For example:

- A bone of contention [**something people argue over**]

4) Simile

Similes can be described as expressions that compare two things and always use the words *as* or *like* within. For example:

- He really sleep **like a log**. [Sleep soundly without moving]
- Her new conditioner makes her hair **as smooth as silk**. [Extremely smooth]

5) Binomial

This type of idiom stands from two joined word. These word are joined by the use of linking word (conjunction) usually the word *and*. The order of the words is fixed, and cannot be changed. For example:

- Synonyms: **Neat and tidy**
- Opposite: **Black and white**
- The same word: **Neck and neck**
- Rhyming: **Clean and clear**
- Alliterative: **Suit and tie**

- Joined by words other than *and*: **Give or take**

6) Trinomial

This type of idiom stands from three joined words. These words are joined by the use of linking word (conjunction) usually the word *and* or *or*. For example:

- Blood, sweat and tears [**extremely hard work; unstintingly effort**]
- No ifs, ands or buts [**no reservations, restrictions, or excuses**]

7) Whole clause or sentence

An idiom that stands from an entire clause or a sentence. It is constructed from one clause, a single subject and predicate at the very least, to a sentence that express a statement. For example:

- **There are plenty more fish in the sea.** [there are plenty more people or possibilities]
- **Pardon my French.** [Apologies for swearing]

B. Theoretical Framework

Theoretical framework is basically the pathway in how the study is going to be carried out. A good study should have one to present the main idea of the way in which a particular study will be carried out. Theoretical framework is arranged as clear and suitable as possible. This particular research will be carried out by following some steps. First, the researcher

will watch the TV series sitcom ‘Friends Season 5’. This step focuses on finding idiomatic expression in the TV series sitcom, which is the data of this research. Second, those idioms will be analyzed to which type of idiom they belong to. Third, the translation quality of those idiomatic expression in the TV series sitcom subtitle will be scored by the rater and respondent, after being arranged and noted down in a form of a table. Below is the illustrated flow of this research.

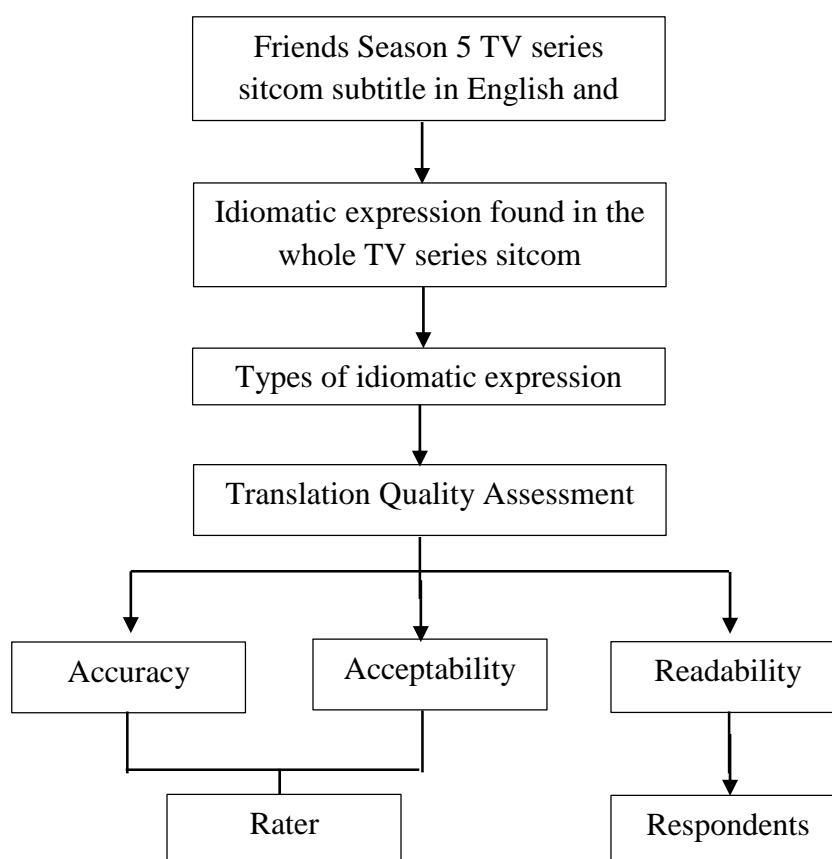


Figure 2.1 Theoretical Framework

C. Review of the Previous Studies

The difficulty of translating idiomatic expression accurately has been a problem for some translators and soon-to-be translators. Countless

studies try to address this particular concern had been done by so many researchers. They can be used as comparison and reference material in this research. Some of those previous studies will be listed in this section, those studies are as follow.

The first study is a research conducted by Fitri back then in 2016. This study is a study focuses on the types of idioms applied and to find out the translation accuracy of English idiomatic expression into Indonesian in “Big Hero 6” film subtitle translated by www.lebahku.com. This research is conducted using qualitative descriptive method. Fitri (2016) uses the theory of idioms types presented by McCharty and O’Dell. She also describe the translation strategy used by the translator in translating the idiom by using the theory presented by Mona Baker. And in analyzing the translation accuracy, Fitri uses the strategy of accuracy assessment presented by Nababan. The result shows that the most dominant types of idiom is compound types. The translator tends to omit the entire idiom in translating the expression. And, the overall accuracy of the idiom in www.lebahku.com is accurate.

The second related study is a research conducted by Buditama in 2018. In her research titled with an analysis of the translation of idiomatic expression found in the Inside Out movie, she tries to discover what types of idiomatic expression used in the movie and how are those idiomatic expression translated in bahasa Indonesia. To find out the answer of the first topic, she use the theory of idiom types presented by Hockett’s and she uses

Mona Baker's theory of idiom translation to answer the second question. In her finding, she states that the most dominant types of idiom used in the movie is 'English phrasal compound' with the highest distribution percentage of 43.8%. English phrasal compound is classified into some types, and the most used types are Phrasal verb. In discussing the second concern, she discovers that 'paraphrasing' is the most commonly used idiom translating strategy by the subtitle translator. And also she discovers that almost all of the translation works is considered acceptable based on Larson theory.

The third study is a research conducted by Ananda in 2021. She attempts to discover the categorization of idioms and the translation strategies of the idioms in bilingual children's literature *Zora from Kasmania: His Quest to Happiness* and she also tries to find out the readability of the translation works. She used qualitative research; library and explicatory methods. Library research is used to strengthen experience or theories and explicatory is used to examine the object by focused, and careful examination. In analyzing the type of idiom, she uses the theory of idiom types presented by Fernando. In finding out the readability of the translation works, she uses the theory presented by Nababan. She discovers that paraphrase is the most used types of idiom translation, and most of the translation works is considered as readable items.

The next is the study conducted by Ginting (2019). She attempts to investigate the translation techniques and quality of legal text translation on

immigration law. She categorized the translation technique based on the theory presented by Molina & Albir which include eighteen technique. In analyzing the translation quality Ginting (2019) used the theory of TQA presented by Nababan et. al. (2012). This consist of three parameter; accuracy, acceptability and readability. The source of data is the Immigration Law written in two languages, namely Indonesian as the source text (TS) and English as the target language (TL). Based on the analysis, it is found that: In the translation of the Immigration Law, there are 12 translation techniques used. The total score for the translation quality is 2,77% which is the quality of translation almost perfect. The most dominant translation technique used in translating this legal text is literal technique which is the dominant technique gives impact to translation quality.

The first, second and third studies cover the theme of idiomatic expression found in movies and books. In analyzing the types of idioms, the researchers of each study applies the theory presented by McCharty and O'dell, Hockett, or Fernando. And in analyzing the translation quality, ie accuracy and readability, the first and third study apply the theory presented by Nababan, and in analyzing the acceptability, the second study use the theory presented by Larson. The last study mentioned is a study that covers translation quality assessment on all three aspect in a non idiomatic subject according to Nababan's theory.

After reading the previous study above, the researcher of this study decided to use McCharty and O'dell's theory of idiom types as it is

considered as the most suitable one. The previous studies also used Nababan theory to analysis acceptability, accuracy and readability. While reading the previous studies above, the writer discover that the object of those studies tended to be the biggesthit movies of each year the studies conducted or a remarkable books. Thus, the writer of this study plans to make 'Friends Season 5' TV series sitcom as the object of this research, seeing as it is one of the latest big hit TV series sitcom of all time.