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## MEANING EQUIVALENCE IN THE TRANSLATION OF IDIOMS FROM ENGLISH TO INDONESIAN USING 'GOOGLE TRANSLATE'

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**Abstract:** *There are many difficulties that a translator might face in translating idioms from Indonesian to English. Besides idioms contains figurative meaning, they have choice of words and collocations which differ from one language to another. The difference is influenced by the culture where the language is used. The objective of this research is to know how 'Google Translate' application can translate idioms from Indonesian to English. The writer applies qualitative descriptive research, library research and content analysis to analyze the data. The result of the research shows that 13.33% idioms in Indonesian which are translated into English using "Google Translate" application have equivalent forms and meanings, 3.33% have equivalent form, but nonequivalent meaning, 20% of idioms have nonequivalent forms, but equivalent meanings, and 63.33% have nonequivalent forms and meanings.*

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## INTRODUCTION

In translating a text, there are two approaches that a translator may choose. One is literal and the other one is non-literal translation. In literal translation, a translator transfer the form of the source language closely. That is why this kind of translation is also called word-for-word translation. Whereas in non-literal translation, a translator may choose one of its techniques. Some of those techniques are transposition,

modulation, adaptation, and paraphrasing. Generally, translation is the process of transferring a text in one language as a source language into another language as a target language. Many people who have factual knowledge about at least two languages, but do not have enough knowledge about the know-how of translation process might not be able to render the text in one of those languages into the other one perfectly. A translator should have strategies that enable him to translate a text in one language into another language.

In translating a text, a translator usually finds many difficulties, some of which are difficulties in finding out equivalent meanings of words, phrases, sentence structures, texts, idioms, collocations, and proverbs. In order to overcome those difficulties, a translator should be familiar not only with the linguistics of the source language and the target language, but also the culture of both languages. Just like other living things, language is also changing and developing. In the previous era, at time when we did not have computer, there were not

words related to computer. Nowadays, there are some new words used to explain the advancement of technology, for example computers. At present we are familiar with an idiom "to boot up" in the sentence, "She boots up her computer, so she can chat online." An idiom "boot up" means that you are preparing to use your computer by turning on the power to the computer. The idiom cannot be translated by using word for word translation, for example "boot" means "menendang" and "up" means "ke atas". A translator should translate an idiom as a whole because it has a special meaning which is different from the meaning of every single word in the idiom. The example explained above showing that translating idioms belongs to difficulties in words or phrases. The aim of this research is to analyze the meaning equivalence of the translation of idioms from Indonesian to English using "Google translate".

### LITERATURE REVIEW

In translating idioms, the first thing that a translator should take into consideration is to recognize which part of a sentence that belongs to idioms. To do this, a translator needs to know the kinds of idioms. Idioms belong to figures of speech. What is figures of speech, then?

According to Cambridge Dictionary figure of speech is an expression that uses words to mean something different from their ordinary meaning. 1)

The form of a figure of speech can be a phrase or a single word containing figurative language. Its meaning is special and different from the literal meaning of its words. Figure of speech is used in writing as well as in speech not only to beautify the language but also cause a moment of excitement when reading or speaking. Besides, it

provides emphasis, clarity or freshness to expression. Writers or speakers usually use figures of speech whenever they compare something with another thing. There are many types of figures of speech in English such as, simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, idioms, and clichés.

In this research, the writer only analyzes idioms. Before doing the research, it is necessary for us to know what idioms mean. According to Jennifer Seidl an idiom is a number of words which, taken together, mean something different from the individual words of the idiom when they stand alone.2)

The word order of an idiom is often odd, not logical or even with wrong grammar, for example "I look forward to hearing from you". Based on English grammar, "to infinitive" is always followed by base form of verbs. By noticing that "look forward to" is an idiom, we should put the following verb into '-ing form'. Another example is "My little sister is the apple of mom's eye". "The apple of one's eye" is odd and not logical because apple is a kind of fruit. By noticing that it is an idiom, we understand that the meaning is figurative and different. It means that my mom is very fond of her.

According to Chaer (2009:76), there are 2 types of Indonesian idioms based on their meanings. First, full idioms; the meaning of an idiom in this type is different from the meaning of individual words of the idiom, 2) for example 'Jumlah penjualan produk perusahaan semakin menurun sehingga perusahaan itu gulung tikar'. The meaning of the idiom gulung tikar is bankrupt. Other examples of idioms in this type are: jago merah, berpangkutangan, bunga desa, buang penat, etc. Second, partly dioms; the meaning of an idiom in this type can be traced from individual words of the idiom, for .example ' Keinginan ibu untuk menjadikanmu seorang dokter sudah menjadi harga mati'

The meaning of the idiom *harga mati* is a fixed intention. Other examples of idioms in this type are: *kabar burung*, *kepala dingin*, *naik darah*, *meja hijau*, etc.

Idioms can also be categorized based on the words used to form the idioms, such as using parts of the body (*adu mulut*, *empat mata*, *buah bibir*), sensory words which are related to human senses (*berita hangat*, *perang dingin*), colors (*darah biru*, *bendera kuning*), natural things which use vocabulary taken from the nature (*tanah air*, *bintang pelajar*), names of plants (*bunga desa*, *naik daun*), names of animals (*kuda hitam*, *buaya darat*, *cacing kepanasan*), and numbers (*kaki lima*, *tujuh keliling*).

Every language has its own idioms as well as English. According to Jennifer Seidl (1980:4), an idiom is formed by a number of words which, taken together, mean something different from the meaning of individual word of the idiom. Based on the meaning, idioms in English can be classified into three groups. The first group is the form of the idiom is irregular, but the meaning is clear, for example "I am good friends with him". This idiom is irregular or illogical in its grammatical structure because "I" is singular. An accepted structure should be "I am a good friend of his." Although an idiom is grammatically incorrect, but it is acceptable because of its special features. The second group is the form of the idiom is regular, but its meaning is not clear, for example "She always talk about losing her weight, she has a bee in her bonnet about it." The structure of the idiom is grammatically correct; however the meaning is not obvious. For those who do not understand that it is an idiom will translate or comprehend it by using word for word translation. Actually the meaning of the idiom is "She cannot stop thinking about losing weight. The third group is both the form and the meaning of an idiom are irregular, for example 'The day after the robbery, the thieves were still at large.' The structure of an idiom 'to be at large' is weird consisting of 'verb + preposition + adjective' and the meaning of the idiom cannot be traced from the individual word of the idiom. 'At large' means 'free' or 'uncaptured.'

Recognizing a part of a sentence which belongs to an idiom is not an easy job. A translator should have broad knowledge about the target language, not only about its structures, but also its culture. A translator should analyze more deeply if the meaning of some words does not make sense or have an awkward meaning. Let take an example, "Please keep in touch with me when you get to London". Literally the translation in Indonesian is "Simpanlah dalam sentuhan denganku bila kau tiba di London." The translation is awkward and meaningless because an idiom "keep in touch" cannot be translated by using word for word translation. The idiom "keep in touch" should be translated as a whole unit which means "to communicate", so the most natural translation in Indonesian is "Beri kabar bila kau tiba di London."

Now, the question is "Can Google Translate replace the job of a translator and analyze as well as recognize a part of a sentence called an idiom? In the next paragraph, the writer wants to discuss "Google Translate." Based on the elaboration of Wikipedia, 'Google Translate' is a system which translates texts in many languages utilizing translating machine without being charged which is established by Google. So far, 'Google Translate' has already translated more or less 103 languages with various levels. There are more than 500 million users get the advantages of using Google Translate to assist their work every day. The service of a statistical machine translation was established in April 2006 as its website. The United Nations and European Parliament transcripts were collected as linguistic data of the service. First it translates text to English and to the target language, but a lot of people give comments

and make joke about the accuracy of its translation. Later, 'Google Translate' became 'Google Neural Machine Translation (GNMT)' in November 2016. GNMT does not translate the text word by word, but it translates whole sentences at a time. Its translation uses broader context and it is adjusted and rearranged with accurate structure, so it sounds like human speech. After translating some languages in 2016, many nations with various languages increasingly uses GNMT.

Google Translate applies translation method that translate the source language to English first, then to the target language. In order to produce the most acceptable translation, Google Translate search patterns in billions of documents as its assistance. Google Translate is able to select an appropriate translation by guessing intelligently based on its detection of patterns in documents which have already been translated by human translators

## **METHODOLOGY**

In this part, the writer elaborates the method and the procedures of the research consisting of type of research strategy, data source, data collecting technique, procedure of the research, and analysis technique.

### **1. Research Strategy**

In order to find out the answer of the research objectives, the writer applies qualitative descriptive research. In analyzing the data, the writer uses content analysis because the data taken is sentence.

### **2. Data Source**

The source of the data of this research is taken from "Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia". The writer chooses the sentences containing idioms which are frequently used.

### **3. Data Collection Techniques**

In collecting the data, the writer applies document and record techniques. This technique consists of examining existing data taken from the source language, Indonesian and its translation in English.

### **4. Procedure of the Research**

There are some steps to do the content analysis, those are:

- a. Select the sentences containing Indonesian idioms from "Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia" as the source language.
- b. Write down the sentences on small cards and write brief notes in the margin when interesting or relevant information is found.
- c. Give code to every data taken, for example: No. Data: 28/KBBI-1233. It means that the number of the data taken is 28. The data is quoted from KBBI which means "Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia". And 1233 means that the data is taken from page 1233.
- d. Translate the sentences containing idioms in Indonesian into English by using "Google Translate" application.
- e. Analyze the data in the source language (Indonesian) and its translation in English by comparing and contrasting all the data taken in Indonesian and its translation in English.
- f. Categorize the sentences containing idioms into 4 different types. First category

is the form and meaning are equivalent. Second, the form is equivalent, but the meaning is nonequivalent. Third, the form is nonequivalent, but the meaning is equivalent. The last, the form and the meaning are nonequivalent.

- g. Collect all of the categories and examine each in detail and consider if it fits and its relevance
- h. Once all the transcript data is categorized, review the data in order to ensure that the information is categorized as it should be.
- i. Return to the original transcripts and ensure that all data has been categorized properly. It requires patience in doing content analysis because the process is long and the writer should read and analyze for several times to get the best analysis.
- j. Write down the research findings from the analysis.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In analyzing the data, the writer classifies the data into 4 classifications. The first classification is the analysis of Indonesian idioms which have both equivalent forms and meanings in their translation in English (EFEM). The second classification consists of all Indonesian idioms which have equivalent forms, but nonequivalent meanings in their translation in English (EFNEM). The third classification is Indonesian idioms which have nonequivalent forms, but have equivalent meanings in their translation in English (NEFEM). The last classification consists of all Indonesian idioms which have neither equivalent forms nor meanings in their translation in English (NEFNEM).

### Equivalent Form, Equivalent Meaning (EFEM)

From the data taken, the writer finds some Indonesian idioms which have both equivalent forms and meanings in their translation in English. One of the data is as follows: Data no.13/KBBI-374

SL : Setelah mengalami kerugian berbulan-bulan, akhirnya toko roti itu gulung tikar.

TL: After experiencing months of losses, the bakery finally went out of business.

The data above shows that an Indonesian idiom “gulung tikar” is translated into an idiom in English “went out business”. Both idioms have equal meaning “bankrupt”. In brief, both idioms in Indonesian and in English have equivalent forms and meanings.

### Equivalent Form, Non Equivalent Meaning (EFNEM)

There are some idioms in Indonesian which have equivalent form, but non-equivalent meaning in their translation in English. One of the data is as follows: Data no. 16/KBBI-166

SL : Setelah memperoleh medali emas pada kejuaraan bulu tangkis Asean Games, temanku menjadi buah bibir.

TL: After getting a gold medal at the Asian badminton championship, my friend became a byword. (idiom)

The above data indicates that an idiom in Indonesian ‘buah bibir’ is translated into English idiom ‘by word’. The forms in the source language and in the target language are equivalent. The meanings of both idioms are different. ‘Buah bibir’ means ‘becoming a trending topic or everyone talks about it’, whereas an idiom ‘byword’ in English means ‘a person regarded as a perfect example of something.’

### Nonequivalent Form, Equivalent Meaning (NEFEM)

From the data taken, the writer finds some Indonesian idioms which have nonequivalent forms, but equivalent meanings in their translation in English. One of the data is as follows: No. Data 28/KBBI-1233

SL : Pejabat yang jujur tidak mau menerima uang sogok. (idiom)

TL : Honest officials will not accept bribes. (non idiom)

The data above indicates that an idiom in Indonesian “uang sogok” is translated into non-idiom in English “bribes”. Even though the forms are different, but their meanings in the source language and in the target language are equivalent.

### **Nonequivalent Form, Nonequivalent Meaning (NEFNEM)**

There are some idioms in Indonesian which neither have equivalent form, nor equivalent meaning in their translation in English. This data is relatively new idiom and it is taken from <https://kbbi.lektur.id/kupu-kupu-malam>. One of the data is as follows: No. Data 18/Kbbi.lektur.id

SL: Wanita itu berhenti bekerja sebagai kupu-kupu malam dan menjadi pelayan restoran.

TL: The woman stopped working as a night butterfly and became a restaurant waitress

The above data shows that an idiom in Indonesian is translated into non idiom in English, so the forms in the source language and in the target language are nonequivalent. To translate an idiom which has no equivalent idiom in the target language, a translator should translate into non idiom in English, so the appropriate translation of the above data is ‘The woman stopped working as a prostitute and became a restaurant waitress’

### **CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the all data taken, the writer finds out that 13.33% idioms in Indonesian which are translated into English using “Google Translate” application have equivalent forms and meanings. The percentage of idioms which have equivalent form, but nonequivalent meaning in the target language (English) is 3.33 %. 20% of idioms in Indonesian which are translated into English have nonequivalent forms, but equivalent meanings. 63.33% idioms in Indonesian which are translated into English have nonequivalent forms and meanings.

The writer concludes that most of the translation of idioms in Indonesian which are translated into English using “Google Translate” application have nonequivalent form and nonequivalent meanings. Translating idioms from Indonesian to English needs a broad knowledge of the culture of English as the target language because to express the same meaning, both cultures, the source language and the target language cultures have different words or idioms. Every expression using an idiom is difficult to find the equivalent meaning in the target language (English) because English has its own cultural specific expressions and collocations to express the equivalent meaning. As a result, a translator tends to apply word for word translation, and consequently the meaning is not equivalent.

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HALAMAN INI SENGAJA DIKOSONGKAN