

TRANSLATION METHODS AND QUALITY OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION IN *MY SISTER'S KEEPER* MOVIE

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Abstract

This research analyzed idiomatic expressions in *My Sister's Keeper* movie based on Newmark's theory. This research aimed to identify the types of translation methods in translating idiomatic expression and the quality of translation based on Nababan's theory used in translating idiomatic expression found in *My Sister's Keeper* movie. This research used descriptive qualitative method. The data were collected through documentation because the data were taken from the dialogues of the transcript in *My Sister's Keeper* movie. The result of this research showed that there were 109 data which contain types of translation methods applied in idiomatic expressions, which were; word-for-word translation with 14 data (13%), literal translation with 18 data (16%), faithful translation with 9 data (8%), semantic translation with 12 data (11%), adaptation translation with 5 data (5%), free translation with 3 data (3%), idiomatic translation with 29 data (27%), and communicative translation with 19 data (17%). Afterward, the raters indicated the result of the translation quality assessment showed that 12 data were scored less accurate and 4 less acceptable, all in all, other data showed a high-level accuracy, acceptability, and readability. The most frequently types of translation method were idiomatic translation because idiomatic translation more commonly used in idiomatic expression which to distorted nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms.

Keywords: idiomatic expression, translation methods, quality of translation

1. INTRODUCTION

Language or more specifically called human language refers to the grammar and other rules and norms that allow humans to make utterances and sounds in a way that others can understand. Language has an important role as a key of communication. Language is a communication tool to deliver information verbally and in writing. Richards and Platt (1992) explained, language is the system of

human communication which consists of the structured arrangement of sounds (or their written representation) into larger units (p. 196).

People use language as an appliance for communicating and interacting with each other, but sometimes language itself becomes an obstacle to communicate because of language differences. Language barrier is the most common communication

barrier which causes misunderstanding and misinterpretation between people. According to Kumbakonam (2016), a communication barrier is anything that prevents us from receiving and understanding the messages others use to convey their information, ideas, and thoughts (p.74). The ignorance toward the language used during the communication process becomes ineffective.

Translation is one of the simple and very effective solutions to understand another language easily. According to Larson (1998), translation is transferring 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 (p.3). This means that translation is not only an activity of changing the form of language but also a process of transferring messages or information from the source language into the target language. In translation activity, the translator meets various difficulties that are not easy to produce clear and accurate translations. Some expressions are difficult to be interpreted. Despite the fact, they understand every single word, but they still confuse what the sentence essentially means. Those expressions could be idiomatic. Based on the *Oxford Mini Dictionary & Thesaurus* (2008), the definition of idiomatic is a phrase which meaning cannot be deduced from the words in it, and it is an expression to a language (p.332). Idiomatic became the problem because it is hard to understand the meaning directly into a target language. Therefore, translation work is needed, especially in translating idiomatic expressions. One of the translation methods is the way or step the translator uses in translating words or phrases including translating idioms.

The writer focuses on translation methods and translation quality assessment of idiomatic expressions found in the English movie into Indonesian subtitles. The translation methods become interested to be analyzed because the translator needs to choose the right method of translation used in idiomatic expressions translated. It is hoped that this article will be useful for the translators to have a deeper understanding of translating the existing idioms using the correct translation methods and to know the quality of translation methods that the translators use to translate idiomatic translation.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Translation Methods

In order to produce a high-quality of translation process, a translator needs to enhance their knowledge about translating. Translation method is how to do the translation to plan in translating process. Translation method is a method widely used in teaching foreign languages. The principle is premised in this method is that the mastery of foreign language learned can be achieved by exercising translation of languages. The exercise of this translation is the main exercise in this method. There are many kinds of translation methods that are known in the world.

Newmark (1988) explains eight methods of translation from two perspectives. The first perspective emphasizes on source language (SL) and the other on the target language (TL). The first perspective provides word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, and semantic translation. Then the second perspective provides adaptation translation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation (p.45-47).

1. Word-for-word translation

This is often demonstrated as interlinear translation, with The TL immediately below the SL words. The SL word order is preserved and the words translated singly by their most common meanings, out of context. Cultural words are translated literally. The main use of word-for-word translation is either to understand the mechanics of the source language or construe a difficult text as a pre-translation process (p.45-46).

2. Literal translation

The SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context. As a pre-translation process, this indicates the problems to be solved (p.46)

3. Faithful translation

A faithful Translation attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the Target Language grammatical structures. It ‘transfers’ cultural words and preserves the degree of grammatical and lexical ‘abnormality’ (deviation from Source Language norms) in the translation. It attempts to be completely faithful to the intentions and the text-realization of the Source Language writer (p.46).

4. Semantic translation

Semantic translation differs from ‘faithful translation’ only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value (that is, the beautiful and natural sounds of the SL text, compromising on ‘meaning’ where appropriate so that no assonance, word-play or repetition jars in the finished version. Further, it may translate less important cultural words or functional terms but not by cultural equivalents, and it may make other small concessions to the readership. The

distinction between ‘faithful’ and ‘semantic’ translation is that the first is uncompromising and dogmatic, while the second is more flexible, admits the creative exception to 100% fidelity, and allows for the translator’s intuitive empathy with the original (p.46).

5. Adaptation

This is the ‘freest’ form of translation. It is used mainly for plays, comedies, and poetry; the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved. The SL culture converted to the TL culture and the text rewritten. The deplorable practice of having a play or poem literally translated and then rewritten by an established dramatist or poet has produced many poor adaptations, but other adaptations have ‘rescued’ period plays (p.46).

6. Free Translation

Free translation reproduces the matter without the manner or the content without the form of the original. Usually, it is a paraphrase much longer than the original, a so-called ‘intra-lingual translation’, often prolix and pretentious, and not a translation at all (p.46-47)

7. Idiomatic Translation

Idiomatic translation reproduces the ‘message’ of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original- (Authorities as diverse as Seteskovitch and Stuart Gilbert tend to this form of lively, ‘natural’ translation) (p.47).

8. Communicative Translation

Communicative translation attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership (p.47)

2.2 Quality of Translation

The purpose of this evaluation is to determine the quality of the English into Indonesian subtitles. There are some opinions about how to assess a translation product. Many scholars have developed some methods to assess the quality of translation. Larson (1984) mentions that the three most important features to be checked in translation quality assessment are accuracy, clarity, and naturalness (p.532).

Nababan (2012) stated that there are three things on which a translator has to focus in order to assess translation quality: 1) The accuracy of transferring the message, 2) The accuracy of expressing the message to the target language, and 3) The language naturalness of the translation. In his journal, Nababan (2012) stated that “there are three instruments for translation quality assessment includes accuracy, acceptability, readability” (p.44).

The translation assessment instrument consists of three. The first part is the score with a scale of 1 up to 3, which is arranged according to the better quality. The second part is the translation category. The last is the qualitative parameters that show the description of the translation according to each score.

Table 2.1. Scale for Scoring Accuracy (Adapted from Nababan, 2012; p.50)

Score	Translation Category	Qualitative parameters
3	Accurate	The meaning of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences in the source text is conveyed accurately in the target text. There are no distortions in meaning.

2	Less Accurate	The meaning of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences in the source text is mostly conveyed accurately in the target text. However, there are still distortions in meaning (ambiguity or deletion that distracts the meaning).
1	Inaccurate	The meaning of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences in the source text is not conveyed accurately in the target text.

Table 2.2. Scale for Scoring Acceptability (Adapted from Nababan, 2012; p.51)

Score	Translation Category	Qualitative parameters
3	Acceptable	The translation sounds natural; the words, phrases, clauses, and sentences of the source text are appropriate with the Indonesian language principles.
2	Less Acceptable	The translation sounds natural; but there are still problems with the dictions or grammar.
1	Inacceptable	The translation sounds unnatural; the words, phrases, clauses, and sentences used are inappropriate with the Indonesian language principles.

Table 2.3. Scale for Scoring Readability (Adapted from Nababan, 2012; p.51)

Score	Translation Category	Qualitative parameters
3	Readable	Word, technical terms, phrases, clauses, and sentence or translation texts text can be understood easily by the reader.
2	Less Readable	In general, the translation can be understood by the reader; yet there is a particular part that has

		to be read more than once in order to be total.
1	Not Readable	The translation is difficult to be understood by the reader.

2.3 PREVIOUS STUDY

There are researches about idiomatic expression conducted by some researchers in Indonesia. The first research is done by Zarmida (2019), analyzed the types of translation methods in translating idiomatic expression based on Newmark's theory and types of translation strategies in translating idiomatic expression based on Mona Baker's theory. Next, Sipahutar (2021) analyzed the kinds of translation methods based on Newmark's theory. Then, Puspita (2020) analyzed the translation methods used by the translator. The translation method used in this research was proposed by Newmark's theory. The last, Sahrain (2017) analyzed the kinds of translation techniques and assess the translation quality in form of accuracy, acceptability, and readability based on Nababan's theory.

This research is a translation method of idiomatic expression using Newmark's theory which is limited to find out the methods that the translator uses to translate idiomatic translation and quality of translation using Nababan's theory which is limited to find out the impact of the translation methods applied by the translator toward the translation quality used in translating idiomatic expression in *My Sister's Keeper* movie.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a descriptive qualitative method which is used to describe ways to translate the idiomatic expressions and to know the methods

used by the translator in the Indonesian subtitles script of *My Sister's Keeper* movie. The writer used the descriptive qualitative method that was suitable for the aim of the research. According to Selinger (1989), "Descriptive research involves a collection of techniques used to specify, delineate, or describe naturally occurring and interpreted naturally without adding and describing important thing" (p.124). On the other hand, Mujiyanto (2011) defines "Qualitative research as a phenomenon comprehensively and appropriate with the context through natural data collection employing the researcher as the key instrument of the research" (p.27).

The data of this research are idiomatic expressions. *My Sister's Keeper* (2009) movie directed by Nick Cassavetes is chosen since the idiomatic expression appears in the movie subtitles. The sources of data are the English movie script written by its movie scriptwriter; Jeremy Leven and the Indonesian subtitles script of *My Sister's Keeper* movie written by Sukair. The data of this research were the idiomatic expressions in the source language and the script in the target language in the form of a phrase, and the context of data is a sentence. In collecting the data of this research, the writer uses some techniques. The techniques used by the researcher are 1.) Download *My Sister's Keeper* movie and *My Sister's Keeper* script; 2.) Watch the movie from the beginning to take a good comprehension between the script and the subtitles; 3.) Codify the data of idiomatic expression; 4.) Collect and compare the data which contain idiomatic expressions in English and Indonesian versions and marks the words that are considered as idiomatic expressions. The next step, technique analyzing data is the process of

analyzing the data related to the research problem in order to discover the result of this research. The following steps of analyzing data such as 1). Classified the types of translation method based on Newmark's theory; 2). Analyzes the translation methods are used in the translation of idiomatic expressions in the subtitles movie. 3). Presented the result and counted the percentage from the types of translation methods in order to find out the most dominant type of translation methods of idiomatic expressions in *My Sister's Keeper* movie; 4). Assesses the quality of translation methods in idiomatic expression 5). Concluded the result of the research.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 RESULT

This research found 109 data that have been classified into types of translation methods applied, which are; word-for-word translation with 14 data (13%), literal translation with 18 data (16%), faithful translation with 9 data (8%), semantic translation with 12 data (11%), adaptation translation with 5 data (5%), free translation with 3 data (3%), idiomatic translation with 29 data (27%), and communicative translation with 19 data (17%). Afterward, the raters indicated the result of the translation quality assessment shows 12 data are scored less accurate and 4 less acceptable, all in all, other data shows a high-level accuracy, acceptability, and readability.

4.2 DISCUSSION

As shown in the results above, there are 109 dates, 6 of which have been fully analyzed in the discussion.

Code. 01/MSK/00:03:05-00:03:08/

SL	"Montana is a whole bunch of nothing."
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TL	"Montana adalah tempat yang sangat amat tidak berarti."
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The translation of a phrase in a SL, "...**a whole bunch**..." into TL "...**sangat amat**..." cataphorically refers to Anna's sister who is in radiology therapist, for her cancer, in which Montana will become nothing for her at all referring to "She's dying" (line 28) and "Radiology therapist" (line 1164). According to Martin (1992), says "cataphoric is forward reference between groups is cohesive. It means cataphoric is the way to look or to retrieve the main reference item by 'forward looking' of a paragraph or text" (p.123). The translation of a phrase uses **Idiomatic Translation** by Newmark. According to Newmark (1988), "**Idiomatic translation** reproduces the message of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original" (p.47). Larson (1998) also mentioned, "**Idiomatic translations** use the natural forms of the receptor language, both in the grammatical construction and in the choice of lexical items" (p.18). According to *Farlex idioms & slang dictionary (2017)*, **a whole bunch** is "an expression meaning a lot of something which is usually used for emphasis". According to *NTC' Dictionary of Idioms American Slang and Colloquial Expressions (2000)*, "**a whole bunch** and **whole bunches** mod. a whole lot; very much (always with 'a' in the singular)" (p.467).

According to Nababan (2012), there are three aspects of translation quality assessment: The accuracy aspect has 2 scores in accurate level; the meaning of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences in the source text is conveyed accurately in the target text, there are no distortions in meaning. The acceptability aspect has 3 scores in

acceptable level; the translation sounds natural; the words, phrases, clauses, and sentences of the source text are appropriate with rules of the Indonesian language. The readability aspect has 3 scores in readable level; The translation is very easy to understand.

Code. 02/MSK/00:03:12-00:03:16/

SL	"I'm still wide open about where I'll stay in Montana"
TL	" <i>Aku masih belum menentukan dimana saya akan tinggal di Montana.</i> "

The translation of a phrase in a SL, "...**wide open**..." into TL "...*belum menentukan*..." uses **Idiomatic Translation** by Newmark. According to Newmark (1988), "**Idiomatic translation** reproduces the message of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original (p.47). To support the theory, Larson (1998) also explained, "**Idiomatic translations** use the natural forms of the receptor language, both in the grammatical construction and in the choice of lexical items" (p.18). According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms* (2003), **wide open** means "not decided or determined yet about something (unsettled, unresolved)" (p.1165). According to *KII an English Indonesian Dictionary* (2008), the word 'determine' means 'menentukan' (v). *Collins English Dictionary and Thesaurus* (2000), the idiom "**wide open**" has synonym 'too close to call' which means "something difficult to determine in advance".

According to Nababan (2012), there are three aspects of translation quality assessment: The accuracy aspect has 3 scores in accurate level; the meaning of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences in the source text is conveyed accurately in the target text, there are no distortions in meaning. The

acceptability aspect has 3 scores in acceptable level; the translation sounds natural; the words, phrases, clauses, and sentences of the source text are appropriate with the Indonesian language principles. The readability aspect has 3 scores in readable level; The translation is very easy to understand.

Code. 03/MSK/00:14:36-00:14:39/

SL	"I'd like to suggest something completely off the record ."
TL	" <i>Saya mau menyarankan sesuatu di luar dari konteks.</i> "

The translation of a phrase in a SL, "...**off the record**..." into TL "...*di luar dari konteks*..." uses **Communicative Translation** by Newmark. According to Newmark (1988), "**Communicative Translation** attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership" (p.47). According to Mona Baker (1999), this type of translation strategies is called **Translation by paraphrase by using a related word**. Mona Baker stated, "This strategy tends to be used when the concept expressed by the source item is lexicalized in the target language but in a different form so the meaning can be well- understood and readily acceptable to the readership" (p.38). According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms by Christine Ammer* (2003), **off the record** is "not for publication or not made as an official (irrelevant or improper)" (p.736). According to *Roget's 21st Century Thesaurus in Dictionary Form, 3rd Edition* (2005), the idiom "**off the record**" has synonyms "confidential,..." (p.585). In *KII an English Indonesian Dictionary* (2008), the word 'record' means 'catatan' (n). According to *Tesaurus Bahasa Indonesia* (2008), the word 'catatan'

that is synonymous with ‘rencana’ (p.96), the word ‘rencana’ that is synonymous with ‘rangka’ (p.407), the word ‘rangka’ is synonymous with ‘kerangka’ (p.402), and the word ‘kerangka’ is synonymous with ‘konteks’ (p.261).

According to Nababan (2012), there are three aspects of translation quality assessment: The accuracy aspect has 3 scores in accurate level; the meaning of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences in the source text is conveyed accurately in the target text, there are no distortions in meaning. The acceptability aspect has 3 scores in acceptable level; the translation sounds natural; the words, phrases, clauses, and sentences of the source text are appropriate with the Indonesian language principles. The readability aspect has 3 scores in readable level; The translation is very easy to understand.

Code. 04/MSK/00:35:07-00:35:09/

SL	“If you are touch that kid, I’ll kick your ass ”
TL	“Jika kamu menyentuh anak itu, aku akan menghajarmu ”

The translation of a phrase in the SL, “...**kick your ass**...” into a word in the TL “...**menghajarmu**...” there is the text in which anaphorically refers to Anna’s father: “I’ll bring Anna home”. According to Martin (1992), says “anaphoric is endophoric reference typically involves presuming information from preceding co-text or from following co-text. It means anaphoric is the way to look or to retrieve the main reference item by backward-looking of a paragraph or a text” (p.123). The translation of a phrase uses **Communicative Translation** by Newmark. According to Newmark (1988), “**Communicative Translation** attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and

language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership” (p.47). To support the theory, Mona Baker (1999) mentioned this type of translation strategies is called **Translation by paraphrase by using a related word**. Mona Baker stated, “This strategy tends to be used when the concept expressed by the source item is lexicalized in the target language but in a different form so the meaning can be well- understood and readily acceptable to the readership” (p.38). According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition (2016)*, **kick your ass** (kick someone ass) means “to take forceful or harsh measures to achieve an objective (act in a forceful or aggressive manner)” (p.582). According to *Roget’s 21st Century Thesaurus, Third Edition (Roget’s Twentieth-First Century Thesaurus in Dictionary) (2005)*, the idiom “**kick your ass**” has synonyms “smash (someone) face” which means “an act to beat someone (violent force)”. In *KII an English Indonesian Dictionary (2008)*, the word ‘kick’ means ‘*tendangan*’ (n) and has a derivative word ‘*menggasak*’ (v) (p.511). According to *Tesaurus Bahasa Indonesia (2008)*, the word ‘*menggasak*’ that is synonymous with ‘*menghajar*’ (p.181).

According to Nababan (2012), there are three aspects of translation quality assessment: The accuracy aspect has 3 scores in accurate level; the meaning of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences in the source text is conveyed accurately in the target text, there are no distortions in meaning. The acceptability aspect has 3 scores in acceptable level; the translation sounds natural; the words, phrases, clauses, and sentences of the source text are appropriate with the Indonesian language principles. The readability aspect has 3 scores in

readable level; The translation is very easy to understand to the readers.

Code. 05/MSK/00:36:09-00:36:11/

SL	"I even stole Kate's sleeping pills without any doctor's prescription"
TL	" <i>Aku bahkan mencuri obat tidur Kate tanpa resep dokter</i> "

The translation of a phrase in a SL, "...**sleeping pills**..." into TL "...**obat tidur**..." uses **Literal Translation** by Newmark. According to Newmark (1988), "**Literal Translation**; the source language (SL) grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest target language (TL) equivalents but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context." (p.46). According to Mona Baker (1999), this type of translation strategies is called **Translation using an idiom of similar meaning and form**. Mona Baker stated, "this strategy involves using an idiom in the target language which conveys roughly the same meaning as that of the source language idiom, in addition, consists of equivalent lexical items" (p.77). According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition (2016)*, **sleeping pills** is "a drug in the form of a pill or capsule used to relieve insomnia (used to induce sleep)". *KII an English Indonesian Dictionary (2008)*, the word pill means 'pil atau tablet'. According to *Tesaurus Bahasa Indonesia (2008)*, the word 'tablet' that is synonymous with 'obat'.

According to Nababan (2012), there are three aspects of translation quality assessment: The accuracy aspect has 3 scores in accurate level; the meaning of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences in the source text is conveyed accurately in the target text, there are no distortions in meaning. The acceptability aspect has 3 scores in acceptable level; the translation sounds natural; the words, phrases, clauses, and

sentences of the source text are appropriate with the Indonesian language principles. The readability aspect has 3 scores in readable level; The translation is very easy to understand.

Code. 06/MSK/00:46:25-00:46:28/

SL	"I'm gonna go up to her room and have a chat with Anna."
TL	" <i>Aku akan pergi ke atas kamarnya dan mengobrol dengan Anna</i> "

The translation of a phrasal verb in a SL, "...**go up**..." into TL "...**pergi ke atas**..." uses **Literal Translation** by Newmark. According to Newmark (1988), "**Literal Translation**; the source language (SL) grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest target language (TL) equivalents but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context." (p.46). According to Mona Baker (1999), this type of translation strategies is called **Translation using an idiom of similar meaning and form**. Mona Baker stated, "this strategy involves using an idiom in the target language which conveys roughly the same meaning as that of the source language idiom, in addition, consists of equivalent lexical items" (p.77). According to *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2006)*, **go up** means "to walk over or to go from one place to another (move up or to a higher place)". In *KII an English Indonesian Dictionary (2008)*, the word 'up' means 'naik' (v). According to *Tesaurus Bahasa Indonesia (2008)*, the word 'naik' is synonymous with 'ke atas' (p.333).

According to Nababan (2012), there are three aspects of translation quality assessment: The accuracy aspect has 3 scores in accurate level; the meaning of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences in the source text is conveyed accurately in the target text,

there are no distortions in meaning. The acceptability aspect has 3 scores in acceptable level; the translation sounds natural; the words, phrases, clauses, and sentences of the source text are appropriate with the Indonesian language principles. The readability aspect has 3 scores in readable level; The translation is very easy to understand.

5. CONCLUSION

In this research is found 109 data from the idiomatic expression in *My Sister's Keeper* movie that have been classified into types of translation methods. There are eight types of translation methods from the idiomatic expression utterances in *My Sister's Keeper* movie, which are; word-for-word translation with 14 data (13%), literal translation with 18 data (16%), faithful translation with 9 data (8%), semantic translation with 12 data (11%), adaptation translation with 5 data (5%), free translation with 3 data (3%), idiomatic translation with 29 data (27%), and communicative translation with 19 data (17%). Afterward, the raters indicated the result of the translation quality assessment shows 12 data are scored less accurate and 4 less acceptable, all in all, other data shows a high-level accuracy, acceptability, and readability. From the data, the most frequently type of translation methods is idiomatic translation which consists 29 data.

Based on the conclusion above, I would like to give suggestions to the readers, especially those who are interested in watching English movies. The readers should comprehend the idiomatic expressions used in movies so that they understand the meaning of the idiomatic expression. After that, they can get a good understanding of

the whole context of the movie.

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