

# Chapter I

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the most important part of communication. Without existence of language, of course people will be difficult to communicate with other. Also, language is a special thing which is used to share ideas. Especially in this era where communication is very absolute needed for getting many kinds of information. Many languages which are used by people, one of the most important languages to communicate internationally is English. However some people cannot translate or understand the meaning, so they lose communication with other people or they get misunderstandings.

Books written in foreign languages, usually in English are deemed appealing because the stories are set in foreign culture, especially the western one. It is common knowledge that western culture is often seen as the symbol of modernity which is considered as top priority nowadays. Therefore, there are so many foreign literatures, mainly written in English, translated into Indonesian to answer to the demands of Indonesian readers who don't have the skills to understand English-written literary works.

Therefore, translation is very important both applying our aim and as an important role in communication between two languages. Despite it is importance, to translate is not an easy job. Nida and Taber (1969) said that "One of the tasks that translators may face in translating literary works is translating idioms". Thus, idiom and its translation became the focus of this study. Idiom is a group of words that have meaning but the meaning cannot be

searched from the meaning of words element. Baker (1992) mentioned that idiom is “frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components”.

The uses of idiom expressions are confusing the translator because the meaning are not easily interpreted or understood. Baker believes that the main problem is that idiomatic and fixed expressions pose in translation relate to two main areas: the ability to recognize and interpret an idiom correctly and the difficulties in rendering various aspects of meaning that an idiom or a fixed expression conveys into the target language (Baker, 1992). In fact, some equivalent idiom translations are in English.

In some ways, there are many types of idiomatic expression; the translator should be able to find a proper theory to translate idioms according to the culture of the source language. Idiomatic expressions in target language were translated without considering the exact meaning in the target language and the target audience, and also the choice of translation strategies is influenced by all kinds of factors. In addition, the cross-cultural problem can also be a factor of difficulty that may rise in translating idioms because the greater the gap between the source and target culture, the more serious the difficulty would be (Yowelly &Lataiwish as cited in Meryem 2009).

In other words, translators have to put more effort in translating idioms in order to translate the meaning of the idiom. Translator also has to learn a lot about the functions and characteristics of the idioms in both target and source languages. one form of the text that contains lots of idiom is novel, because it

contains a variety of language styles, so they are interesting to read. Relation to this study, the idioms that exist in comic novel entitled *Diary of a Wimpy Kid "Dog Days"* by Jeff Kinney and the Indonesian translated version of the novel by Ferry Halim were chosen as the data for the study because idioms can be found in daily life, from informal conversation to formal written text.

Idioms contain the meanings that sometimes depart from the literal meaning. That is why it is important to understand what are idioms, how idioms carry meaning and what translator does to maintain that meaning in other language. Idioms are necessary aspect in learning second language and it can also be a sign that if one has understood the idioms, then one can really master the language. And also the object of the study is a contemporary novel with young adult and kids as the genre and its target market. The novel is designed like a diary, complete with lines on the page, as well as fonts that are similar to children's writing, along with funny cartoon illustrations, and use everyday language that is easy to understand.

The main characters of the novel are in their teen years. The writer thinks that it will be very interesting to study the characters' narration and dialogue that is filled with an abundance of present-day idiomatic expressions and also this book is quite popular and was brought to the big screen in 2012. This study is not only focused on what types of idioms, but this study also emphasizes what strategies that are mostly used and applied by the translator in translating idioms in comic novel *Diary of a Wimpy Kid "Dog Days"* by Jeff Kinney.

The study also uses types of idioms proposed by Lim (2004), and strategies in translating idioms proposed by Baker (1992). Lim (2004) in this book *Advanced English Idioms Classified into six types of idioms namely phrasal verb, prepositional phrases, idioms with verbs as keywords, idioms with nouns as keywords, idioms with adjectives as keywords, and idiomatic pairs*. Mona Baker (1992) listed four strategies in translating idioms namely *Using an idiom of similar meaning and form, Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, Translation by paraphrase, and Translation by omission*.

Analyzing this comic novel will hopefully catch the interest of English learners and readers in general, hopefully give a different view and perspective in observing the use of idioms in a particular genre of novel. The findings of the study are expected to give a contribution to the field of translation, especially for those who will conduct research in finding the strategies in translating idioms. In addition, hopefully this study would be more useful for those who want to learn about idioms in both English and Indonesian language. And also the researcher wants to set an example that pop contemporary fiction is as worth-analyzing as the classics. In this study, based on the explanation entitled *Idiomatic Expression in Jeff Kinney's Diary of a Wimpy Kid "Dog days" and Diary si Bocah Tengil "Hari-Hari Sial."*

## 1.2 Identification of the Problems

According to the background of the study above, the problems in this research is elaborated into some point, they are:

1. In some cases, idiomatic expressions in target language were translated without considering the exact meaning in the target language and the target audience, and also the choice of translation strategies is influenced by all kinds of factors.
2. The cross-cultural problem can also be a factor of difficulty that may rise in translating idioms because the greater the gap between the source and target culture, the more serious the difficulty would be.
3. There are many types of idiomatic expression; the translator should be able to find a proper theory to translate idioms according to the culture of the source language.
4. There is a frozen pattern of language which allows little or no variation in form and often carries meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components.

## 1.3 Limitation of The Study

According to the identification of the study above, the problems in this research is limited into some point, they are:

1. The researcher will limit this study to the implementation of Baker's (1992) translation theory in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid "Dog Days"* and *Diarry si Bocah Tengil "Hari-Hari Sial"* by Ferry Halim

2. The researcher will find idiomatic Expressions mostly used in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid “Dog Day”*) and *Diary Si Bocah Tengil “Hari-Hari Sial”* by Ferry Halim

#### **1.4 Research Problems**

According to the background of the study above, the problems in this research is elaborated into some questions, they are:

1. What type of idiom is mostly found in comic novel *Diary of Wimpy Kid “Dog Days”* By Jeff Kinney and *Diary si Bocah Tengil “Hari-Hari Sial”* by Ferry Halim?
2. What strategy is mostly applied by the translator in translating the idioms into Indonesian Language?

#### **1.5 The Objective of The Study**

Based on the problem statements, the objectives of the study are as follow

1. To find out the types of idiomatic expressions that are mostly used in comic novel *Diary of a Wimpy Kid “Dog Days”* by Jeff Kinney
2. To find out the strategies which are mostly applied by the translators in translating the idioms based on the strategies proposed by Baker (1992) of idiomatic expressions found in comic novel entitled *Diary of a Wimpy Kid “Dog Days”* by Jeff Kinney.

## **1.5 Significant of the Study**

### 1.5.1 The theoretical significances

The researcher can give the knowledge of the theory related to the strategies in translating idiomatic expressions, and also the researcher hopes this study will help readers to give more explanation about translating idiomatic expressions strategy that can be used to translate them into the target language.

### 1.6.2 The Practical Significances

This study is expected to be able to improve the skill of analyzing and translating idiomatic expressions with the strategies, especially in comic novel.

#### a) For the Translators

This study is expected to be useful source and reference for the translators to identify problems in translating and its solution that can be a model in translating process. The researcher hopes that the result of this study can stimulate and giving advantages for future researcher.

#### b) For the Next Researcher

This study can be used as reference to understand strategies to translating the idiomatic expressions. And also can be an alternative reference for other researchers who will examine “Diary of Wimpy Kid” comic novel from the other side, for example the study about the characterizations, values, and language styles.

#### c) For Institution

This study can be used as a reference for Library Research.