

Chapter II

Idiomatic Expressions

The theories that are used in this study are reviewed in this chapter. It includes the translation theories and idiom. These theories supported the researcher in answering the research questions that were mentioned in the previous chapter.

2.1 Idioms

One of the most important aspects of language is idioms. They are frequently used in a wide variety of situations, from friendly conversations to more formal conversations and written contexts. Every language in the world has its own idiom. In English itself, idioms play an important role in everyday life. People often hear idioms everyday in a daily conversation, on television, radio, magazine, newspaper etc. instead of creating a new word, people use the words that already exists and unit them in a new meaning.

And also an expert in translation suggests that, “there is not a really known language that does not have an idiom.” (Denoun, as cited in Rachmawati, 2005). (Hornby, 1995) stated that “an idiom is a phrase or sentence whose meaning is not clear from the meaning of its individual words and which must be learnt as a whole unit, for instance, the idiom *spill the beans* means to reveal secret information, especially without intending to do so”. While Newmark (1988, as cited in Noviana, 2011) gives more explanation, that there is a natural tendency to combine the three senses of the word 'idiom'. First, it is a group of words whose meaning is unpredictable from the meaning of the constituent words. Second, the

use of linguistics that is natural for native speakers of a language. Third, the characteristic of vocabulary or the use of idiom by everyone. As the definition above, Natives often use idioms when they talk to each other, and idiom must be studied in its entirety, we must read the entire phrase, and then we try to understand its meaning by comparing with the activity or situation that comes in our daily life.

2.1.1 Idiomatic Expression

The use of idiom is always translated using an equivalent idiomatic expression in the target language. The idiomatic expression is not always grammatical, but it is established, accepted and used by native speakers of the language with a fixed structure and meaning. In this sense, idiomatic expressions have long played an important role in the English language. Victoria (2011) stated that language contains many phrases whose meanings are not predictable on its individual words. That phrases are called idioms, or idiomatic phrases.

Meanwhile, Hurford (2007) stated that idiomatic expressions (idioms) are multi-word phrases which that combines the literal senses of the individual words in each phrase. In the other hand, idiomatic phrase is an expression whose meaning does not conform to the principle of compositionality, and unrelated to the meaning of its parts. But, the meaning is intended usually depends on the context in which the expression is used. The conclusion is idiomatic expression is an idiomatic expression that express a feeling, opinion or idea that meaning depends on the context of the use of expressions.

2.1.2 Types of Idiomatic Expression

Idioms have been categorized by many scholars with different classes. In 1982, Hockett categorized idioms into six types, namely substitute, proper name, abbreviation, English phrasal compound, figure of speech, and slang (Hockett as cited in Strässler. 1982). The explanation about each type of idioms as follows:

- Substitute

This type of idiom consists of personal pronouns and numerals such as the personal person (he, she, it, and they), the demonstratives (this, these, that, and those), and the verb “do”.

- Proper name

It usually refers to name of people, places, animals, spirits, and vehicles that create new idioms.

- Abbreviation

The use of part for a whole for example a *phone* which is a part of a word telephone, UNESCO which stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

- English Phrasal Compound

Compound itself means a noun, an adjective or a verb that has been created from two or more simple words and it is linked with a hyphen (-) for example: well-dressed, well-known, boyfriend.

- Figure of speech

The meaning of the words have a “deep” meaning, which is different from the “surface” meaning, the classification for figure of speech are hyperbole, litotes, oxymoron, and irony.

- Slang

Slang can be defined as the use of informal words.

In line with Hockett, Kavka in his book, *A book on idiomatology* (2003), offers a set of criteria which separate idioms and idiomatic expression apart. The explanation is presented below:

- Conventinality – idioms seem natural in languages; this criterion applies to all idiomatic expressions, always in an obligatory way
- Figuration – idioms use words in non-literal sense or unusual manner in order to add vividness, beauty etc. to what is being said/written (typically forms of figuration are metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, simile)
- Proverbiality - this type of idiom explains that some idioms are typically used to describe, and to explain simplicity, a situation of particular social interest (e.g., *Well begun is half done*)
- Informality, effect – even though many expressions may lack these dimensions, the point is that they are typically associated with relatively informal and colloquial registers, namely with popular speech and oral culture (e.g., *blow off steam; chew the fat*)

For this study, the researcher chooses a theory proposed by Lim on his book *Advance English Idioms*. It is the most recent theory found by the researcher in terms of types of idioms. Lim (2004) proposed six types of idiom, they are:

- Phrasal Verb

Brown (2002) stated that Phrasal Verb is a phrase which contains of a verb and other elements such as adverb or preposition and the

meaning itself cannot be derived from the literal meaning of its part (the original meaning of the elements), but its meaning retract a statement. Phrasal Verbs are mostly used in formal and informal; spoken and written language. The examples of phrasal verbs can be found in *call on, put off, do away with*.

- Prepositional phrases

Simons (2015) stated that prepositional phrase is a phrase that begins with preposition and ends with a noun, pronoun, gerund, or clause, followed by the “object” of preposition. Prepositional phrase will function as an adjective or adverb such as in *in a nutshell, from time to time, with a view to*.

- Idioms with verbs as keywords

This type of idiom uses verb to emphasize the idiom. Verb is a word or phrase that describes an action, condition, or experience (Cambridge, 2015). The examples of this type of idiom can be found in *come in handy, fight shy of, leave much to be desired*.

- Idioms with nouns as keywords

This type of idiom uses noun as the keyword. Noun is a word that refers to a person, place, thing, event, substance, or quality (Cambridge, 2015). The example of this idiom can be found in *a blessing disguise and child’s play*.

- Idioms with adjectives as keywords

This type of idioms uses adjectives to emphasize the idiom itself. Adjective is a word that describes a noun or pronoun (Cambridge,

2015). For example, the idioms in *cold comfort, wishful thinking, plan sailing; well-manner, empty headed.*

- Idiomatic pairs

Wyatt (2006) mentioned that an idiomatic pairs is an idioms formed by two words which contains of adjectives, nouns, and adverbs that united together to form an idiom sentence. The examples are in *safe and sound, aches and pains, sink or swim.*

2.2 Translation

Translation is a process of transferring context and message from one language to another language. Several definitions of translation have been proposed by some researchers and experts. Newmark (1988) states that “translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text.” It can be assumed that translation is a process of conveying the message of the text from the source language into target language.

Munday (2004) states that the process of translation involves two different languages. Munday (2004) defines:

The process of translation between two different written language involves the translator changing an original written text (the source text or ST) in the original verbal language (the source language or SL) into a written text (the target text or TT) in a different verbal language (the target language or TL).

As it is defined by Munday, it can be assumed that translation needs at least two languages to make the process of translation happens. The text of source language containing message is conveyed into the target language by the translator. He

changes its language but keep holding its original message. The translator plays an important role to make the process of translation happens.

Nida and Taber (1982) state that “translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.” It can be assumed that translating process is not only about conveying the message from one language into another by selecting and using the most equivalent words of the target language, but also giving attention to the writing style the translator uses.

A bit different from Nida and Taber, Miremadi (in Maasoom and Davtalab, 2011) stated that translation is “a reciprocal process from one culture to the other and from other cultures into one culture.” What Miremadi want to say that there is a process of cultural changes between two or more cultures. The translator main concern is to find the equivalent words for items of the source cultures (source languages). This definition has the same sense with Nida and Taber’s first point that is translator has to find the appropriate equivalent words.

Concluding several definitions above, it can be said that translation is a process of conveying message from one into other languages without any changes, and re-modifying the style of the text depends on the translator’s stylistics. A translator has to convey the message without any interruption such as deleting, adding and changing the original meaning with purpose of giving unilateral benefit to any parties. Besides, the translator can also use his writing style to replace the original style of the text as long as it can be read and understood by the readers.

2.2.1 Types of Translation

Translation is classified into two main types which are form-based and meaning-based translation” (Larson, 1984). Form-based translation is also known as literal translation. In form-based translation, the original form of the SL and the TL is still the same, while meaning-based translation tries to transfer the meaning of the source language text as naturally as they can in the target language.

Larson (1984) also said that idiomatic translation uses the natural forms of the target language both in the grammatical constructions and in the choices of lexical items. It is good for the translator to translate his or her work idiomatically, because idiomatic translation is not like a real translation, but more like it was written originally like that in the target language.

Mona Baker (1992) stated eight types of translation, which have been used by professional translators, to cope with the problematic issues while doing a translation task:

- Translation by a more general word. This is one of the most common strategies to deal with many types of nonequivalence. As Baker believes, it works appropriately in most, if not all, languages, because in the semantic field, meaning is not language dependent.
- Translation by a more neutral/ less expressive word. This is another strategy in the semantic field of structure.
- Translation by cultural substitution. This strategy involves replacing a culture-specific item or expression with a target language item considering its impact on the target reader. This strategy makes the

translated text more natural, more understandable and more familiar to the target reader.

The translator's decision to use this strategy will depend on:

1. The degree to which the translator is given license by those who commission the translation
 2. The purpose of the translation
- Translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation. This strategy is usually used in dealing with culture-specific items, modern concepts, and buzz words. Using the loan word with an explanation is very useful when a word is repeated several times in the text. At the first time the word is mentioned by the explanation and in the next times the word can be used by its own.
 - Translation by paraphrase using a related word. This strategy is used when the source item is lexicalized in the target language but in a different form, and when the frequency with which a certain form is used in the source text is obviously higher than it would be natural in the target language.
 - Translation by paraphrase using unrelated words. The paraphrase strategy can be used when the concept in the source item is not lexicalized in the target language. When the meaning of the source item is complex in the target language, the paraphrase strategy may be used instead of using related words; it may be based on modifying a

super-ordinate or simply on making clear the meaning of the source item.

- Translation by omission. This may be a drastic kind of strategy, but in fact it may be even useful to omit translating a word or expression in some contexts. If the meaning conveyed by a particular item or expression is not necessary to mention in the understanding of the translation, translators use this strategy to avoid lengthy explanations.
- Translation by illustration. This strategy can be useful when the target equivalent item does not cover some aspects of the source item and the equivalent item refers to a physical entity which can be illustrated, particularly in order to avoid over-explanation and to be concise and to the point.

2.2.2 Translating Idiomatic Expression

Idiom is one of the challenges in literary translation since it is very culture-related. Not to mention that idiom is a very unique, colorful expression which is usually specific to a particular language. This condition makes translating idioms can be quite taxing. Baker (1992) stated that “the first difficulty that a translator faces while translating idioms is the ability to recognize and differentiate idiomatic and non-idiomatic expression”. Recognizing an idiom is not that easy and sometimes impossible. An expression which is difficult to understand and makes less sense in a text will be recognized directly as an

idiom by the translator (Baker, 1992). It is because that expression does not make sense if they are interpreted literally.

Baker also said that once an idiom has been recognized and interpreted correctly, the next step is to decide how to translate it correctly; the next step is to decide how to translate it correctly into the target language. A translator may face different difficulties in translating an idiom and interpreting the meaning of it, but translating an idiom is more difficult than interpreting it. It is because in translating an idiom, it doesn't matter whether the idiom belongs to a transparent or an opaque idiom, since sometimes an opaque one is easier to translate than a transparent one. Baker (1992) gave explanations about the difficulties in translating idiom.

- 1) The phrase or expression still may not have equality in the target language. One language can express the meaning given by one word, the other can express it with a transparent fixed expression, and the third can express it using idioms, and so on. Therefore, it is unrealistic to expect to find idioms and equivalent expressions in the target language as a matter of course.
- 2) An idiom can be used in source text in a literal and idiomatic sense at the same time. Unless the target language idiom corresponds to the source language idiom both in form and in the sense, the idiom cannot be successfully reproduced in the target text.
- 3) The very convention of using idioms in written discourse, the contexts in which they can be used, and their frequency of use may be different in the source and target language.

2.2.2 Strategies in Translating Idioms

In translating idioms which are not easy to overcome, the translator has to use or apply strategist or technique, so that he/she can reach the equivalent meaning in the target language. The translators use different strategist to overcome this difficulty whether they have done it consciously or unconsciously. Baker (1992). Proposes four strategies that can be applied in translating idioms. The strategists are explained as follows:

- **Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form**

Using an idiom of similar meaning form is a strategy that involves an idiom in target language which convey roughly the same meaning as that of the source language, and in addition, consists of equivalent lexical items. (Baker, 1992).

For example,

Source language	Target language
I can see Guillaume's dog perfectly clearly in my mind's eye .	Aku bisa melihat anjing Guillaume dengan sangat jelas dalam mata batinku .

Taken from: Adisetia (2013)

That example is classified as an idiom with the similar meaning and form, because the translation is accurate and natural. The mind's eye (Language Source) has the same meaning as *Mata Batin* (target language) and the form of the translation is no different, Mind (SL) into *Ingatan/Batin* (TL) and Eye (SL) into *Mata*.

- **Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form**

Using an idiom of familiar meaning and form is a strategy that involves an idiom which has a similar meaning to the source language (idiom) in the target language, which consists of different lexical items (Baker, 1992). A translator use an idiom in the target language which has the similar meaning as the source language idiom although the form is not similar.

For example,

Source language	Target language
“You really must think I was born yesterday ,” she observed.	“Kau pasti berfikir aku anak kemarin sore , “dia mengamati.

Taken from: Adisetia (2013)

That example is classified as an idiom with the similar meaning but dissimilar form, because Born Yesterday (SL) has the same meaning as *Anak Kemarin Sore* (target language) but the form of the translation is different, Born (SL) into *Lahir* (TL) and Yesterday (SL) into *Kemarin*.

- **Translation by paraphrase**

Translation by paraphrase is a strategy which is used when the translator cannot find any idiomatic form in the target language. “The strategies is applied when there is no meaning found in the target language or the condition where the use of idiomatic language in the target text is inappropriate because the differences in stylistic preferences of the source and target language. But paraphrase may not always be accurate” (Baker, 1002).

For example,

Source language	Target language
Save your breath. The doctor will be here soon.	Tenanglah. Dokter akan segera datang.

Taken from: Adisetia (2013)

That example is classified as an idiom translation by paraphrase, because in the target language there is no proper idiom for Save Your Breath, just a word that has the same meaning as the idiom

- **Translation by omission**

Idiom may sometimes be omitted altogether in the target text (Baker, 1992). This maybe because it has no close match in the target language, and its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased.

So, this strategy used when there is no close match in the target text and when it cannot be easily paraphrased. In the end, the translator may omit the idiom in the translation.

For example,

Source language	Target language
He gave his money to neither of us in particular.	Dia tidak memberikan uangnya kepada siapa-siapa.

Taken from: Adisetia (2013)

That example is classified as an idiom translation by omission, because “in particular (SL)” there is no proper idiom or anything that has the same form and the same meaning in the target language

Translation, it is possible for the translator to omit words or expressions for certain purpose. Moonday (as cited in Khodijah, 2014) stated that “omission in translation can also be the intentional or unintentional non conclusion of source language in the target language”. In line with Moonday, Melamed (as cited in Khodijah, 2014) stated omission in translation can possibly happen when the translator accidently omit words or expressions in his/her product of translation in other words, omission in translation could possibly happen by mistake which is done by the translator.

On the other hand, the omission in translation can possibly be happening not only because of the mistakes made by the translators but there are also certain purposes why the translator omits the words or expressions from source language into target language. Baker (1992) argues that omission is one of the translation strategies done by the translator in order to produce a good translation.

Baker (1992) stated that: In fact it does no harm to omit translating a word or expression in some context. If the meaning conveyed by a particular item or expression is not vital enough to the development of the text to justify distracting the reader with lengthy explanations, translators can and often do simply omit translating the word or expression in question.

From the statement above, it can be concluded that there are two possible reasons why the translator omits the words or expressions. First, it possibly happens because of the translator mistake whether it is intentionally or unintentionally. Second, omission in translation also can possibly be happening

because this is a way or the strategy of the translator to make the translation as natural as possible in the target language.

2.3 About The Novel

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days is a novel written by American author and cartoonist Jeff Kinney, and is the fourth book in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. It was released on October 12th 2009 in the USA and October 13th 2009 in Canada. The film, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days*, released on August 3th 2012, were based on the book and its predecessor, *The Last Straw*. And the novel is a contemporary novel with young adult and kids as the genre and its target market. The main characters of the novel are in their teen years.

(Taken from: Wikipedia.com)

2.4 The author

Jeffrey Patrick “Jeff” Kinney is an American cartoonist, producer, and author of children’s books, including the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* book series. He was born in Fort Washington, Maryland, on February 19th 1971. He has an older brother and sister, and a younger brother. He attended the University of Maryland, College Park in the early 1990s. In January 1998, Kinney brought up the idea of a middle-school weekling named Greg Heffley, who writes illustrated stories about his personal life. In May 2004, FunBrain and Jeff Kinney released an online version of the story, titled *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. The website made daily entries until June 2005. He worked on his book for almost eight years, before showing it to a publisher in New York.

In February 2006, during the New York Comic Con, Jeff signed a multi-book deal with publisher Harry N. Abrams, inc., to turn *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* into a print series. The book became an instant hit, with online version receiving about 20 million views as of 2007. When many online readers requested a printed version, Kinney agreed, and in April 2007, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* was published. To date, fourteen *Wimpy Kid* books have been released, including a do-it-yourself book and a movie diary. In April 2009, *TIME* named Kinney one of *The World's Most Influential People*. In 2016, the series won a *Nickelodeon Kids Choice Award* for favorite book. (Taken from: *Wikipedia.com*)

2.5 The Summary of The Novel

The story begins with Greg Heffley explaining how his mom wants him to get some sunlight in the room while Greg is playing video games. Greg also explains how he and Rowley Jefferson invited Trista, a girl they met in the ending of the last straw to Rowley's country club, but she met s lifeguard and hung out with him, so Greg and Rowley started hanging out without her. In *Dog Days*, Greg expects to stay home all summer and do nothing but play video games. His mom urges him to try to get out of the house, but he doesn't buy it because he's learnt from experience.

When he and Rowley go to Rowley's country club, they bring a girl, Trista, along, but then she starts talking to some lifeguard and ignores the people who took her there. One unlucky day, Rowley's dad show up at Greg's house and expects Greg to pay for all the smoothies he's ordered at the country club. Greg and Rowley start a lawn mowing business. A customer shows up and Greg gives

her bad quality lawn mowing. Then his dad comes and finishes the job, but the lady stiffes Greg. All these unfortunate events and more make him want to stay home for the rest of the summer. But as with all his plans, everything goes exactly the opposite. *(Taken from: Wikipedia.com)*