# CHAPTER I

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of Study

Language is a tool of communication that is used by people. Communication means delivering messages, opinions or ideas from one to another. In a good language, people who used language are obediently to a set of rule in language thus the function of language as tool of communication can be implementable. Catford (1965:1) said that language is a type of patterned human behavior. It is a way, perhaps the most important way, in which human beings interact in social situations. Language-behavior is externalized or manifested in some kinds of bodily activity or the part of performer, and presupposes the existence of at least one other human participant in the situation, an addressee.

Language has some functions: language can be tool of integration and adaptation. It means that with language people can clarify live together in social relation, such as relation in an institution, family, business and others. There is another function of language that is tool of social control. It means that language is used to control communication thus people within communication can understand each other. Each speaker and listener keeps watching expressions, gestures and signs that indicate communication.

There are many languages used in Indonesia, such as Javanese used by Java people then Bugis used by Celebes people and there are more. To communicate nationally, we have national language: Bahasa Indonesia. But in this

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modern era, we have to learn language which is agreed as international language, it means that language which can be used to communicate with people who do not know our language such as English.

Cited in book Pengajaran Bahasa Inggris di Indonesia which is written by Prof. H. Ali Saukah, M.A., Ph.D, Gladdol (1997) said that almost whole human who live internationally, English has very dominant role as international language among other international languages. Sadtono and Huda (1997) also said that English has been the first foreign language that must be taught in comprehensive school in Indonesia since Dutch invasion. And nowadays, English has been taught since elementary education.

To learn English, the things we have to know are English vocabularies and grammars. After we learn both vocabularies and grammars, we have to learn how to translate source language text, English, into target language, Bahasa Indonesia. Sentence structure in English is not really different from Bahasa Indonesia. But if people do not really understand how to translate well, they will make an error thus the meaning of source language cannot be delivered to target language correctly.

According to Larson (1984:3), cited from book The Technique of Idiomatic Translation, translating consists of translating the meaning of source language into 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. It is meaning which is being transferred and must be held constant, only the form changes. Translation is classified into two main types, namely form-based and

meaning-based translation. Form-based translation attempts to follow the form of the source language and is known as literal translation. While meaning-based translation makes every effort to communicate the meaning of the source language text in the natural forms of receptor language. Such translation is called idiomatic translation.

Choliludin (2006:12) said that the first step in translating is to discover the meaning accomplished through meaning analysis. Analyzing the text by using the framework set by Halliday (1985:12) will give the readers comprehensive ideas to produces a translation work. Every text, spoken or written, unfolds in some context of use. Together with text surroundings, a text creates meaning.

Padalik (2008), in his diploma thesis said that when learning a foreign language, everyone has confronted a situation where they have been able to understand meanings of all the words in a sentence, though they have not been able to identify the meaning of the whole sentence, as something has obstructed the process of interpretation of meaning. Consequently, it represents a rather demotivating aspect of language learning when they can understand all the expressions in a sentence, though they cannot comprehend its overall meaning. This inability indentifies correct meaning of a particular sentence often results from an occurrence of idiomatic expressions or phrases within the sentence.

The meaning of phrases and sentences are derived from the meanings of their individual words and theirs syntactic structure. Since the meaning of idiom cannot be derived compositionally by the morpho syntactic rules of a language,

the standard belief is that they too must be arbitrarily determined in memory (Chomsky, 1980; Cruse, 1986; Fraser, 1970; Katz, 1973). Idioms can be defined as a number of words which when taken together will have different meaning from the individual meaning of each word (Seidl, 1988:13).

As stated before that the meaning of a text is influenced by its surrounding context, such as idiom. Occasionally even frequently, if we translate English's idiom to Bahasa Indonesia literally, the meaning of idiom will not be delivered appropriately as the meaning of source language that it will be misunderstanding into target language. Choliludin (2006:17-18) said that relating to translation, the connection between language and culture often becomes problems. Nababan (1984:51), cited by Choliludin, gives an example of this case that is the use of the word village. The word village in English is not the same as village in Bahasa Indonesia since village and desa have different concept. Village refers to the place smaller to the town where there are houses and shops, and usually a Church or school, while desa commonly refers to the place far away out of town with wide farm and undeveloped place as opposed to town. Therefore, the term Jakarta as a big village used by foreign writer will lose its meaning if it is translated into desa yang besar. In this matter, translator should treat the source language differently, apart from the way of thinking of the original writer is very likely to differ from the situation faced by people in the target language.

Many problems face in translating remind us that many aspects are involved in it, including communication situation, cultural context of source language text, lexicon and grammar (Larson, 1984:3). Translation involves the

transfer of 'meaning' contained in one set of language signs into another set of language signs through competent use of the dictionary and grammar (Bassnett, 2002:22). There are some researchers that used idiom as their subject of the research: Saputro, 2012; Howwar, 2013; Suwardi, 2013; Putri, 2014; Maisa & Karunakaran, 2013; Nurjannah, 2014. Most of the researches talk about the types of idiom and the appropriate strategies to translate idioms. Hence, to fill the gap, the researcher wants to count how many percentages of errors did by English Department students of Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya in 3$^{rd}$ year. Then the researcher wants to analyze more about what are problems and errors of the students of English Department, especially Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya in 3$^{rd}$ year, made in translating idioms.

This research concerns with similar topic as previous studies mentioned but it focuses on the troubles or the problems faced by the students when they translate the idioms. Then, the researcher will count how many percentages of errors are made by the English Department students of Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya in 3$^{rd}$ year. Before counting the errors, the researcher will give translation task of idioms and questionnaire. Then the researcher will analyze the answer of translation task using Translation Theory. Hence, this research could help the students of English Department decreasing their errors in translating idioms.

**1.2 Problems of the Study**

This research is conducted to answer the problems formulated in the following questions:

1. What are the results of idiomatic translation errors done by the students of English Department in 3$^{rd}$ year Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya?

2. What are the problems faced by the students of English Department in 3$^{rd}$ year Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya in translating idioms?

**1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problems above, the objectives of this research are aimed:

1. To describe the idiomatic translation errors and percentage of errors done by the students of English Department in 3$^{rd}$ year Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya.

2. To describe the problems faced by the students of English Department in 3$^{rd}$ year Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya in translating idioms.

**1.4 Significance of the Study**

The researcher hopes that this paper could be useful for the readers, especially for students of English Department Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya, thus they could decrease their errors in translating idiom. It

is not only useful for the students, but also for the lecturers. The researcher hopes that this paper could help the lecturers to know what are the problems experienced by the students in translating English to Bahasa Indonesia, especially in translating idiom, thus the lecturers could convey the course especially in translating text effectively.

And for further researchers, the researcher hopes that this paper could be the guidance for the researchers who put their interest in linguistics major especially translation.

## 1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of the study concern with the errors made and the problems faced by the students of the English Department in 3rd year Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya in translating text. And then the limitation of the study the researcher focuses on translating idiom done by students of the English Department in 3rd year Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

### a. Idiom

Idiom is a number of words which when taken together will have different meaning from the individual meaning of each word (Seidl, 1988:13).

b. **Translation**

Translation is general term referring to the transfer of thoughts and ideas from one language (source) to another (target), whether the languages are in written or oral form, whether the languages have established orthographies or do not have such standardization, or whether one or both languages are based on signs, as with sign languages of the deal (Brislin, 1976:1).

c. **Errors**

Errors are things that are not correct: wrong actions or statements (Merriam Webster). The terms error usually means that something is wrong. In written text, both in original and translated text, errors can be classified as, for example, pragmatic, semantic, idiomatic, linguistic or stylistic errors.