CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Considering the statement of the problems explained above, the researcher presents the related literature about translation theory, idiom, kinds of idioms, strategies in translating idioms, and errors in translating idioms.

2.1 Translation Theory

There are many translation theories from the experts, and here some of them. According to Nida and Taber (1982:12), translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalence of a source language message, firstly in terms of style.

Another expert, Will (1982:112) said that translation is a procedure which leads from a written source language text to an optimally equivalent target language text and requires syntactic, semantic, stylistic, and text pragmatic comprehension by the translator of the original text.

From journal titled Common Errors Committed in Translating (not only) Legal Documents by Miroslav Bazlik, in translating text there must complete some categories, those are:

1. **Appropriateness**: translated text should have the some informational content as the source text. The reader should get the same information not necessarily rendered by the same type of linguistic means. Apart

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from that such translated information should be usable for the same purpose as the original.

2. **Conceptual Adequacy**: the terminology used should cover the same semantic area. Because the system in one language to others is different in named something, thus to solve the problem there must be footnote given.

3. **Grammatical Correctness**: the grammar must be correct. Because in each structure of a text have different meaning.

4. **Stylistic Adequacy**: repeating some noun often happened in source text. When translating it, the translators tend to use synonym, hyponym, pronoun, etc. to avoid ambiguity.

5. **Correct Spelling**: when we used tool to translate such as dictionary in mobile phone, when we say a word which we want to know the meaning then we are wrong in spell it, caused the information get is different.

6. **Geographical Quality**: the text should have a visual appearance corresponding to the normal appearance of texts of a similar type. For example, a short story text should have the lay-out that short story normally have, etc.

2.2 Idiom

Idiom is a 'frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and often carry meanings which cannot be concluded from their individual components' (Baker, 1992: 63). Another opinion said that idioms or can be called

as idiomatic translation are multi word-phrases whose overall meanings are idiosyncratic and largely unpredictable, reflecting speaker meanings that are not derivable by combining the literal sense of individual words in each phrase according to the regular semantic rules of the language (Hurford, Heasley, & Smith 2007: 328). In addition, according to Irujo (1986) "idiom is a conventionalized expression whose meaning cannot be determined from the meaning of its parts". Cited from article English Teaching Forum, an idiom is expression that cannot be understood literally. Even the person knows the meaning of all the words and understands the grammar; the overall meaning of the idiom may be unclear. Idioms differ from other figurative expressions, such as similes and metaphors, in that they have conventionalized meanings.

Example: in a sentence "They can't go fishing, it is raining *cats and dogs*"

For those who are not familiar with this idiom will think about a situation in which cats and dogs are falling from the sky. In fact, the cats and dogs itself means a very heavy rain.

2.3 Categories of idioms

Based on Longman Dictionary of Idioms (1979), idioms are divided into some categories:

1. Traditional Idioms

   Traditional idioms are idioms which usually understand as expression by people. The examples are *kick the bucket* and *spill the beans*. Many idioms are almost full sentences, only

subject needs to be added to make full sentences of given verb phrases. Other types of idioms are not almost full sentences but rather function like particular parts of speech. An idiomatic noun phrase will often function in a sentence in the same way a noun would, such as a subject, direct object and frequently as a complement.

2. Idioms in which actions stand for emotions or feelings

A number of idioms which refer to actions that have specific meaning in English culture may be misunderstood if one is just starting to learn English. It is important to note that these actions are not literal and that the meaning associated with a particular action in English may not be the meaning associated with that action in some other language or culture. In idioms the action referred to may never really happen. For example, *put some lipstick on the pig* does not mean that the speaker really performs this action.

3. Pairs of words

A large number of idioms consist of pairs of words joined by *and* or *or*. Many of these belong to the first group and function as particular parts of speech. For example, the noun phrase *cats and dogs* in *it was raining cats and dogs* functions as an adverb.

4. Idioms with "it"

A number of idiomatic and verb phrases have the pronoun *it* as a fixed part of the idiom. The pronoun does not refer to word coming before it as it normally does like in *live it up*.

5. Allusions

Certain common phrases and a few single words have special significance in English society and their meanings are often not defined in ordinary dictionaries, ex. Whitehall.

6. Sayings

These are usually complete sentences and can be divided into two groups: the informal sayings; *you can't take it with you* and older and more metaphorical sayings; *a rolling stone gathers no moss*.

7. Typical conversational phrases

Some fixed conversational phrases whose meanings are not literal and which therefore may be difficult to understand, such as *how do you do* and *so to speak*.

8. Similes

Similes represent a large number of idioms which compare a quality, condition, action etc. with a noun, ex. *as easy as pie*. These phrases emphasize the meaning of the first word and can usually be translated by simply putting very in front of it.

Certain verbal idioms, ex. *work like horse*, are also similes and function in a similar way to the adjective phrases.

9. Archaisms

Archaisms are phrases that are no longer in use. However, several common idiomatic expressions contain archaic or very unusual words and are widely used, ex. *to and fro* and *kith and kin*.

10. Phrasal verbs

Expressions that consist only of a verb and one or more adverbial particles or prepositions, ex. *put up with, make up etc*, are another representatives of idioms.

2.4 Strategies in Translating Idioms

The writer will use the strategies in translating idioms by Baker (1992). There are 4 strategies stated by Baker:

1. Using an idiom of similar meaning and form

This strategy includes utilizing an idiom in target language which conveys approximately the same meaning as that of the source language idiom and, for addition, consists of equivalent lexical items.

2. Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form

It will be often possible to find an idiom or fixed expression in the target language which has a meaning similar to that of the source idiom or expression, but which consists of diverse lexical things.

3. Translation by paraphrase

This is by far the most basic method for translating idiom when a match cannot be found in the target language or when it seems inappropriate to use idiomatic language in the target text because of differences in stylistic preferences of the source and target languages.

4. Translation by omission

Likewise single word; an idiom may sometimes be omitted altogether in the target text. This may be because it has no close match in the target language, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reason.

2.5 Problems in Translating Idioms

A language, however, has its meaning only in the culture, as Newmark (1981:183) states that a language is partly the repository and reflection of a culture. Thus, different languages may contain different cultures or different ways of thingking.

Choliludin (2006) 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.

2.6 Translation Errors

Errors in translation mostly result of the non-equivalence between the source and target languages (Baker, 1992). Cited from Handbook of Translation Studies vol. I by Gide Hansen, the translation error can be caused by misunderstandings of translation brief or of the content of source text, by not rendering the meaning of the source text accurately, by factual mistakes, terminological of stylistic flaws and by different kinds of interfaces between source text and target text.

Chrisna Buana in his research stated that there are two types of error in translating text. There are absolute error (Newmark 1988:189) and pragmatic error (Thomas 1983:91). Absolute error divided into 4 kinds - error in translating words, phrases or sentences; error in translating polysemantic or homonym words; error in translating idiomatic expressions; and the last is error in using punctuation. Then pragmatic error is misunderstanding of communication participant in understanding what they mean with what they said.

Idioms are counted as non-literal meaning. It is different from literal meaning which evokes two main ideas, that the meanings of words and sentences are essentially independent of the context or occasion of use; and that the meaning

of a composite expression is essentially compositional (Hurford, Heasley, & Smith 2007: 327). Hurford et al also said that the meaning of idiom is intended usually depends on the context in which the expression is used. The researcher can take conclusion that lack of knowing English vocabularies can influence in understanding context because when people do translate and they are lack of vocabularies, the cannot understand wholly about the text then they get error in translating idioms. Another reason why most of people do incorrect translating idioms because the target language they are going to translate has a different culture. It means that the culture also influence how the people understand the context.

2.7 Previous Studies

Related to this research, Saputro (2012), in his thesis analyzed a novel Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, as his object. He is interested in translating the novel from English to Indonesia. The study showed that several translation strategies were applied, which includes idioms of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translating by paraphrase, and translating by omission. The cultural difference becomes the main concern in keeping the original meaning, especially when dealing with idiomatic expressions. When translating idioms, the translators might use some adjustment in certain context to keep the correct meaning, so the translated text is still readable and clear. In conclusion, translating idioms could be a serious matter regarding the target language. In this case the problems are doubled since the stylistic meaning should be kept without reducing the beauty of the text.

In translating idioms, the translators pay attention not only on the translation strategies, but also in the culture, equivalent, and context. Howwar (2013) has mentioned in his research that some SL and TL idioms taking into consideration their bound culture, equivalence and context. Howwar also explores the different types of idiom, shed lights on some Arabic and English idioms and focus on the difficulties faced by learners and translators. The overall results showed that idioms can never be translated literally; context, equivalence and semantic relativism should be considered when dealing with idioms. To be communicatively and linguistically competent, translators as well as learners should find the equivalence in the same language first and then in the target language. As a result, it is strongly recommended that translators as well as learners should be fully aware of some translation techniques and the context of the discourse s/he is dealing with.

After people knew about the methodologies within translating idiom, they would translate idioms as knowledge they learned. Suwardi (2013) intended to know about the practice of translating idioms. The data were taken from idioms appeared in the novel *Mrs. Mc Gynti Dead* written by Agatta Christie and its translation in Indonesia, *Mrs. Mc Ginty Sudah Mati* by Budiyanto Pramono. Suwardi also described how a translator can discover the closest natural equivalent of English idioms in Indonesian based on the meaning and the message of the source language idioms.

In another research by Pratiwi (2014), the researcher collected the idioms of the novel, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. The research showed that

there were three strategies used by the Indonesian translator. The first strategy is *idiom to idiom*, which means transferring idioms in English into idioms in Indonesian. This method is used when two idioms, in both English and Indonesian, are containing the same form and meaning. Second method is *paraphrase*, which means transferring idioms in English directly into its real meaning in Indonesian. This strategy is the most frequently used considering the fact that it is very difficult to find idioms in Indonesian that has the same meaning and form with the idioms in English. The third method is *literal translation*. In some cases, idioms in English can be literally translated. This kind of case is specifically occurs when an idiom happens to be part of a dialogue or informal sentence.

In 2013, Maisa & Karunakaran also did the research. In their research, an attempt was made to look at the use of idioms at Under Graduate level and ways of improving the use of idioms. This study also analyzed the acquisition of idioms and teaching/learning of idioms in the context of English as Second Language (ESL). The focus of the study was on the processes of acquiring idioms and strategies to promote idiomaticity at undergraduate level. Though there were many issues discussed pertaining to idioms in this paper, it was mainly involved with teacher beliefs on teaching idiomatic English at undergraduate level.

A study more focused on the shift in interpreting the meaning of English idioms and cliché into Indonesian, Nurjannah (2014) used the theory of non formal Prague Linguistic Circle. The reason why she took the theory is that the theory emphasizes its function. It means that the idioms must be translated

correctly and translated to its function. Hence, it has to be chronically to the context. Then, it will be wrong if the readers or translators translate the idioms only word by word translation.

This research concerns with similar topic as previous studies described 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 3rd year. Furthermore, the researcher will know the quality of translation had by the students especially in translating idioms.