CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter is divided into two parts, findings and discussion of translating idiom. The first is finding of error translating idioms and percentage calculation of errors did by the students of English Department in 3rd year Sunan Ampel State Islamic University of Surabaya. And the second is discussion about the result of the study.

4.1 Findings

Based on the data analysis, the researcher discovered some errors in translating idioms. Furthermore, the researcher shows what the errors did by the students of English Department in 3rd year Sunan Ampel Islamic University Surabaya. From the data of 57 students, almost all idioms given to the students there are idiomatic errors happened. The researcher used The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins and mobile dictionary such as Merriam Webster and Idiom & Phrases to look for the meaning of the idioms.

Data 1

Idiom	The answers of the	The meaning from
	students	dictionary
1. <u>The Eager</u>	1. Berang-berang	Pekerja Keras
Beavers and Old	bersemangat	
Mr. Oldkool	2. Banyak akal	
	3. Berang-berang	
	4. Orang yang sangat	

rajin	
5. Tanggap	
6. Orang yang enerjik	
7. Ambisi	
8. Elang	

Various idiomatic translating errors were found in the first data. Explained in book The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins, the origin of 'eager beaver' referred to the industrious beaver; this near-rhyming expression is a Canadian Army one that is not recorded before 1940. 'Eager beaver' is usually applied derisively to someone who is overly industrious, zealous, gung ho in his work, one who tries to impress his superiors by his diligence and becomes obnoxious to his associates as a result (Hendrickson 2008:269).

Other said that 'eager beaver' means that it refers to person who is hardworking and very enthusiastic about doing something. In Indonesian the eager beaver means *pekerja keras* or *orang yang sangat antusias*.

- (1) (3) *Berang-berang bersemangat*, some students translate the idiom 'eager beaver' only word by word, which is eager is *semangat* and beaver is *berang-berang*.
- (2) (4) (5) (6) (7) There are some students opened the dictionary to look for the meaning of the idiom, but because there is misunderstanding, they are not correct enough in translating the idiom. If the idiom is noun form, the translation must be noun form too. When the source text and target text have different word classes, the meaning will be different and it will not same as the original text mean.

(8) *Elang*, perhaps the students think that eager is *elang* in Indonesian or eagle and forget that *elang* is eagle. It is caused the pronunciation of eager and eagle is similar.

Data 2

Idiom	The answers of the	The meaning from
	students	dictionary
2. Definitely	Cukup dikenal	Pemalas
not <u>couch</u>	2. Tidak usah diajari	
potatoes, these	3. Mager	
boys and girls	4. Tukang kritik	
were, in fact, full	A (A)	
of beans	7 / 7	

'Couch potato(s)' is a phrase from a pun. 'Couch potato(s) means a lazy, inactive person who does little else in leisure time save lie in the couch watching TV. As from the punning derivation of 'couch potato(s)', first came the slang term 'boob tube' for television, recorded in 1963. Someone who watched too much of the 'boob tube' was shortly after dubbed a 'boob-tuber'. 'Boob tuber' suggested the potato, a plant tuber, to Tom Iacino of Pasadena, California, in 1976, and he invented the term 'couch potato', which he registered as a trademark eight years later. Soon after his inventive punning, Iacino and some friends formed a club called the Couch Potatoes, which appeared in the 1979 Pasadena Doo Dah Parade, in which they lay on couches watching TV while their float was pilled through the streets (Hendrickson 2008:208).

From Merriam Webster, 'coach potato(s)' means a lazy person. And in Indonesian means *pemalas*.

- (1) (2) (4) These wrong answers are caused by the limit of knowledge about origin of the idiom hence they give the nonsense answers.
- (3) From the meaning of 'coach potato(s)' it can be seen that it is noun form. But the students translate 'couch potato(s) as *mager*. In Indonesian, *mager* is abbreviation of *males gerak* in which it is verb form. Perhaps the student thinks that *pemalas* and *males gerak* is same even they are different form.

A few number of errors happened in translating idiom number 2. It caused the idiom is just given by the lecturer.

Data 3

Idiom	The	answers	of	the	The	meaning from
	stude	ents		1	dictio	onary
3. Definitely	1.	Penuh kac	cang		Sang	at aktif / sangat
not couch	2.	Keinginta	huan		sehat	
potatoes, these	3.	Berpotens	i			
boys and girls	4.	Sangat pin	ntar			
were, in fact, full	5.	Bodoh				
of beans	6.	Penuh ma	nfaat			
	7.	Punya	bar	ıyak		
		pengetahu	ıan			
	8.	Pintar/terl	ouka			
		pemikiran	nya			

The idiom 'full of beans' is used like 'full of baloney', 'full of soup', and worse, but it usually means someone who is full of energy, high-spirited, lively

(sometimes in a foolish or silly way). Some say it is a horsey expression, like 'full of oat', going back to the days when horses were fed "horse beans" rose for fodder. The saying, however, is a British one from about 1870 and may derive from an earlier phrase, 'full of bread'. Beans, a high-protein food, certainly should make one lively; in fact, they have long been regarded as an aphrodisiac (Hendrickson 2008:325).

Briefly, 'full of beans' is refers to person who is lively, active and healthy.

In Indonesian, it means *sangat sehat* or *sangat aktif*.

- (1) It is so clear that the students translate the idiom word by word which full is *penuh* then beans is *kacang*.
- (2) (5) The answers are totally wrong. They do not have any correlation with the context. Perhaps it caused the students are lacks of the vocabularies thus they cannot understand the context of the text.
- (3) The students assume that beans is like potential, thus they give meaning that 'full of beans' is full of potential or *berpotensi* in Indonesian.
- (4) (7) (8) Here the students think that beans are like knowledge, when person have full of knowledge, he will be smart hence the students translate the idiom as *sangat pintar* and *punya banyak pengetahuan*.
- (6) The students make similarity of beans and benefits. Thus they translate the idiom as *penuh manfaat*.

The researcher once asked to the students that they seldom hear the idiom 'full of beans', hence they cannot translate the idiom correctly.

Data 4

Idiom	The answers of the	The meaning from
	students	dictionary
4. When Mr.	1. menunggu	Siap mendengarkan
Oldkool told them	penjelasan	(penuh perhatian)
about a new and	2. pusat perhatian	
fascinating	3. semuanya	
subject, like the	mengetahui hal itu	
apple snail, they	4. mengerjakan	
were <u>all ears</u>	denga <mark>n teliti</mark>	
	5. <mark>merekah den</mark> gan	
	seksama	

'All ears' means listening attentively. It is hardly modern slang, being at least three centuries old. Its first recorded use in this precise from is by Anthony Trollope in 1865. But over two centuries before this Milton wrote in *Comus* (1634): "I was all ear,/ And took in strains that might create a soul/ Under the ribs of death (Hendrickson 2008:18).

(1) The idiom is adverb form, thus the translation must be adverb form too. The answer of number 1 is verb form, *menunggu penjelasan* and the correct answer is *siap mendengarkan (penuh perhatian)*. Although they have closest meaning, when they have different word classes, it will be wrong and it can influence to whole text.

- (2) The idiom is aimed to listener. If the students translate the idiom as main attention or *pusat perhatian*, it will be wrong because who becomes the main attention is speaker not listener.
- (3) The students translate the idiom word by word which all is translated as *semua* then ears is translated as listen or knowing that means *mengetahui*.
- (4) (5) These are nonsense answers because there is no correlation between the idiom and *mengerjakan dengan teliti* or *merekah dengan sempurna*.

Data 5

Idi	om	-3	/	The	answers	of the	The	meaning	from
1		1		stud	lents		dictio	onary	
5.	When	he	gave	1.	cerewet/	banyak	Sang	at sibuk	
			ments		omong		28	, pro un	
	do, tl	_		2.	berkelomp	ok			
				3.	-	OK			
	m hom			3.	langsung				
and	d were	as	busy		mengerjak	an tugas			
as	<u>bees</u>			4.	mendengar	kan			
				5.	mengerjaka	an			
			1		dengan gia	t/cepat			
				6.	fokus	pada			
					soal/pekerj	aan			
				7.	mengerjak	an			
					dengan				
					serius/sung	guh-			
					sunnguh/ra	jin			
				8.	pekerja ker	ras/rajin			
				9.	sangat bers	semangat			
				10.	dikerjakan	sesegera			

	mungkin	
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"For aye as busy as bees been they", Chaucer wrote in *Canterbury Tales* (1387), the first recorded mention of the phrase. But bees must have been noticed busily collecting nectar since prehistoric days and no doubt the expression was used long before Chaucer's time. *Bee*, in fact, is a word found in all languages with Indo-European origins. That bees are busy there is no doubt, one pound of honey results from the visiting of some 10 million flowers where bees collect nectar, which they change to honey in their bodies (Hendrickson 2008:137).

The researcher concludes that 'busy as bees' means very busy and in Indonesian means *sangat sibuk*. From the data collected, there are some answers which are almost closest with the characteristics of bees, therefore misunderstanding can be a caused in error translation.

(1) (2) (5) (8) The students assume and know some characteristics of bees as they always produce sound, they always be with their friends or group, they always move fast and hard working in collecting and processing nectar in their nest hence the students translate the idiom as *cerewet*, *berkelompok*, *mengerjakan dengan giat atau cepat*, and *pekerja keras*.

Data 6

Idiom	The answers from the	The meaning from
	students	dictionary
6. He handed out	1. menetapkan	Memikirkan cara untuk
the test papers	2. mengeluarkan	menyelsaikan masalah
and told the boys	seluruh	

and girls to put	kemampuan
their thinking	3. mendengarkan
caps on	tanpa nyontek
	4. menyerah
	5. kerjakan sesuai
	kemapuanmu
	6. mengerjakan
	dengan logika
	7. fokus
	8. menjawab
	dengan yakin
	9. kerjakan dengan
	cermat
	10. untuk
	<mark>menjaw</mark> abny <mark>a</mark>
	1 <mark>1. bukalah</mark>
	pemikiranmu pemikiranmu
	12. mulai fokus
	untuk bekerja
	13. menulis jawaban
	14. merilekskan diri
	15. mengambil
	pikiran mereka
	menjawabnya 11. bukalah pemikiranmu 12. mulai fokus untuk bekerja 13. menulis jawaban 14. merilekskan diri 15. mengambil

The origin of idiom is that a 'thinking cap' was previously known by the appealing name a 'considering cap'. That term has gone entirely out of use now but was known since at least the early 17th century, as in this example from Robert Armin in *Foole upon foole*, 1605. The earliest record of the term 'thinking cap' is from the USA, in the Wisconsin newspaper *The Kenosha Times*, July 1875: "This

tendency is a very good thing as the safeguard of our independence from the control of foreign power, and it obliges every man to keep hid thinking cap on". The citation uses the term figuratively – there is no suggestion that it refers to a real cap. Nevertheless, such caps possibly did exist. The 'considering cap' is explained at great length, in *The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes*, 1765.

- (2) (6) (8) (10) (11) (15) From these answers, the researcher is sure that the students open the dictionary to look for the meaning. But because they do not quite understand about the context of the text, they are wrong in choosing the correct words.
- (3) (5) (7) (9) (12) (13) This is the citation of the idiom in the text,

"He handed out the test papers and told the boys and girls to put their thinking caps on"

From the sentence above, it can be seen that there is "test papers", it caused the students think that there is exam. But because of their minim understanding they are wrong in translating the idioms.

- (4) The students focused on word "handed out" then they think that "handed out" is same as "hands up" which the meaning is give up, therefore they translate the idiom as *menyerah*.
- (14) The students assumed that "handed out test papers" is take the paper from someone and the students think that the exam is done hence they translate the idiom as relaxing our self or *merilekskaan diri*.

Data 7

Idiom	The answers of the	The meaning from
	students	dictionary
7. "Break a leg"	1. kuat	Semoga sukses
he said to the	2. duduk sopan	
students as he	3. pantang lelah	
walked back to his	4. santai	
desk	5. istirahat	
	6. mengubah	
	suasana	

'Break a leg' means "good luck" in theatrical circles, probably not because the great Sarah Bernhardt "had but one leg and it would be good luck to be like her". No one is sure, but theory has the expression deriving, possibly through Yiddish, from a German expression meaning "May you break your neck and your leg", for which I can find no satisfactory explanation. It may also have something to do with wishing someone a "big break", that is, good luck leading to success. Or bad luck like breaking a leg may simply be wished because actors, a superstitious lot, have long believed that wishing them good luck guarantees something terrible will happen (Hendrickson 2008:118).

For second language learners, there are some idioms or perhaps a lot of idioms are rarely heard or even never heard before, such as 'break a leg'. There are some errors in translating this idiom. The meaning of idiom 'break a leg' to be "good luck" is there is no correlation. After knowing the origin of idiom 'break a leg', it can be clear why the meaning of 'break a leg' is "good luck" or *semoga*

sukses in Indonesian. But for those who do not know about the origin of that idiom even they know the context, they cannot answer correctly the meaning is 'break a leg' is. Such as the students of English Department Sunan Ampel Islamic University Surabaya, they do not suppose that the meaning of 'break a leg' is semoga sukses.

- (1) (3) "'Break a leg', he said to the students as he walked back......."

 The students were trying to see the sentence followed, hence they translate the idiom as strong or kuat and pantang lelah even the leg is broken. They are misunderstood with word "walked". "Walked" in the sentence is verb for the speaker not the listener, whereas the idiom for the listener.
- (2) The students translate the idiom as *duduk sopan* because in the culture and habit in Indonesia, person who sit while crossing his leg is well mannered or *sopan* in Indonesian. The students assume that break a leg is changing the leg's position from straight to bend up.
- (4) (5) (6) The last wrong answers are *santai*, *istirahat* and *mengubah suasana*. The students think that break a leg is changing position which in the beginning is stand up then sit. Or another opinion that after thinking a hard thought, it is time to be relax.

Data 8

Idiom	The answers of the	The meaning from
	students	dictionary
8. Remaining <u>cool</u>	1. sedingin	Tenang tanpa harus
as a cucumber, they	mentimun	khawatir
picked up their	2. segar	

pencils and went to	3.	tanpa kesulitan
work	4.	percaya diri
	5.	bersemangat
	6.	tanpa ekspresi/
		berwajah dingin
	7.	menikmati
		hidup

The idiom 'cool as cucumber' took scientists with thermometers until 1970 to find out what has been folk knowledge for centuries that cucumbers are indeed cool, so much so that the inside of a field cucumber on a warm day registers about 20 degrees cooler than the outside air. The belief is ancient, but was first put on paper by Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher in their play *Cupid's Revenge* (1610), when they referred to certain women "as cold as cucumber". The metaphor describes anyone self-possessed and unemotional. *Cucumber*, which derives from the Latin *cucumir*, was considered "bookish" and commonly pronounced *cowcumber* in England in the 19th century, the way Sara Gamp said it in Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit*. Roman emperor Tiberius is said to have enjoyed the "fruits" so much that he ordered them served to him every day, even though they had to be grown in greenhouses out of season (Hendrickson 2008:203).

From other dictionary says that 'cool as cucumber' means that a person who is not anxious, but relaxed and non-emotional.

- (1) (2) Cucumber is one of fruit which is cool and fresh. Thus it is the reason the students translate the idiom as *sedingin mentimun* and *segar*. The students translate the idiom only word by word.
- (3) (4) (5) (7) The students have misunderstood about the idiom. This is part of the idiom in the text,

"Remaining cool as cucumber, they picked up their pencils and went to work".

Perhaps the students focus on word "work", therefore the students assumed that the idiom is duty or something trouble hence they translate the idiom as *tanpa kesulitan*, *percaya diri*, *bersemangat*, and *menikmati hidup*.

(6) It is commonly known that cool guy is not really showing his expression on his face much. Hence the students assumed that cool in 'cool as cucumber' is same with cool in 'cool guy'. Therefore, they translate the idiom as *tanpa ekspresi* or *berwajah dingin*.

Data 9

Idiom	The	answers of the	The meaning from
	students		dictionary
9. It turned out	1.	sedikit	Sangat mudah
that all of the	2.	sepotong kue	
eager beavers	3.	tinggal sedikit	
passed the test	4.	pesta/	
and, for some, it		merayakan	
was even a piece	5.	sesuatu yang	
of cake		biasa/ lumrah	
	6.	memiliki	

	banyak kegiatan	
7.	remeh	

The earliest citation of the idiom is found from the American poet and humorist Ogden Nash's *Primrose Path*, 1936: "Her picture's in the papers now, And life's a piece of cake".

The choice of cake as a symbol of ease and pleasantry is well represented in the language.

The meaning of the idiom is something which is very easy.

- (1) (2) (3) The students translate the idiom as its true meaning, 'a piece of cake'. They focused on word "a" which is mean *sebuah* in Indonesian. Therefore they have opinion that from whole cake but only one piece left.
- (4) Part of the idiom cited from the text,

"It turn out that all of the eager beavers passed the test and, for some, it was even a piece of cale. To celebrate,....."

The students focused on "passed the test" and word "celebrate", therefore they translate the idiom as *pesta* or *merayakan*. Because they assumed that a success after reaching something must get celebration.

(5) (7) The students know the meaning of the idiom, but they used words which is not correct enough when those translation standing together with other text. The translation of must have the appropriateness with the original text so that people will get information same as the original information. It has been stated by the researcher in chapter II.

(6) The students give a non-logical meaning, although in fact some idioms have non-logical meaning, but there is an origin of idiom that makes the meaning of idiom understands. It caused by background knowledge of the students. They do not really know about idioms. It can be seen that there is no correlation meaning from source text to target text.

Data 10

Idiom	The answers of the The meaning from
	students dictionary
10. Who would	1. tanggung jawab Terbayar
have thought that	2. berguna
their hard work	3. digaji <mark>/ dibay</mark> ar
would <u>pay</u> off so	4. berhasil
well	5. diganjar
	6. lunas
	7. diabaikan
	8. hasil
	9. membuahkan
	hasil
	10. terbalaskan
	11. membayar
	12. melunasi

The meaning of 'payoff' is a payment made to someone, especially as bribe or reward, or on leaving a job. From Merriam Webster dictionary shows the meaning of 'pay off' is a good result: the advantage of benefit that is gained from doing something.

(1) It can be seen that the students focus on word "work" in the sentence,

"Who would have thought that their hard work would pay off".

The students have opinion that if persons have been work, they have to have responsibility in their work. Thus the students translate the idiom as *tanggung jawab*.

- (2) The students focus on "hard work" in the sentence, therefore they assume that every hard working must be useful thus they translate the idiom as *berguna*.
- (3) (4) (8) (9) The students look for meaning of the idiom from the dictionary. But they directly copy and use it without considering that these words are correct or not when they use it in the text.
- (5) (10) The meaning of diganjar and membalaskan is quite similar with terbayar in Indonesian. But they have different function. For diganjar, the students can use that word to translate 'pay off', but it is not quite correct because after word diganjar must be followed by more explanation. And for membalaskan, the function of the idiom as adverb but membalaskan is verb.
- (6) (12) The students look at the dictionary that the meaning of the idiom is *pembayaran* or in English is payment or paid. Thus the students translate the idiom as *lunas* or *melunasi*.
- (7) The students do not really know about the meaning of the sentence, therefore the students give the nonsense answer which do not have correlation with the sentence and the text.
- (11) The students understand or perhaps they look at the dictionary about the meaning of the idiom, but they do not understand enough that the idiom functioned as adverb not verb.

From the description of what the idiomatic translation errors done by the students, the researcher calculated how many percentages of idiomatic translation errors.

These are calculation of the students' answers:

1. The error answers:

$$\frac{x}{n} \times 100\% = \frac{156}{570} \times 100\% = 27,37\%$$

x= amount of error answers

n= amount of whole answers

2. The empty answers:

$$\frac{y}{n} \times 100\% = \frac{67}{570} \times \frac{100}{100}\% = 11,76\%$$

y= amount of empty answers

n= amount of whole answers

3. The correct answers:

$$\frac{z}{n} \times 100\% = \frac{347}{570} \times 100\% = 60,88\%$$

z= amount of correct answers

n= amount of whole answers

From the calculations above, the researcher defined that the percentage of errors did by the students of English Department in 3rd year Sunan Ampel Islamic University of Surabaya is 27,37%.

4.2 Discussion

After analyzing and counting the errors in translating idioms made by the students, the researcher focuses on what troubles or problems faced by the

students in translating the idioms. From the questionnaire which is filled by the students, the researcher found their opinion about idiom, how they translate the idiom and what the troubles or problems in translating idiom are.

The first, the researcher wants to discuss about how they translate idiom. Some of the students answer that they use dictionary to find the meaning of the idiom. But the students still make mistake in translating idiom. In the dictionary, the meaning of idiom is not directly given in Indonesian, it is still in English. The students are not quite correct in choosing words hence they make mistakes in translating idiom. Such in idiom number 2, 'couch potato', in Indonesian means *pemalas*. But there is the student answer with *mager* or *males gerak*. It is quite similar but different word classes. If *males gerak* combined in the sentence, the meaning will be strange.

The second, the researcher wants to discuss the troubles or the problems. In the questionnaire, almost all the students answer that context, different culture, and lacks of vocabularies are the troubles or problems in translating idiom. The first trouble is context. Idiom is one of non-literal meaning which the meanings of words and sentences are essentially dependent of the context or occasion of use (Hurford et al 2007:327). For example is 'a piece of cake'. In a different context, 'a piece of cake' will have different meaning. In such as this sentence, "my mother gives you a piece of cake", and for other sentence is "It turned out that all of the eager beavers passed the test and, for some, it was even a piece of cake". In the first sentence, 'a piece of cake' means one slice of cake or *sepotong kue* in

Indonesian and the second sentence 'a piece of cake' means very easy or *sangat mudah* in Indonesian.

The second problem is different culture. Language is belonging to culture, and idiom is the part of language. The use and the meaning of idiom is agreed by the people. It can be seen above that each idiom has the origin. For example is, idiom 'break a leg' is used by the English to give spirit to others or to wish good luck, but the Korean, they uses 'hwaiting' to support others,

And the last problem faced by the students in translating idiom is lack of vocabularies or background of knowledge about vocabularies they have is minim. As the example from the text, the students translate 'eager' as *elang* and the fact that the English of *elang* is 'eagle'. 'Eager' and 'eagle' have similar pronunciation, but because background of knowledge about English vocabularies is minim, the students did the error in translating 'eger'. As the students especially in English Department, they have to know a lot of English vocabularies. In this modern era, there are many dictionaries of idioms that can be installed in mobile phone, and sometimes the meaning of the idioms showed in the dictionaries re still in English. If the students know lot of English vocabularies, it will help the students to translate the idioms correctly.