

Data 4

Idiom	The answers of the students	The meaning from dictionary
4. When Mr. Oldkool told them about a new and fascinating subject, like the apple snail, they were <u>all ears</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. menunggu penjelasan 2. pusat perhatian 3. semuanya mengetahui hal itu 4. mengerjakan dengan teliti 5. merekah dengan seksama 	Siap mendengarkan (penuh perhatian)

‘All ears’ means listening attentively. It is hardly modern slang, being at least three centuries old. Its first recorded use in this precise form 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.

Data 7

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

‘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*

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 'eager'. 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.