

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

Translation becomes an enormously important subject which is valuable to learn on a worldwide level. There is a comprehensive field of substances that can be examined in terms of translation aspects. In line with it, Grant and Bauer (2004: 38) declared that idioms are one of the most intriguing phenomena for long-standing theories of literal language and they are not chiseled. To be one of those concentrations, this research decides the forms and techniques of idioms translations. The idioms are one of the most complex elements of language because of their undeterminable meaning and grammar that cannot be translated abruptly.

Al Shawi (2012:141) stated that idioms are a queer expression because its meaning cannot be translated from the meaning of the one-on-one component it contains. Therewith, the special terms in idioms could be culture-bound and this potentially commences the more complicated issue to the translator. For example, if the source language (SL) said “He put his foot in it the other night at Jennie’s party. He asked her if she was going to divorce Kai”. From that example, if the translator does not know that “put his foot in it” means say something accidentally which upsets or embarrasses someone. It has an idiomatic meaning or non-literal that is difficult to know exactly what the sentence means.

According to Howwar (2013), translating idioms is not an easy process. Idioms could have both literal and figurative meanings. Several idioms can be

translated literally but could be mislaid the meaning. Idiomatic meaning is more frequently used. A translator deals with various difficulties that cannot be simply overcome in translating idioms. The issue is the limitation of precision on the idioms level. If a translator able to discover the exactly similar form and meaning of idioms from the source language (SL) in the target language (TL), it will become a great translation.

Nevertheless, it is still inconvenient to discover the accurate equivalent, even though all language in this world has its idioms. For the sake of translating the idiom to produce an equivalent translation from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL) a translator must choose the most appropriate technique. The translator comprehension is required to discover the function also the characteristics of idioms in both the source language (SL) and the target language (TL). Hereinafter, the translators apply all kinds of techniques to encounter the issues that arise in the process. Particularly, this research focuses on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* movie subtitle and its Indonesian translation.

The movie is one of the entertainment media which is also information media. From time to time the movie is increasingly popular, so the quality of a movie must certainly increase, including subtitles in the movie, because movie subtitles are an important part of delivering the intent of the movie. In this regard, the translation of movie subtitles should also be able to convey the same intent as the original language or source language of the movie, especially if the movie is intended for an international scale.

The researcher chooses this movie because it contains many idioms in English and it has its Indonesian translation subtitle to complete the data research. Hence, to investigate what kind of techniques that the translator used in translating English idioms into Indonesian is the objective of this research.

Besides, as cited in *Britannica Online Encyclopedia* (2018), Charles John Huffam Dickens or famous as Charles Dickens, the story writer of this movie, was born in Portsmouth, 7 February 1812. He is a respected social critic and a famous British writer in the Victorian Age who produced several world-famous fictional characters. In the twentieth century, scholars and critics have recognized him as a literary genius. His fiction enjoys undying fame. Charles Dickens published several non-fiction books, a handful of plays, a large number of short stories, including several Christmas-themed stories, and more than twelve major novels. Dickens' novels were originally published regularly every week and every month magazines, later recoin in book forms.

A Christmas Carol is Charles Dickens' most famous fiction were released first in London, on 19 December 1843, under Chapman & Hall. This fiction tells a tale of Ebenezer Scrooge transformation, who is a wretched old penny-pincher into a humane, warm-hearted man after the visitations by Jacob Marley, the ghost of his former business fellow worker, and three ghosts of Christmas. The Ghosts of Christmas Past, The Ghosts of Christmas Present, and The Ghosts of Christmas Yet to Come.

This novel was put down in black and white at the same time when the British were appraising and considering Christmas traditions from the past as

good as new habits such as Christmas Trees and Christmas Cards. Carol singing took an opportunity to improve one's circumstances or outlook during this time. Dickens' inspiration for the stories attract to be many and diversified, but are, mainly, the humbling experiences of his childhood, his fellow feeling for the poor, and several Christmas stories.

A Christmas Carol is one of Dickens' works that gives the main impression in renewing ancient Christmas traditions in England, but, while it brings the reader into the concepts of light, excitement, and life, it also brings a powerful and unforgettable concept of gloom, sadness, coldness melancholy and death. The character of Scrooge in the story itself is a reflection of winter, just as winter changes spring. As if a change of life, so does the cold and hungry heart of Scrooge who returned to his kindness when he was young, the heart of an innocent child. This work from Dickens relics never stops and has been adapted many times into films, theater, musical dramas, and others.

An essential result of Dickens' strong consciousness of nostalgia is a reinforced concern in childhood and, more specifically, of Christmas as a happy moment, especially for children. As missed and buried Christmas past time was resurrected, the family appeared as the center of Christmas celebration throughout the time of the Victorian Era, exchanging what had previously been a group-oriented event, with children conclusively becoming the heart of the holiday. The Victorian Christmas signs the beginning of the holiday as a child-centric event, and where summons of childhood are raised, Dickens is sure to come after. His works are overwhelmed with children, from *Oliver Twist* to

Great Expectation, infinitely interested in both the suffering and the felicity of youth. The importance of the child to the celebration of Christmas is one that Dickens was most strongly occupied by. The first of Scrooge's journeys in *A Christmas Carol* which is a flashback of winter holidays from his childhood is Dickens' concern at Christmas as a time for children is obviously by the reality. Sitting alone at school when all his friends have gone home for Christmas is undoubtedly one of the most touching images in the story and the sense of childhood desertion is necessary for creating this mood.

This fiction was adapted into an American 3D fantasy movie in 2009. Written, co-produced, and directed by Robert Zemeckis. Produced by Walt Disney Pictures ImageMovers Digital Company, which is widely known as the biggest children movie production company. This is also the other reason why this work is chosen because it is interesting to know how to translate the idioms, especially to be understandable for the child.

B. Identification of the Problems

The statements in the background of choosing the subject identified some problem, there are:

1. Difficulties in translating idioms.

Many difficulties arise in translating, such as stylistic problems and linguistic problems, especially if you have to translate idioms that cannot be translated word for word. In translating idioms, a translator must know their meaning first, so that they can translate them according to the intent of the source language (SL).

2. Many misconceptualised in classifies the idioms.

Generally, almost all of the references relating to idioms provide a similar explanation of idioms, even though they purpose different terms because there is general agreement among linguists regarding definitions of idioms. The following points are also taken into consideration, such as, which is a relatively comprehensive definition. A term used in lexicology and grammar to refer to a sequence of words that are semantically and often syntactically limited, so that they function as a whole. According to the syntactic side, these words often do not allow clearness which is usually displayed in other contexts. According to the semantic side, the meaning of individual words cannot be derived to produce the meaning of 'idiomatic' expressions as a whole. Following these and other similar definitions, the terms 'idiom' and 'idiomatic expression' are used interchangeably here to refer to commonly used expressions such as verbs, sayings, phrases, idioms, figurative expressions, proverbs, and metaphorical phrases.

3. Many differences in using strategies of translating idioms between the experts.

To find the target language (TL) expression with the same meaning as the source language (SL), the problem lies in the fact that idiomatic expressions in one language rather often do not have equivalent expressions in other languages. The translator must consider a translation strategy that is appropriate for the phrase.

4. The importance of culture in translating idioms.

Translation enables communication between countries in the world, especially in the exchange of information in various fields such as technology, science, politics, and economics, so communication between languages and cultures is very important. Translation provides opportunities for communication across cultural and linguistic boundaries, as well as strengthening intercultural understanding. An idiom which is one of the aspects of language becomes important to be well translated, where the idiom is related to the different cultures of the various countries. Therefore, if it cannot be conveyed properly, idioms can lose the meaning of the source language (SL) to be conveyed.

5. The understandability of idioms since this movie reaches children as the audience.

English is a language that is very loaded in idioms. Without idioms, English will lose a lot of variety and wittiness both in utterance and in written language. Knowing idioms must be considered an integral part of vocabulary learning. So that there are many idioms contained in the film, including in children's films. However, do they know the meaning of the idiom, where they cannot yet understand idioms?

6. The loss of meaning in the target language (TL).

The translators have to prevent falling into great many difficulties, and a good translation requires more than the skillfulness of two or more languages. Quality work demands extensive and in-depth knowledge of a particular field. Idiomatic expressions are always language and culture-specific. An expression in one language may not exist in some other language, or the language may have a very different expression to express the same meaning. They are the heritage of culture and tradition; they present centuries of life in an observed sociolinguistics context and geographical setting and are therefore the heart and soul of a linguistic community. It is precisely this culture-bound nature that makes them awkward for translators who do not belong to the same linguistic community and who cannot instinctively – as native speakers do – recognize a clear pragmatic, semantic and syntactic pattern.

C. Scope of the Research

The basic substance of this research is the translation techniques for idioms. The analysis of this research is limited only to the forms and idiom translation techniques used by Indonesian translators in translating idioms from the source language (SL), namely English into the target language (TL), namely Indonesian. Data is restricted to idioms found in subtitles on *A Christmas Carol* movie.

D. Formulation of the Problem

This research investigates the idioms found in *A Christmas Carol* subtitle and its Indonesian translation which addresses these questions:

1. What forms of idioms used in the subtitle of *A Christmas Carol* movie?
2. What are the techniques used to translate the idioms from English to Indonesian subtitle?
3. How is the translation of idioms in the source language (SL) equivalent to the target language (TL)?

E. Objectives of the Research

1. To discover the forms of idioms used in the subtitle of *A Christmas Carol* movie.
2. To acquaint the techniques used to translate the idioms from English to Indonesian subtitle .
3. To explicate the translation of idioms in the source language (SL) equivalent to the target language (TL).

F. Benefits of the Research

1. For practical benefit, this research is expected to provide benefits to broaden readers' knowledge about the idiom translation in movie subtitles.
2. For theoretical benefits, this research is expected to be one of the references for further research on idiom translations.