

## THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN TRANSLATING ENGLISH IDIOM

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### **Abstract**

The title of local research is The Students' Ability In Translating English Idiom which researching the student of English letters students and graduate student in Titip Sentani Courses . The main problem of this research is to see the quality of translation English idiom result that done by fifth semester students of English letter in USTJ and Titip students course. The purpose of this study is to see whether both fifth semester of English letters and Titip students able to translate English idiom expressions of the source language to the target language (English to Indonesian), and whether students used many translation types in their translation. The method is used to take the data collection of this study are giving a set of test and questioners to the students. By using both of those procedures above, the data can be known and also students result that have translated, were analyzed to see that how far are the fifth semester students and Titip students able to transfer the core meaning of the source language to target language. There are many problems faced by students in translation process that is, students in fifth semester of English letters and Titip students found difficult words and the new idiom meaning to construct the sentence into the target language. The result of this local research show that students in fifth semester and Titip graduate students used free translation, word for word translation and literal translation types in their translation. The better translation result in translation done by a big part students of Titip students course that be able to transfer the idiom from the source language into the target language which is Bahasa Indonesia by using their existing language knowledge of both these language.

**Key words:** : *Translation, Idiom, students course*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Language is a system of sounds, words, etc. used by humans to communicate and to share ideas, opinions, feeling, and needs.( Oxford Dictionary, 1995). Language is a media or instrument used by people for communication and for various expressions. As a media of communication, language is expressed in two specific ways. They are verbal and written communication. Verbal language is a way which used by people with using kind of sounds to communicate one each other in direct speech, it is known as conversation. Meanwhile, written language is language which used by people through written symbols, for example like novel, paper, journal. Language is more important in

humans life to make a communication. In addition, nowadays people also use language in various occasions to express different meaning, therefore usually they use both of verbal and written language. Sometimes in using of both verbal and written language there are many mistakes to use in that ways. This thing happen because, as we know there are many countries are using English language that spread in the whole world and the language influenced by the culture of the languages user itself; so that, this reason make a difference in the using of English language as well as in writings, speeches and in meaning form. Just a lot of them are same, so this things can be appeared communication problems including in

translation if it can not convey the core meaning from one language to another language.

Now in globalization era translation is one of many ways can solve the communication problems and also very important to relate a bilingual community as well as in verbal and written language. For instance, today English language is the most popular language used by people in the world. Especially as we know, the use of idioms in both verbal and written language nowadays extensively used everyday. For instance the real fact, there are many materials, film production, journal, news, website in internet which had been written and published in English idioms and also use in every expressions in speech. As generally, idiom have different meaning with the real meaning of the individual words that formed. Furthermore, a culture in the place that idiom expressions used often influenced the using of idioms expressions itself and it is necessary to have a good understanding of their meanings and to be able to use them properly. (Roger T Bell, 1938) states that even if the users know the meanings of all the words in such a phrase and understand the grammar completely, the total meaning of the phrase may still be confusing.

English has many thousands of such idiom expressions used, so that, either students or people who speak English should be understand what is the meaning of every English idiom that contained in the materials and in expression is expressed. In addition, to translate English idioms, people should have a good skill and good language knowledge to convey the meaning from the source language to target language which they want to translate. In translating English text, 5th semester students of USTJ and the graduate students of TITIP course often faced with passages that have many idiom expressions contained in the text, and was difficult to be translated. For examples like, "the raining cats and dogs", and "to kick the bucket"; that have meaning "it's raining hard (hujan lebat sekali), and "to die (meninggal)" two of this expressions if do not know the core meaning well by those who translate so that, it caused a misunderstand in meaning in the target language of what had translated. So that, in translating people should have good knowledge to understand what the core meaning will be translated and convey from source language into target language without decreasing the general meaning of each

expressions or in a sentence. By studying translation in 5th semester so that, the students in 5th semester had been known about what is translation, types of translation and the steps or process of translation. In the same time, they also have basic knowledge about translation that will guide them in translating process. Besides that, as students that ever been studying about English language in course as long as one semester, Titip's graduate students also studied to translate and surely had known about the components in translation such as the types of translation, process of translation and the equivalences words that will guiding them in translating too.

By seeing the roles of translation as generally in communication and education, and especially that got and done by fifth semester students English Letters of USTJ and graduate students of TITIP course above, there many things are interested to known by writer. That is how far 5th students and the graduate students of TITIP course are able to translate English idiom into Indonesian language by using their existing language knowledge, what method types they tend to utilize in translating English idioms, which one of these two students that able to translate the text based on target language context? Are the students of semester fifth of English letters or graduate students of Titip course? However, the writer do not discuss a general theory on translation but writer focused on the result of idiom translation done by students of English letters semester 5th of USTJ and Titip course graduate students. Then the writer tries to compare the idiom translation result and to find out which one of these two students are able to transfer the texts based on target language context that in Indonesian language.

Based on this problems so that writer is taking a research about " The Students' Ability In Translating English Idiom into Indonesian, ( A Comparative Study Of 5th Semester Of English Letters Department Of USTJ and the graduate students of TITIP course in Sentani)". In sporting this research the writer used related studies as references in comparing the position of this study. These related studies are firstly Rudi Hartono in his research result on Holistic Criticism on Novel Translation from English into Indonesian (Descriptive Qualitative Research on Novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" written by Harper Lee) the researcher found two of main implications was drew from the research in translating the novel,

that is positive and negative implications. The positive implications are almost idioms in this novel are translated accurately because the translator used idiomatic translation, secondly Syanthy Killian, in her research on "A Comparative Study on Text Translation : To Compare Translation of English Passages Done by Semester 4th students of English Department in USTJ and Semester 4th of Faculty of Letters in UNIPA" the writer found conclusion that, the cause of students; translation result which is sometimes confusing and can not be easy to understand because the students prefer to translate the texts by using free translation and literal translation, and omitted some words in the texts that make the core meaning of the texts is getting lost.

This study mainly used theoretical translation frame in analyzing data, According to Catford cited by Rochayah Machali (2000) there are many types in translations as generally used by people to translate, such as : Word for word translation In word for word translation, every words in source language are translated with one word in target language. In other word, every words in source language that will be translated suitably with the word order in target language. Free translation free translation is one of types of translation that have main principled that is widely contextual meaning. That means it reproduces the matter without the manner, or the content without the form of the original. Literal translation this type emphasis on emotion, feeling and sometimes gives connotative meaning and full of stylistic and very often gives denotative meaning. All of the types of translation above are three types of translation which is generally used by people in translating process. Besides of three types translations above, there is still a types of translations that also sometimes used to translate that is idiomatic translation. As Nida cited by Astuti H. Widia (2008)., " idiomatic translation is meaning based translation. Idiomatic translation uses the natural form of the receptor language, both in grammatical construction and in the choice of lexical items. This translation does not sound like translation but it is like what is written originally in the receptor language. The process of translation consist of three steps, firstly analysis text in source language, that will be transferring or translate into target language, and finally restructuring words that had translated in target language (Nida 8). In translating process, linguistic knowledge mostly need to support in translate

because of, if translators have lack of linguistic knowledge; so it caused a misunderstanding in the result of text which had been translated. Furthermore, briefly in understanding and arranging the word order to get the equivalence word without decreasingly meaning of every words, sentence or phrase in the source text. Linguistic knowledge, skill of communication, grammar like tense, singular-plural, gerund, complex sentences, idioms, and vocabulary are connected between one and another.

An equivalence is the first thing that searched by a translator in translating process. Texts in different languages can be equivalent in different degrees (fully or partially equivalent), in respect of different levels of presentation (equivalent in respect of context, of semantic, of grammar, of lexis, etc.) and at difference ranks (word for word, phrase for phrase, sentence for sentence). Languages are different from each other: they are different in form having distinct codes and rules regulating the construction of grammatical stretches of language and these forms have difference meanings.

"If equivalence is to be preserved at a particular level at all costs, the level and the alternatives it turns out, hinges on the dual nature of language itself" (Roger T. Bell, 56). Language is a formal structure a code which consists of elements which can combine to signal semantic ' sense' and, at the same time, a communication system which uses the forms of the code to refer to entities (in the world of the senses and the world of the mind) create signals which possess communicative value. In order that, in process of translating text, a translator should be give an attenuation to the elements that will be supporting text in translating like the equivalence of words, equivalents that preserve the context free. Furthermore, in this processing to translate, knowledge and skills are mostly important too, in hope in convey the meaning of the source text it could be conveying with specifically and understood by another people who read in target language.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method type that used in this local research was descriptive method which supported by quantitative data. This research was carried out by collecting data using a set of test that is, written and spoken discourse texts. The set of both test were a short dialog conversation

text and a list of idioms. And it supported by giving questioner. The text is taken in English idiom textbook that is given to 5th English letter students & graduate students of TITIP course to translate to get accurate data to be used in analysis. After getting the data, then the writer is going to analyze it and the data of analysis will be given in table. From the result, the writer give some suggestion, particularly translating English idiom into Indonesian that is faced by the fifth semester of English Letters department and the graduate students of Titip who are following course.

The data of this research was taken to 5th semester of English letters department of USTJ & graduate students of Titip course in Sentani, by considering that both of area of the objects research are have major study in English language. Data was taken for more than aone month (October to November 2021)

The population of this study was the total of member students in semester five English letters of USTJ and also was the graduate students' of Titip course but the writer just took 26 students as the main sample in representing to totally of both USTJ stident and Titip students

The techniques of collecting data in this study that is field study that utilized two instruments to collecting data such as: Test is an assessment tools given to students to get answer from the students in the form of verbal, written or actions. This test will be used to find out whether English idiom expressions are able translated by 5th semester students' and the graduate students' of Titip course by conveying the meaning into Indonesian language. After that, the writer compared the results. In this test the students are given written discourse contained idiom texts and a list of English idiom expressions that consist of 12 idioms. Questioner is a set of written questions give to someone to express an opinion, the circumstances, and the impression that there is at the person and outside of himself, Arikuntoro (1988 ; 132). In this questioners writer use 9 questions that is given to students to know what method, steps or obstacle faced by them in translating the texts. In techniques for analyzing the data writer used descriptive method. The writer collected the data and then analyzed students translation result. Firstly, after all the data has been collected, the writer will analyze it. The writer identified and see the translation result of texts, whether English letters students (fifth semester) have the better result or graduate

students of Titip course. The average percentage of the students ability in translating English idiom into Indonesian is measured with formula given below according to Janah (2008, p. 1987): Secondly, the writer compares students answer from questioner data in translating English texts into Bahasa Indonesia to know which one of English Letters of USTJ and Titip course graduate students answer is better includes; the difficulties in facing the translation process, the used of translation types, also the process of translation such as given by the authors through questioner. so that, the writer accounted students answer by using frequency table formula as the average percentages.

### **3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

This section deals with the presentation of data collection and discussion of the main problem of this research, they are :

3.1. The ability of 5th semester students of English Letters USTJ and graduate students 'of TITIP course in translating English idiom texts into Bahasa Indonesia, data showed to every single case as follow :

- a. Case 1: well, David, we have a day off today. Lets try to make the most of it.  
In this translation result at the first case, both students of USTJ and TITIP have similarity in translating this sentence and also they could translate this sentence with the idiom expressions day off today contained there into bahasa Indonesia that have meaning "hari libur", moreover, in translating the idiom to make the most of it, there are differences between the two students in translated into bahasa indonesia that is, fifth semester students mostly translated the idiom "menikmatinya" whereas the graduate students of Titip translated it "menggunakannya". From the translation result that had done by the fifth semester students and graduate students of Titip showed that, the true translation done by Titip graduate students in transfer the meaning of the whole sentences into Bahasa Indonesia based on the context which is more

- understood able rather than fifth semester students English letters of USTJ.
- b. Case 2: I was looking forward to taking it easy and getting away from the daily work schedule.  
The translation result of the second case done by the students of USTJ and TITIP showed that, there is difference in translating the idiom “looking forward” based on the context which was transferred into Bahasa Indonesia by the fifth semester students of USTJ was “melihat kedepannya”. Meanwhile, graduate students of Titip translated the idiom into Bahasa Indonesia was “berpikir”, it means that the students of USTJ still construct the sentences by looking the words order in the sentence without looked at the meaning of the whole context like what had done by the graduate students of Titip.
- c. Case 3: you can, but why don't we take advantage of the change of pace by first taking care of some odds and ends. If you like, we could take in a movie.  
In this third case based on the translation results, either fifth semester students of USTJ or graduate students of Titip found the difficulties in translate this sentence that contained three idioms “change of pace”, “odds and ends” and “take in” into target language (Bahasa Indonesia). However, the translation result of the third case that done by Titip students understood able than USTJ, because of the translation done by USTJ students mostly translated by word for word so that, the core meaning of the context cannot be understood well.
- d. Case 4: Or we could go out to eat and do whatever else we might feel like doing.  
In the fourth case, the both students of USTJ and Titip overall were able in translating the sentences with the idiom “feel like” that have meaning suka and constructed it into bahasa Indonesia by conveying the core meaning of the sentence.
- e. Case 5: Exactly. We can eat out at one of our favorite restaurants and then take in one of the latest movies playing at a downtown theater. Actually, I have my heart set on seeing the top notch movie being held over at cinema.  
The translation result in case fifth which were done by fifth semester students English Letters of USTJ and Titip graduate students showed that both students were able to translate the sentence with the idiom expression “held over” into Bahasa Indonesia that have meaning “di putar”. However, both students translated this case with the true translation, as well as in constructing and transferring the core meaning of the whole sentence in this fifth case context till understood able.
- f. Case 6: That's fine with me. It's good to take a movie in now and then. I think I'll look the newspaper over in advance to find the times it's being shown.  
From the case sixth above in translating the sentences, both students of USTJ and Titip also able to transfer the meaning from the source language into target language, even though the students of USTJ omitted some words of the context and also did not translate the idiom “now and then” that be on the context.
- g. Case 7: Good idea. An interesting movie can actually help us unwind and take our minds off the hectic days of being on the go.  
The translation done by fifth semester students of USTJ and graduate students of Titip were difference one each other, both students have the various ways in translated and construct the meaning of the sentences that contained idiom “take our minds off” and idiom “on the go” in context. However. Their translation understood able, even some of the words and idiom in the context were ommited by the both students.



- h. Case 8: Then, let's do it! If we use up our day off doing what we want to do. We'll be ready to get back to work tomorrow.  
In this case the true translation done by Titip graduate students, cause they prefer translated this sentence that contained idiom "use up" based on the core meaning that want to convey into Bahasa Indonesia by keeping the equivalence of the words in the context, while the fifth semester students of English Letters Department USTJ more translated based on the word order without looked on the meaning that will be constructed into target language (Bahasa Indonesia).
- i. Case 9: Nothing he told me was true; i'm angry that he made up the whole story.  
Translation results of this case done by both fifth semester students and graduate students of Titip were different one to another in translating the meaning of idiom "made up" based on the sentences in the context. But overall, mostly fifth semester students and graduate students of Titip able to translate it into Bahasa Indonesia.
- j. Case 10: I'll think over your idea carefully before i make a final decision about it.  
From the case tenth above in translating the sentences, both students of USTJ and Titip were able to transfer the meaning from the source language into target language by keep the core meaning of the idiom think over that have meaning "mempertimbangkan" of the context in case tent
- k. Case 11: If you bring up a question in class, i'm sure that your teacher can come up with an answer for you.  
In translating the eleventh case done by fifth semester students of USTJ and graduate students of Titip were difference one each other in the translation results. graduate students of Titip more translate the meaning of idiom "bring up" with the meaning "mengajukan", whereas fifth semester students of USTJ translated with the meaning "membawa". However, the both students able in translating and construct the meaning of the context that containing idiom.
- l. Case 12: Sometimes a business will give away free samples of their product so that people can learn about it.  
The translation result of the twelveth case done by the students of USTJ and TITIP showed that, there is a similarity in translating the idiom "give away" based on the context which was transferred into Bahasa Indonesia by the fifth semester students of USTJ and graduate students of Titip with the meaning "menghadiahkan" or "memberikan". However, the both students of USTJ and TITIP were able in translating and construct the meaning of the context.
- m. Case 13: Be sure to try out a new car before you buy it; look out for problems in advance.  
In this case, the true translation overall be able translated by both students of USTJ and Titip by conveying the meaning of sentences that contained idiom "try out" into Bahasa Indonesia. Even though, the translation done by the students in thirteenth case was variously in guess the meaning between one respondents to another, but basically it can be understood.
- n. Case 14: Many students couldn't catch on, but the teacher cleared up the problem by going into a detailed explanation.  
From the case fourteenth above in translating the sentences, both students of USTJ and Titip also able to transfer the meaning of idiom "cleared up" from the source language into target language suitable with the context.
- o. Case 15: He put off his work until later, instead of doing it right away.  
In the case fifteenth, the both students of USTJ and Titip overall were able in translating the sentences with the idiom "put off", that the meaning were differences one each other of the two respondents (fifth semester students of USTJ and graduate students of Titip).
- 3.2. The method utilized of the fifth semester students of English Letters Department USTJ

and graduate students of Titip course. Dealing with the second main problem that stated in previous chapter, to know the method that the students used in translation process. From the data results done by both students of USTJ and TITIP graduate students showed that, both of fifth semester students of English Letters Department of USTJ and the graduate students of Titip course were able translating the English idiom into Indonesian with the various of the translation results from every students. This things based on the kind of method or types of translation theory that both students used in translating such as free translation, word by word translation and literal translation types which had explained previously and both of these group still have seriously problem in translating idiom.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study shows that covers the explanation in Chapter IV: finding data and discussion presentations. Based on the previous analysis on the two data collected presentations, in the form of texts translation and questioner, it is found that there are many various results of translations. The number of English idiom used in both texts were presented on two data presentations of USTJ and TITIP that divided into four tables distribution. Referring to the problems of the study, the graduate students of TITIP course are able in translating and constructing the English idiom into Indonesian language by preserving the equivalence of the words even though, they faced the obstacle in process of translation caused the kinds versions of their translation results. We can also see that, in the both students process of translating they used many types or method in their translation such as free translation, word for word translation, and literal translation. Furthermore, the most important thing in idiom translation is the whole meaning of idiom contextually be contained on the texts where the English idiom are used. So that, it is more difficult if the meaning of English idiom was separately from the contexts cause is not always clear. Based on conclusion view stated, we summarize that The better translation result that is done by graduate students of TITIP course that able to transfer and construct the core

meaning of the source language into target language. However, both of these students as well as fifth semester students and graduate students of Titip course have almost used the same way to translate the texts such as: the translation types that used free translation, word for word translation and literal translation also the difficulties that faced by them in translation process.

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