

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

Translation is one of the important skills in language learning that involves the process of transferring meaning from the source language to the target language. According to Lomaka (2017), translation is the process of proportionately translating the same message from the source language into the target language. This process requires not only linguistic ability, but also a deep understanding of the culture, context, and purpose of communication in both languages. According to Rahmatillah (2016), in the translation process, when translator ignores the cultural context, it can lead to misunderstandings and result in a bad translation. This is very important because meaning plays a big role in translation. Translators need to focus on how to capture meaning when translating words, sentences, or expressions, especially in texts, correctly. However, in some situations, meaning is difficult to determine due to style, cultural differences, and the author's or speaker's purpose. This is especially true when translating idiomatic expressions.

Idiomatic expressions are forms of expression consisting of several words, but their meaning cannot be understood from the literal meaning of the words. In other words, idioms cannot be translated word by word from the source language to the target language because it will produce a different meaning. According to Anjarini & Hatmanto (2022), idioms are part of the culture in language learning where the construction of words or expressions cannot be interpreted literally.

According to Aruji (2021), the idiom will lose its meaning when it is translated in a literal way.

Idiomatic expressions often reflect the customs or culture of a particular language community, and are often difficult to translate directly into another language without losing their original meaning or context. However, for English foreign language learners, understanding and translating idioms is a difficult task. They are faced with idiomatic expressions that require not only language knowledge, but also cultural and contextual understanding. According to Nurmalia et al. (2024), idioms are among the most difficult parts to translate because their meaning cannot be understood simply from the meaning of the words that compose them. Literal translations often lead to errors, so translators need to use strategies or contextual adjustments to convey the correct meaning. Therefore, the second language learners need strategies in learning and translating idiomatic expressions.

During the learning process, students often used various strategies in the translation process, especially when dealing with idiomatic expressions. Based on interviews with several seventh-semester students in the English Education Study Program, some students believe that the strategy for translating idiomatic expressions is to translate them literally, which leads to misunderstandings in understanding the idiom. However, There are also students who translate idioms by paraphrasing them to suit the target language, because they cannot find equivalent sentences in both languages.

In this context, students use various strategies to translate idiomatic expressions. This may be due to several factors that cause them to use these strategies. According to Baker (2018), in his book entitled "In Other Words a coursebook on translation," he explains several strategies that can be used in translating idiomatic expressions, such as: (1) Using a vocabulary of similar meaning and form, (2) Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar, (3) Translation by paraphrase, (4) Translation by omission.

In a study conducted by Samani & Golampour (2024), at the Higher Education Complex of Bam, Bam, Iran. the researchers aimed to analyze the strategies used by Iranian translators in translating English idioms into Persian, focusing on Charles Dickens' novel *Great Expectations*. The descriptive statistics show that the least frequently used strategy was paraphrasing (4.28%), while the most frequently used strategy was using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form (67.14%).

In addition, Bibi et al. (2023), also conducted research aimed at investigating the translation strategies used by undergraduate students in translating idioms from English into Urdu. Using a qualitative and quantitative approach, the results of the study showed that some students lacked the ability to use accurate translation strategies when translating decontextualized idioms, resulting in literal translations and many inaccuracies in the presentation of idiomatic expressions.

Based on previous research, the subjects, location, and research methods in this study are considered different from previous studies. This study uses a

qualitative approach, which presents the results in the form of sentence content analysis by presenting evidence from tests and interviews. Another difference from previous studies is that this study also want to know the reasons that students in using certain strategies in translating idiomatic expressions.

On the other hand, In this study, the researcher wanted to find out what strategies students used in translating idiomatic expressions. Therefore, the researcher chose the title An Analysis of Students' Strategies in Translating Idiomatic Expressions at Seventh Semester of UMRAH in Academic Year 2025/2026.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the Research background, the researcher indetify the research problem as follows:

1. Students translate idiomatic expressions by translating them word by word.
2. Students have difficulty finding equivalent words between the two source languages (SL) and the target language (TL).

1.3 Scope and Limitation of The Research

Based on the above background, the researcher limited this study to focus on an in-depth analysis of the strategies used and the reasons for using certain strategies by seventh-semester students of the English Education study program in translating idiomatic expressions at UMRAH in the 2025/2026 academic year.

1.4 Research Question

Based on the research background, the researcher formulated two research questions:

1. What are the students' strategies in translating idiomatic expressions at the seventh semester of UMRAH in academic year 2025/2026?
2. What are the students' reason in using certain strategies in translating Idiomatic expressions at the seventh semester of UMRAH in academic year 2025/2026?

1.5 Research Objective

Addressing the above research questions, the objectives of this study are:

1. To identify the students' strategies in translating idiomatic expressions at the seventh semester of UMRAH in academic year 2025/2026
2. To find out the students' reason in using certain strategies in translating idiomatic expressions at the seventh semester of UMRAH in academic year 2025/2026

1.6 Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical Significance

This study is expected to contribute to knowledge in the field of translation, particularly regarding idiomatic expressions and strategies for translating them. By identifying the strategies used by students in the translation process, this study can indirectly help to understand students' ability to translate idioms. The researcher also hopes that the results of this study can strengthen and complement previous

theories on how to translate idioms, such as the theory proposed by Baker, (2018). Thus, this study can be an additional reference for other researchers who wish to discuss similar topics in the future.

2. Practical Significance

- 1) For Students, It is anticipated that this study will serve as a benchmark for students studying and investigating other English idiomatic idioms.
- 2) For Lecturer , This study can be used as a reference for lecturers in developing more appropriate translation teaching methods or strategies, especially in teaching idioms to students so that they can apply them more effectively in translation activities.
- 3) For Future Researcher, This study can be used as a reference and basis for comparison for other researchers who wish to study similar topics, both in the context of translation strategies and idiom mastery.

1.7 Definition of Key Term

With this operational definition, it is hoped that the content of the research can be identified. The operational definitions referred to are "Strategies, Translation, and Idiomatic Expressions."

1. Strategies

Strategy is a way or method used by students to understand and solve problems when translating idiomatic expressions. In other words, strategy is an effort or approach taken by students to find the right meaning and produce an appropriate translation.

2. Translating

Translation in this research refers to the process of transferring meaning from the source language (English) into the target language (Indonesian). This process emphasizes how students convey the same message or meaning in another language without changing the original meaning. In the Translation for Specific Purposes course, students are expected to master theoretical linguistic concepts and communication techniques, both oral and written, in daily life, academic, and work contexts.

3. Idiomatic Expressions

Idiomatic expressions are expressions whose meanings cannot be understood literally from the words that compose them, but have figurative meanings that are commonly used in English. In the course on Translation for Specific Purposes, students have learned about the types of translation, one of which is idiomatic expressions. In this study, idioms are the main object to be translated by seventh-semester English education students.