

## IDIOMS TRANSLATION ANALYSIS IN THE DUBBING OF *MULAN* MOVIE

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**Abstract:** The aims of the research are to find out how English idioms are translated into Indonesian in the dubbing versions as well as translation equivalence, and the strategies used when translating the idioms in the movie. The data are collected from the dubbing in the movie entitled *Mulan* (2020) in order to achieve the research objectives which are dubbing translation how idioms are translated from English into Indonesia. The researcher applied research design of qualitative method by using document analysis. The researcher found 28 idioms in the dialogue of the movie. For the results, and the number of idioms were translated equivalently into idioms (39.29%) and into non-idioms (60.71%). Secondly, the researcher found that there are 3 from 8 types of translation strategies are used to translate idioms they are: translation by more general word (25%), translation by a neutral/less expressive word (7.14%), and translation by paraphrase using a related word. (67.86%). From the result of the research the translator is successfully translating the idioms properly, even though changing the sentence by paraphrasing but it was able to find the suitable synonyms to convey the real meaning of the idioms.

**Keywords:** *translation strategies; idiomatic expression; dubbing translation.*

### INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, watching movies is a very enjoyable activity. Every country around the world produces movies for entertainment. According to Wahyuni, Ariyaningsih, & Jendra (2021), tmoviemakers frequently use English as one of the languages in their productions. English movies will get a large audience because English is spoken all across the world. Besides entertainment, watching movies also has many benefits such as increasing knowledge, honing analytical skills, and motivating ourselves. The movie and entertainment industry in Hollywood is regarded for producing the greatest movie in the world. Some famous Hollywood film companies include 20th Century Fox, Marvel Studios, Disney, Pixar, etc.

People who want to watch a foreign movie have problem in understanding the content of the movie.

Translation can be a bridge of communication between people around the world, this is in line with the statement of Ali and Al-Rushaidi (2017) which said that translation can be seen as a necessary tool for people all over the world to exchange information, news, literature, culture, and science, among other things. However, translating is more complicated than just changing the meaning of a word depending on its literal context. Some cases often put translators in difficult situations, such as when they come into words that do not represent a literal meaning, which is known as an idiom. An idiom or also called idiomatic expression is one of the most challenging semantic factors for translators to deal with.

Translating the idioms is one of the challenging tasks for the translator, especially if they are unaware of the cultural differences between the

source and target languages. According to Larson in Widyadhana, Widiastuti, & Tika (2017) translating those idioms into another language word for word will not make sense. Idioms cannot be translated literally or word for word since the meaning of the individual composing the idiom is different. When translating idioms into their literal meanings, the learner must contextualize them. As a result, the purpose of any idiomatic translation is to make it suitable and acceptable in the target language. To recreate meaning in terms of the SL context, a translator must make some adjustments.

According to Nida in Chen (2020), idioms are the most evident forms in which semantic adjustments are required in the translation because the fact that they are idioms suggests that difficult to have the same meaning in another language. The adjustments fall into three categories:

Idioms from the source language were translated into non-idioms in the receptor language. During the transfer process, idioms are frequently switched to non-idioms.

Idioms from the source language into idioms in the receptor language. In some cases, it is possible to match one idiom with another.

Non-idioms into idioms in the receptor language. While translation inevitably results in the loss of many idioms, it also has the potential to gain idioms.

Each translator employs a different strategy while translating a text, because different people may comprehend a word in a different way. To translate some language, there are several strategies that can be used by a translator. Translators should learn not only the essential cultural aspects, also some basic translation techniques in order to make the text more understandable and useful. The translator must employ the proper strategy to be able accurately to translate. Baker in Junining & Kusuma (2020) suggests several strategies. They are described further down.

*Translation by a more general word (superordinate).* This strategy is one of the most often used translation procedures, and it works in almost all languages. The translator just translates the source-language particular word into a general word in the target language.

*Translation by a neutral/less expressive word.* A translator might decrease the expressive meaning of a word during translation if it required. By reducing the expressive meaning of the word or making it

seem more neutral/common, a less expressive word can be used to solve the non-equivalence problem. The expressive meaning of the word skyscrapers in English using a word like “*bangunan yang tinggi*” can be downgraded the meaning in translation.

*Translation by cultural substitution.* The translator can use cultural substitution to substitute a culture-specific item or expression with a target language element, which may have an influence on the reader. The key benefit of employing this strategy is that it offers the reader with an idea that is easily recognized. The translator's decision will be largely based on the authority supplied, the aim of the translation, and the translator's judgment when using this strategy.

*Translation using a loan word plus explanation.* In translation, a word can be translated simply by adding the explanation after the word. A loan word is a translation strategy in which the translator leaves the word exactly as it is in the source language, but adds an explanation in the target language. It is possible to adopt the loan word alone after it has been explained. There's no need to re-explain the word because the length of the explanation may cause the reader to become distracted.

*Translation by paraphrase using a related word.* The translator uses paraphrase to lexicalize the concept expressed in the source language by using a related word in a different form. This strategy is simply substituting synonyms in the target language for the source language word.

*Translation by paraphrase using a unrelated word.* When the original item is not lexicalized at all in the target language, translation by paraphrase using unrelated words is used. This strategy is a little awkward to use since an explanation consisting of some words in the target language will fill one slot of a word from the source language.

*Translation by omission.* Translation by omission is a strategy of translation in which the translator can leave out a word or phrase that isn't necessary for conveying the meaning to the target language. The translation product will most likely become quite smooth if this strategy is used. However, it is possible that it will be less expressive. Furthermore, the translation process may result in a loss of meaning. As a result, this strategy should only be used as a last option.

*Translation by illustration.* The translator can use illustration to answer a non-equivalence problem

involving a physical thing. The word is simply replaced with a visual representation of it in the form of an image. For example, the word tagged as in tagged teabag, is difficult to translate without a lengthy explanation. Instead of paraphrasing, an illustration of a tagged teabag can be used.

From the several previous studies of idiomatic expression or known as idioms, almost all of them use the novel translation to become an object in their research such as in the research conducted by Floranti & Mubarak (2020), Lijun & Qiao (2019), Widyadhana, Widiastuti & Tika (2017), and Premasari & Widodo (2021). Then, idiom translation research was conducted by Destaria & Rini (2019), and idiom translation research was conducted by Pratama & Damara (2018) using subtitles of the movie as their object research. In the other idioms translation research conducted by Sari (2021) using Instagram captions, idioms translation research conducted by Wicaksono & Wahyuni (2018) using the story of Indonesia Legends, and idioms translation research conducted by Roswana & Nurdiawati (2021) using song lyrics.

Another research in idioms translation are conducted by several researchers such as; Fitri, Faridi, & Hartono (2019) focuses on Baker's strategies used in translating English Idioms into Indonesian in Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan. Kang and Yang (2022) focus their research on Study on English Translation of Chinese Four-character Idioms: Strategies and Problems. Hastürkoğlu (2018) Incorporation of Conceptual Metaphor Theory in translation Pedagogy: A Case Study on Translating Simile-Bases Idioms. Simanjuntak (2019) also conducted research on Quality Assesment of Translation of Abstract Text English idioms Error Made by Jordanian EFL Undergraduate Students by Google Translates. Marsheva, Sigacheva, Peretochkina, & Martynova (2019) conducting research on Some Issues in Translation of Idioms from English into Russian. Ohorella, Ali, & Adam (2021) conducting research on The Accuracy of Idioms Translation from English into Indonesian in The *Tangled* Movie. Renchin and Amgalan (2021) focus their research on the Translation of Idioms in the Novel "David Copperfield" by Charles Dicken. Chen (2020) conducted research related with

Other research conducted by several researchers such as; Manispupika and Winzami (2021) conducted research on Translation of Idioms: How

they are reflected in Moving Subtitling. Chen (2020) conducted their research on Application of Explanational Translation Approach to English Idioms. Wicaksono & Wahyuni (2018) An Analysis of the Strategies Used in Translating Idioms in Indonesia into English Found in Indonesian Legend. Liu (2019) conducted research on comparing on Chinese and English Animal Idioms and Translation Strategies. Rasul (2018) was conducting research on Translation of Idioms across Languages. Chen (2020) conducted research on Application of Compensatory Translation Approach to English Idioms. While Nurkasiyati (2018) conducted research the translation strategies in idiomatic translation in J. K Rowling's novel entitled *Harry Potters and The Philosopher Stone*. Another research come from Supardi and Putri (2018) who conducted research on subtitle and dubbing technique in OST *Frozen* movie.

In previous studies, many researchers used novel, storybook translations and film subtitles, or translation works by students as research objects. In this research, the researcher prefers to use dubbed translation products in the movie, because the translation content in dubbing is more communicative and adapts to the visual-lip movements of native speakers. This study also chose the Mulan movie because it shows Chinese cultural background in an American movie, played by Chinese actors and actresses. Therefore, this study aims to know how idioms are translated from English to Indonesia and also to determine the strategies are used by translators in translating idiomatic expressions in the original movie entitled Mulan and its dubbed Indonesian version.

## METHOD

The researcher employed the qualitative research method by applying case study design research to achieve the research objectives. According to Creswell & Creswell (2017), a case study is an approach employed to gain an in-depth understanding of a bounded system such as activity, events, processes, or individuals, based on extensive data collection. This research used document analysis to collect the data which is dubbing versions in the movie entitled Mulan. According to Morgan (2022), Document analysis is a method that consists of analyzing various types of documents containing text or material as a potential source.

The data are in the form of descriptions the idioms analysis results in the dubbing of the movie.

The researcher collects the data by the following steps:

Searching and downloading the movie entitled *Mulan* in Disney+ Hotstar platform.

Watching *Mulan* movie several times both in original and dubbing versions. This step has been used to evaluate the movie to gain a better understanding of the storyline and the context of each conversation.

Transcribe existing data into a text. The researcher transcribes the original and Indonesia dubbing version of *Mulan* movie using Aegisub application to make it easier in analysis the data.

After all the data is collected, the data is read once more to make sure that all the data is correct. Then, the researcher starts to analyze the data by using Nida semantics adjustment theory and Baker's translation methods. In analyzing and validating the data found, the researcher involved Nugroho and Asikin.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research has two important findings in the research. First, this research is intended to find the translation equivalence of idioms in the original version and dubbing version of the movie. Second, after the process of classifying idioms in the movie, the researcher tried to find what kind of strategies are used in translating idiomatic expression in the movie.

### *How idioms are translated into Indonesia*

After conducting the analysis, it can be found that there are 28 idioms. They are categorized into two types of semantics adjustment as proposed by Nida's theory in Chen (2020). Those idioms are classified into idiom and non-idiom. which are summarized in the table below.

Table 1. *How idioms are translated*

Type of Semantics adjustment	Frequency	Percentage
Idiom into idioms	11	39.29%
Idiom into non-idiom	17	60.71%
Total	28	100%

Based on the table above it can be seen that mostly the idioms in the dubbing of *Mulan* movie are translated not equivalence from English into

Indonesia, it means that most of the idioms in English are translated into non-idiom in Indonesian.

### *Idiom into idiom*

The equivalence of translation occurs when the translation's meaning matches the source language's sentence context and brings the real meaning from the source language. It will be necessary for the translator to translate idiom into idiom if there are idioms in the TL that match with the idioms in the SL, a good translation or translation equivalence may be built. In this situation, the translator must acquire an awareness of the idioms used in the TL and utilize them naturally to make the translation dynamic while maintaining the SL's style. For example:

Datum 3 (0:12:14)

SL: We will crush every garrison until the Imperial Army is on its knees.

TL: *Kita akan hancurkan setiap garnisun sampai prajurit Kekaisaran berlutut.*

The dialogue happens between Xianniang and Bori Khan, they are planning their next attack on the imperial city. Bori Khan hope after this the imperial soldiers will lose, it can be seen in the expression "until the Imperial Army is on its knees". According to Oxford Idioms Dictionary "on its knees" implies someone or something in a kneeling position, or in the other words on the verge of collapse. If it translated literally, it would be "*di lututnya*" but it sounds inappropriate. In this context, what the actor said was not actually done, but only a figurative meaning which means to give up or lose. The translator chooses the word "*berlutut*" to make it sounds natural and related to the context. In Indonesian, there are idiom "*bertekuk lutut*" that implies submit, lose or surrender to lose, this has the same meaning with "on its knees". This translation is equivalence because the translator tried to translated it into idiom in Indonesian.

Datum 28 (1:42:50)

SL: The entire kingdom is in her debt.

TL: *Seluruh kerajaan berhutang budi padanya.*

The dialogue took place in *Mulan*'s village when Commander Tung tells to *Mulan*'s father and also announced in front of the people there that *Mulan* was saved the Dynasty. It can be seen in the expression that "The entire kingdom is in her

debt.”. It would be meaningless if translated literally, and the reader would be confused about the real meaning, therefore the translator utilized the meaning-based translation method to discover the idiom's closest natural equivalent meaning in the target language. According to dictionary, in someone's debt means to feel grateful for something someone did for you (Cambridge Dictionary). “*Utang budi*” was equivalent with “in her debt” because means someone feels very grateful for the help or assistance that has been done by others in other words makes someone feel like repaying the kindness.

*Idiom into non-idiom*

During the translation process idioms are often shifted to non-idiom, it happens because the translator cannot find idioms in the target language that have identical or equal meaning in the source language. This condition makes the translation non-equivalence because there is a change in the form of a word or sentence. For example:

Datum 4 (00:12:19)

SL: And then the Imperial City will be laid bare.

TL: *Dan kemudian Kota Kekaisaran akan mudah untuk diserang.*

The dialogue happened between Xianniang and Bori Khan in a mountain, they are resting and planning their next attack to take over the dynasty. Bori Khan arranged his plan with Xianniang to make all the imperial soldiers to leave and no one to guard the dynasty thus making it easier for him to take over the dynasty, it can be seen in the expression “the Imperial City will be laid bare”. If it translated literally, it would be *‘berbaring terlanjang’* but it sounds weird and far from what the SL author intended. According to Oxford Dictionary, ‘laid bare’ means to show something that was covered. In translating this idiom, the translator used a meaning-based translation method, which resulted in a clear and natural translation that was based on the context of the whole story in the movie. The translator used the word *‘mudah untuk diserang’* to make the dialogue are natural. In this case, the expression's meaning should be related to the situation or position, but this meaning is not idiom in Indonesia, and make the translation is non-equivalence.

Datum 25 (1:35:41)

SL: I invite you to take your place with our greatest decorated warriors.

TL: *Aku mengundangmu untuk bergabung dengan para pendekar kami yang paling hebat.*

The dialogue happens between the Emperor and Mulan in the Kingdom. The Emperor felt very grateful to Mulan because she had saved him. So, the Emperor gave Mulan an offer to become an officer in the Emperor's Guard, it can be seen in the expression “I invite you to take your place”. According to Oxford Dictionary, the idiom “take your place” means to go to the physical position that is necessary for an activity, or to take/accept the status in society that is correct or that you deserve. The translator tried to transfer the meaning with “*Bergabung*”, it contains the real meaning of that English idiom and this is an expression commonly used in Indonesia in such contexts. This is not an idiom in Indonesian and makes this translation is non-equivalence.

*Translation strategies*

To determine translation strategies used by the translator to translate idioms in this movie, this research refers to the theory by Baker in Junining & Kusuma (2020). However, in this research it was only found three translation strategies to translate the idioms in Mulan movie dubbing. The table below shows the frequency and the percentage of translation strategies used by the translator to translate the idioms.

Table 2. *Translation strategies*

Type of Translation Strategy	Frequency	Percentage
Translation by a more general word	7	25%
Translation by a neutral/less expressive word	2	7.14%
Translation by cultural substitution	0	0%
Translation using a loan word plus explanation	0	0%
Translation by paraphrase using a related word	19	67.86%
Translation by paraphrase using unrelated word	0	0%
Translation by omission	0	0%
Translation by illustration	0	0%
Total	28	100%

Based on the table 2, it can be seen that paraphrase using a related word strategy is used by the translator in translating idioms from English into Indonesia. This represents 67.86% or 19 data out of 28. The second type is translation by a more general word with 25% or 7 data. The last is translation by a neutral/less expressive word 7.14% data out of 28.

*Translation by a more general word*

This method allows the translator to move up one level in a semantic field to find a more general word that covers the receptor language's basic proportionate meaning of the missing hyponym. For example:

Datum 6 (0:13:21)

SL: That nothing and no one stands in my way.

TL: *Tak ada apapun dan siapapun yang menghalangi jalan ku.*

In this case, the idioms are translated use the meaning in general word in Indonesian because the translator tried to transfer the meaning with "*menghalangi jalanku*". The translation has the same meaning with the English idiom which means to prevent someone from doing something. The word "*menghalangi*" is a more general word because it can be used in the sentences, while it is not appropriate if it uses "*berdiri di jalanku*".

Datum 17 (0:44:12)

SL: Make no mistake...

TL: *Jangan salah.*

The data above shows that the used of translation by using more general word in translating the idiom. It can be seen from the example above the participant translated the idiom "make no mistakes" into "*jangan salah*". The word "*jangan salah*" it sounds more general or common in Indonesia, while it is not appropriate with the context if it uses "*jangan berbuat salah*". The translation contains the real meaning of the idiom which means to warn somebody about something.

2) Translation by a neutral/less expressive word

This strategy is used when the word in SL has no direct equivalent in TL and is difficult to translate. The translator uses this strategy to replace the SL word with TL near-equivalents that are less expressive but more formal. For example:

Datum 13 (0:38:32)

SL: How to talk to a woman... let alone be married to one?

TL: *Bagaimana kau berbicara dengan seorang wanita... apalagi menikah dengannya?*

The idioms "let alone" in the source language that actually has meaning "*biarkan saja*" but it sounds weird. The idioms "let alone" implied to emphasize that because the first thing is not true or possible, the next thing cannot be true or possible either. The translator tried to replace by the translator becomes "*apalagi*" that conjunctions between clauses and clauses to strengthen or add to what has been said before. In this strategy, it has to do with differences in expressive meaning.

Datum 26 (1:35:41)

SL : I left home under cover of darkness...

TL: *Aku meninggalkan rumah diam diam saat gelap*

The word "under cover of darkness" is translated into "*diam-diam*". Under cover means working secretly to obtain information (Cambridge Dictionary). The idioms "under cover of" implies hidden or protected by something. The literal translation of the word "under cover", which is "*rahasia*" or "*di bawah penutup*" will be weird to be applied in this context. That's why the translator chooses a more neutral word that does not sound stiff.

*Translation by paraphrase using a related word*

This strategy involved using different sentence or form to convey the meaning of words in the Source Language. It's employed when the concepts revealed in the Source Language have a dictionary meaning in the Target Language but are expressed in a different way, and the word's frequency of occurrence in the Source Language is higher. There were 19 idioms that translated by paraphrase using related word. For example:

Datum 5 (0:12:34)

SL: I could tear you to pieces before you blink.

TL: *Aku bisa menghancurkanmu dengan sangat cepat.*

The idiom "before you blink" is translated into "*dengan sangat cepat*". If 'before you blink' easily translated it would be "*sebelum kamu berkedip*" but it sounds weird to be applied in this context. The translator tried to paraphrase with a related word "dengan sangat cepat" to adjust the context, this

translation conveys the meaning of idioms that implied very quickly.

Datum 11 (0:29:42)

SL: Need a hand, little man?

TL: *Butuh bantuan, pria kecil?*

The idiom “need a hand” is translated into “*butuh bantuan*”. The literal translation of the idiom which is “*butuh sebuah tangan*”, it will be weird to be applied in this context. This idiom “need a hand” implied to offer or give someone help. The word “*bantuan*” means help or to make it possible/easier for someone to do something, by doing part of the work yourself or by providing advice, money, support, etc. The translator tried to paraphrase this idiom by using a related word and replace the word “hand” with “*bantuan*” to adjust the context.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that mostly the idioms in the dubbing of Mulan movie are translated not equivalence from English into Indonesia, it means that most of the idioms in English are translated into non-idiom in Indonesian. The translator has omitted the idioms and replaced them with non-idiomatic expressions because cannot be found the equivalence of the idiomatic expressions in the target language.

However, in this research, it was only found three translation strategies to translate the idioms. The strategy that is often found is translation by paraphrase using a related word strategy with the occurrence 19 times if in percentage becomes 67.86%. The translator was successful in translating the idioms properly, even though the idioms are translated into non-idiomatic expressions and changing the sentence by paraphrasing it but were able to find suitable synonyms to convey the real meaning of the idioms. This is also connected to the dubbing technique, which essentially matches the actor's voice to the scene in the movie. As a result, the translator chooses the other proper word that fits with the actor's voice in the movie must be filled in.

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